GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 1st July 2013 commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Matthew Dovey, Ian Dickinson, John Hiatt, Mike Patrick with J Eden in attendance. Also present were District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie and County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale plus 1 member of the public

7/13/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Paul Bolam and Judy Westgate

7/13/2 Declarations of Interest

None

7/13/3 Public Participation

Resident asked if the statistics were available for the latest speed monitoring in Oxford Road. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she had not yet received this information but it would be passed to the Parish Council as soon as it became available.

7/13/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 1st July 2013

The minutes as circulated were approved and signed

7/13/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

No matters arising

7/13/6 County Councillors Report

County Councillors report for July had been circulated to the Parish Council

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale reported that she had walked around the village with Keith Stenning to look at all the issues which had been raised,

a) 30mph Roundels - it was possible to have these at the beginning of the 30mph restriction on all entrances to the village. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale was waiting for the cost. It was pointed out by Cllr Matthew Dovey that what had been requested was 30mph roundels at intermittent points throughout the village where speeding was a problem, for example, top and bottom of the hill in Oxford Road. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said that her understanding was it was only possible to place them at the entry points into the Village. Cllr Lindsay- Gale agreed to revert this item back to County Council for further guidance.

b) Overhanging Trees in Combewell, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale was waiting for the cost for carrying out this remedial work.

c)Kings Copse Bus Service – Councillor said she had chased the transport officers regarding this problem they were still looking at possibility of community transport scheme or car share club, Thames Travel have confirmed that it is not possible for 106 to stop at Kings Copse, discussions continuing.

d) Water problems from springs on Southend – The drainage team were going to take a further look at this problem and report back.

Cllr John Hieatt said that the speed monitoring device had now been removed.

Cllr Mike Patrick raised the issue of the School Bus costs, after a short debate it was considered that as Wheatley Park School was the catchment school for this area most parents should not be affected. It was agreed that this needs to be monitored.

 A resident had raised the problem of the closed footpath on junction of The Hill/The Green this had been cordoned off for some weeks and was a very dangerous spot for pedestrians to walk in the road. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she was aware of this and would request that this footpath repair was treated as an emergency.

Cllr Mike Patrick raised the problem of the footpath adjacent to the Village Hall, David Turner was going to get someone to look at this and advise on what could be done to make it less steep, nothing appears to have happened, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay – Gale said she would look into this, but did not think there would be money available for any work.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale left the meeting at 8.10pm

7/13/7 District Councillors Report

a) Kiln Lane – District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie reported that Ian Severn at SODC had received a letter stating that the caravan had been needed for a homeless family but it was no longer needed. Chairman Chris Wright asked who the letter was from. Cllr Anne Eastwood reported that the boundary fence between 9 & 10 had been removed, Cllr Mike Patrick said there was building work being carried out. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said that she had passed the land registry information to the Enforcement Team and she was doing everything possible to make sure this was dealt with. Chairman Chris Wright asked if it was possible to see a copy of the letter which had been received by SODC and the District Councillor agreed to look into this.

b) Bonfires in Oxford Road – this had been noted, action could only be taken if it was confirmed that commercial waste was being burned at the site

c) Red Bus – Craig Allison had now left SODC and the file had not yet been reallocated. Chairman Chris Wright said that he would email Andy King regarding this matter to establish who had given permission for it to be parked there, also the issue of the rubbish at the site.

7/13/8 Finance

Barclays Current at 31st May £37,435.60 (June Statement not yet received)

Council to note DD payment to Grundons in May amounting to £61.28

Monies received in June

Grasscutting Grant £387.76

Burial Ground Fees (January to June 2013) £801

Newsletter Advertising £300

The following cheques needed approval for payment

AON Insurance £1812.12 ( Original cheque had been returned by Royal Mail damaged)

Parchment Oxford (Community Led Plan Posters) £70.40

Clerks Salary £344.60

News Letter Editors salary June/July issue £119.29

The annual audit had taken place on Monday 24th June 2013, the bank reconciliation and the accounting statement for year end March 2013 was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. These statements will now be sent to BDO LLP who are the auditors currently appointed by the Audit Commission.

