Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 4th July 2005 commencing at 7.30pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors David Baker, Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, Cliff Moss, Gurdip Saini and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were County Cllr David Turner, District Cllr Ann Tomline and eight residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence

None, all councillors were present.

2 Public Participation

a. Basil Townsend said that he had approached County Highways to see if they would trim back his boundary hedge because this is adjacent to the road. He had been unsuccessful but he thought that this was a service that the County should offer.

b. Stephen McInerney asked about the status of the new Community Hall project now that the Inspector had turned down the appeal. The Chairman replied that this would have to be discussed by the Village Hall and Sports Club committees and by the Parish Council. Basil Townsend said that a copy of the Inspector’s report should be made available and it was pointed out that this is already in the public domain.

c. In reply to a question from a resident the Chairman explained that the full public consultation process over the proposed traffic calming measures had not yet started. So far only the emergency services and other statutory bodies had been involved.

d Asked about potential sites for affordable housing schemes Paul Bolam said that the Council is currently going through the process of trying to identify sites which would be acceptable to the planners. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that this type of exercise is a very lengthy process which could take at least four or five years to bear fruit.

3 Declarations of Interest

As a member of the Sports Club Cllr Moss declared an interest in the matter of the application by the Garsington Sports and Social Club for the annual renewal of its PEL Licence.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th June 2005

The Chairman requested that the phrase ‘near neighbour’ be changed to ‘near relative’ in Item 2. This was done and the Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i) Payphone at Kings Copse; Cllr Mrs Tomline has taken up this matter with Jaz Lally at the District Council.

ii). Birch Road trees; The County believes that an amicable solution has been found and the trees will be felled in the Autumn.

iii). Contact with John Palmer; Carried forward to the next meeting.

iv). Old Village Cross; The Clerk said that IJP Building Contractors expect to complete the work before the end of August.

v). New seat at The Gizzel; This is ready and collection by Ian Young is to be arranged.

vi). New types of sack; It was agreed that the Parish Council would order a supply of the ‘eco-sack’ and stock will be held by both Cllr Eden and Cllr Shuker.

vii) The value of the Village War Memorial; The Clerk confirmed that he had asked Mr Michael Harris of Abingdon Stone and Marble to supply a realistic value for insurance purposes.

vii). Cllr Bolam confirmed that the bus time tables as displayed in the village appeared to be current and properly displayed.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner repeated his request for more views about the village bus services. A survey of heavy goods vehicle traffic will take place after the school holidays. It was suggested that this survey should be carried out on Thursdays and Fridays. Cllr Turner said that the website [www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk) contains a lot of interesting data about communities in the County.

Cllr Moss raised questions about the way that the Police had handled an incident at the Sports and Social club two weeks previously. Cllr Turner said that he could raise this with the Police Complaints Committee but he would like more information. Cllr Moss agreed that he would write after the meeting of the Sports and Social Club committee that would take place on 5th July.

Cllr Baker asked about the Heyfordian bus which provides a service at King’s Copse. Cllr Turner said that he would check if it is subsidised and he asked about varying the timings of this service so that it runs at alternate hours in the off-peak period. It was agreed that a survey should be carried out.

7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Ann Tomline commented on the new ‘eco-sack’ scheme and stressed that this is a trial period.

She said that all residents of mobile home parks should by now have received a book about their rights but it was apparent that King’s Copse residents have not.

Cllr Tomline said that there are still major staff shortages at the Council.

There have been several complaints about the fees being charged to those who wish to raise a case involving a high hedge.

The Orchard Centre at Didcot has now opened. Cllr Tomline said, however, that the new Arts Centre has been scaled back to a point where its capacity may be insufficient to make the project economically viable.

Cllr Moss said that he been concerned that land off Kiln Lane had been sold, possibly to travellers, but he subsequently discovered that the purchaser is a Garsington resident who wishes to put the area to grass for the purpose of grazing horses. Cllr Tomline commented that she is reviewing the status of all issues of planning enforcement in Garsington including those involving properties on Kiln Lane and Wheatley Road.

8 Finance

The Council’s bank balances were as follows:

Bank of Ireland balance at 6th June £115,807.52 (interest £429.89)

Barclays current account balance at 30th June £9,729.81

Newsletter advertising receipts totalled £490.

(Cllr Mrs Tomline left the room while the following matter was discussed)

The Council considered Cyril Tomline’s honorarium as editor of the Garsington Newsletter. It was agreed that this should be increased from £860 to £900. The Council also wished to record in its Minutes its formal acknowledgement of thanks to Cyril Tomline for his excellent work.

It was agreed that the Clerk’s salary should be increased in line with the minimum rates agreed between National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks. This means that the current monthly salary is £290.56 (back dated to 1st April 2005) with a further increase due on 1st October when the Clerk will have completed five years of service.