7/13/9 Planning

a) P13/S1346/HH 15 Pettiwell

Erection of a three bay oak framed open double garage with garden store

Refused. The Council concurred with the comments and observations already put forward by the Conservation Officer, in addition in the Council’s view this application represents overdevelopment of the site

b) Planning enforcements and appeals

None

c) Community Led Plan

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the litter pick day had been a success approximately 20 people had attended.

The Committee had also attended a number of village events to promote the plan and obtain residents suggestions, they had been received well at the Church Fete and one of the items that regularly gets suggested is a car share scheme. This and other suggestions will be discussed at that the next Committee Meeting.

7/13/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Invitations had been received for the Clerk and Chairman to attend the opening of the new Sainsbury’s Store at Cowley on 16th July 2013. There were no objections to Clerk and Chairman attending.

Posters had been received for the Thames Valley Police Open Day 7th September it was agreed to display in the notice boards.

OCC had sent order pack for salt for next winter, it was agreed that as the council already had one unused bag of salt a further supply was not required at this time. This would be reviewed later in the year. It was also pointed out that residents needed to be reminded that the salt was not for personal use on driveways. Chairman Chris Wright will put note in Newsletter.

Email from resident at 22 The Green regarding the closed footpath, this had been discussed under items for the County Councillors.

Neighbourhood Watch - Chairman Chris Wright stated that he had agreed that the Council would fund a small amount of approximately £90 for the purchase of Neighbourhood Watch Signs. Cllr John Hieatt said he would convey this information to Marlies James, it was agreed that the payment would be made once an invoice had been received.

Queen Elizabeth II Trust were offering a Party Pack for any events that take place on Parsler’s Piece.

7/13/11 Playground Safety

The Clerk had asked Mr Hill to look at the problems with the picnic bench.

2013 Inspection, to be arranged for August.

7/13/12 Village Maintenance

a) Grass Verge –Wheatley Road/Denton Lane junction. Quote had been received from Malcolm Hill totalling £1750 for labour and materials. The Council felt this was very expensive. Clerk to forward emails to all Councillors with County Council on this matter and ask County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale for her input. To be discussed further.

b) Cllr Mike Patrick reported that the plaque had now been received for Parsler’s Piece, unfortunately it was for floor mounting . Plaque was shown to Councillors. Cllrs Mike Patrick and John Hieatt would find a way of mounting the plaque to the gate.

c)Burial Ground – Cllr Mike Patrick reported that there were still at least 4 graves that were knee high in grass. It appears the Mr Tipping is not prepared to strim these graves as it is not in his remit to do this. Cllr Patrick reported that tidiness in the burial ground is also an issue. It was agreed that Cllr Patrick and the Chairman would arrange a visit to the burial ground to assess and discuss the problems and report back.

d) Cllr Anne Eastwood had previously requested an additional litter bin at the end of Kiln Lane. Clerk to action.

e) Conifers in Old School Garden – The Clerk had not yet written to owners. Chairman, Chris Wright said he would go and speak to the owners.

7/13/13 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the Thames Travel service was running reasonably well.

He would chase Danny Douglas for an update on the Go Ride Service

7/13/14 Community Assets

Old School Garden – Clerk had forwarded to all Councillors correspondence obtained from Yvonne Cutler-Greaves at SODC on Community Assets outlining what can be nominated.

Cllr Anne Eastwood raised the question of whether the Old School Garden could be nominated as it had not been used by the Village in recent times. Chairman Chris Wright said he would speak to the owners when he speaks to them about the conifers.

7/13/15 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Council were awaiting statistics on the latest speed monitoring in the hill.

7/13/16 Any Other Business

Cllr Mike Patrick had been present at the Village Hall for the LEADER visit that had recently taken place. Everyone was really impressed with what had been achieved with the Village Hall refurbishment.

Cllr Mike Patrick said he would not be present at the next meeting he was on holiday and asked if someone could deliver the Newsletters. Clerk agreed to do this.

Cllr Matthew Dovey said he would not be present at the next meeting he was on holiday.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS** FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

**For AUGUST 2013, but reporting on July 2013**

**HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

Oxfordshire County Council currently provides free school transport above and beyond the statutory national level and higher than our neighbouring County Councils. The proposals to adjust the current provision were considered by cabinet on 16th July and it was recommended to defer the decision until the November meeting so that more consultation could take place during the autumn. The government pre-empted the decision by changing the rules regarding consultation without notice 5 days prior to the meeting. This will give more opportunity for schools and communities to voice their concerns regarding the proposals and raise awareness of some of the anomalies. I am aware that several communities in this Division expressed concerns, especially Garsington, the Baldons and Stadhampton. Fortunately there is now time to investigate these local situations.

**BROADBAND**

The County Council has used the opportunity of upgrading its own network, adding funding and BDUK funding to provide broadband coverage to over 90% of premises in Oxfordshire by 2015. The contract is due to be finalised in August when the roll out will be revealed. Without the funding from the County Council residents would have to wait until 2017 before this would have been achieved.

**CITY DEAL**

The County council is working with the Districts and local business to produce a City Deal. This will be based around the knowledge economy of Oxfordshire to bring forward vital infrastructure projects to accelerate housing developments, providing more jobs in Oxfordshire. It will also concentrate on making sure we have the correct skills base. Cabinet will be considering the bid at the September meeting.

 **SPENDING REVIEW**

The Chancellor announced the latest spending review at the end of June for the year 2015-16. There will be a further reduction in government funding for local authorities of 10%. The exact details are not yet known; they should become apparent during the autumn. This will mean further pressures on the Council on top of the £127 million already saved along with the proposed savings of £74 million in the coming 4 years.

**EAST-WEST RAIL**

The ambition of re connecting Oxford to Cambridge has been around for many years recently the government have signalled approval for the first phase connecting Oxford to Milton Keynes. There are a great number of benefits for Oxfordshire as more freight traffic will be taken off the road and it will open up another route to the north of the country, something HS2 will not do for the region. There is a delivery board and local contributions are required to show local commitment to the project. Cabinet will be discussing Oxfordshire’s contribution to the scheme at the September meeting.

**MINERALS & WASTE CORE STRATEGY**

On the 9th July the County Council voted to withdraw the approved Minerals & Waste Core Strategy that had been submitted to the Secretary of State on 31st October 2012. The appointed Inspector had raised a number of questions and requests for further work in order that the Strategy could meet the new requirements of process brought in by the Localism Act and the new National Planning Policy Framework. The Council is now working to meet those requirements and hopes that examination hearings will be held in July 2015 with the Core Strategy being progressed to adoption by December 2015.

It’s important to understand that work on the Site Proposals and Options has not been challenged, and work on this document is not being progressed. However, all the work and consultations that went into those proposals will be used to inform the new Strategy. The programme for the Minerals & Waste Site Allocations document will be decided after the revised Core Strategy reaches the examination stage. For this Division, and all the other communities that may potentially be affected by the Strategy this means another long wait for certainty, for we are all back to square one.

**MY PORTFOLIO - LIBRARIES**

As the Cabinet member for Cultural and Community Services one of the services that I am responsible for is our Library network. In spite of another round of cuts being handed down to us from central government the Council is committed to keeping all our 43 libraries open. In December 2011 we agreed to continue to fully fund 22 Core libraries across the county. 16 libraries have been designated as Community libraries where the Council will reduce investment in staffing by 50%. 5 libraries are called Community Plus libraries where the Council will reduce investment in staffing by a third. We are working hard with these communities to establish Friends Groups to enable the shift in balance towards volunteer support and/or financial support. This work will continue until April 2015. After that time if a sustainable Friends Group has not come forward to support a library the Council may have no option but to close it.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

There are a number of funds available to local organisations in the Division.

* **Councillors Community Budgets**

We have continued to fund these popular local funds to support local organisations. If you know of any organisations that might be interested, please contact me or seek further information at *http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/councillor-community-budgets*

* **Area Stewardship Funding**

These are continuing but are now organised differently. I will attend meetings with other councillors in my locality to pool our funds together for greater effect where possible. It is used to fund highway issues in particular.

* **Chillout Fund**

We have continued a £100,000 fund to support projects for children and young people across the County. More information is available at *http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/chill-out-fund-youth-activities-and-projects*

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