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Childline £75.00

Bryans Lock Services Ltd £6.11

Clerk’s salary (incl back pay) £420.63

Admin expenses £65.60

Cyril Tomline £900.00

Village Hall room hire £50.00

The auditor had requested that the Annual Return should include a statement of the insured assets of the Council and pointed out that the full risk assessment had only be completed after close of the financial year. He asked, for the second year running, that the Council explain why it was holding such substantial reserves. These comments were noted by the Council. The Clerk will supply the information required.

The auditor has made it clear that he is not prepared to allow the Council to continue without appointing an Internal Auditor. In future years he may demand additional reports and these would cause the Council extra expense.

It was agreed that an internal auditor should be appointed for the year ended 31st March 2005 and councillors were asked to consider whether they knew anyone who might be willing to take on this role, which does carry a small salary.

9 Planning

a. Applications

P05/W0631 185 Oxford Road

Amendment to P04/W0266 to change size and roof shape of previously approved single storey from extension. No strong views, the Council had agreed that the original application be approved

(Cllr Mrs Tomline left the room while the following application was discussed)

P05/W0656 May Cottage, 119 Oxford Road

Single and two storey extensions to side & rear.

It is understood that some local residents are concerned about the size of this building but the majority of the Council had no strong views.

P05/W0664/RET 131, Oxford Road

Erection of double garage to the rear of the dwelling (amendment to planning permission P05/W0040)

There were comments that this is a very large building and it was agreed that the development should be closely monitored to ensure that it conforms with the permission granted. The Council, however, agreed that it had no strong views and that SODC should determine the application as appropriate.

P05/W0682 40 Elm Drive

Erection of conservatory to rear

No strong views

b. Decisions and other Planning Matters

Additional Performance at Garsington Opera

The Council received a further letter on 13th June (for information only) and this will be circulated

Appeal re 24 The Hill removal of a wall P04/W1006

The Council noted that the Inspector has refused this appeal..

Appeal re Community Hall P04/W0178

The Council noted that the Inspector has refused this appeal and will study his report in detail. Some councillors said that they are not being kept informed about meetings of the Village Hall Committee.

P05/W0423/0 69 Southend

Erection of four bedroom dwelling

Outline Planning Permission was refused on 9th June.

P05/W0465 Willow House, 87 Southend

Erection of 3 bay cat slide cart shed, tractor store etc

Planning Permission was refused on 14th June

P05/W04517 100 Wheatley Road rear extension

Planning Permission was granted on 17th June

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. The SODC Statement of Community Involvement in planning policy and consideration of planning applications will be circulated. The Consultation period ends on 19th August.

b. PEL Licence for Garsington Sports and Social Club annual renewal; the Council agreed that it wished to support this application.

c. Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act; details concerning the timetable for the implementation of this Act will be circulated. The matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion later in the year.

d. The Council noted that the Denton Lane road closure was postponed until 18th July.

e. The Council’s letter of comment about the Oxfordshire Structure Plan has been acknowledged.

f.. The Council has received a copy of a letter from Mr and Mrs Bryan of 116 Oxford Road complaining about parking on pavements. This had been sent to Mrs Gould in SODC Planning Department. The Council commented that it understood that parking on pavements is not in itself an offence, only when it causes an obstruction, and then it becomes a matter for the police.

11 Play Area Equipment Repairs

The repairs to the swings have been promised for this week. It was agreed that the Council should purchase a semi open topped litter bin from Wybone at a cost of just over £300. The preferred colour is green and the bin would carry a sign stating that it was not to be used for the disposal of nappies.

12 Land off Oxford Road

The sub committee considering this project is to meet shortly. The matter will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

13 Traffic Calming

Peter Ronald has been on leave. Cllr Turner will follow up the request for traffic survey data as soon as Mr Ronald is back.

14. Affordable Housing

Cllr Bolam said that the committee will meet before the next Council meeting.

15 Village Maintenance

The Chairman stressed that care of the War memorial is a responsibility of the Parish Council and he has arranged for it to be tidied. The Chairman also said that he has asked a contractor to quote for repairing the mounting block outside The Old Kennels.

Cllr Shuker said that there are several places where householders have allowed their boundary hedges to hang over the pavements outside their homes. Cllr Baker asked who is responsible for cutting hedges along the length of Kiln Lane. As this is a bridleway it is the County’s responsibility to maintain it.

Rob Jeffrey has clarified a few points of detail about the work that the Council have requested him to do and the job will hopefully be started in the current week.

There has been recent patching of the road surface at Sadlers Croft. This follows some drainage repair work in that area.

16 Burial Ground Regulations

Cllr Bolam confirmed that the re-drafting of these regulations is in hand.

17. Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 1st August 2005. Cllr Mrs Eastwood offered her apologies as she will be on holiday.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm