#### Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 2nd June 2003 commencing at 7.30 pm.

1. The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors

Anne Eastwood, John Goodey, Cliff Moss and Gurdip Saini with G Russell in attendance. Also present were 9 residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Paul Bolam, Councillor

Ann Tomline and County Councillor David Turner, who had been called to another meeting.

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor John Goodey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to the discussion about Planning Application P03/N0356/LD 155-157 Oxford Road which seeks a Lawful Development Certificate for the display and sale of stone garden ornaments.

1. Public Participation

## Mr E Tipping explained that his remarks at the previous meeting about the car park at the Sports Club referred to the way in which some people misuse the car parking area and not the arrangements for opening and closing the gates.

## Mr Tipping also said that the previous Parish Council had not approved in advance the expenditure of £60 on the newly laminated map for the display on The Green. The Chairman confirmed that this was true and said that such a thing should not happen again.

## Mr Tipping commented about the trees overhanging Southend in the direction of the Manor and the poor state of the road surface outside Rookery House.

## Mr B Townsend asked if County Cllr Turner had been in touch with the Clerk about employees of Oxford City Council being allowed to pay their Council Tax over a period of 12 months rather the normal 10 months. The Clerk said that he had not.

## Mr Tipping asked if the Parish would be willing to have its own monthly skip service and the Clerk was asked to find out the cost of this.

1. The Minutes of the Meeting of 12th May were approved and signed after the

correction of a typing error in the numbering of a planning decision.

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes

## Cllr Moss queried whether it had been appropriate for Cllr Bolam to have taken the chair at the previous meeting when Cllr Eden had declared a personal and prejudicial interest. The question had been whether the Parish Council wished to be present at the meeting of the District Council’s Licensing and General Purposes Committee on Friday 23rd May when the Opera’s application would be discussed.. The question was whether by virtue of his membership of the Garsington Players he should have vacated the chair. In fact no-one had attended the meeting to represent the Parish Council.

## (Cllr Bolam was not present at this meeting and had sent his apologies)

## b) The Clerk said that Mr Charles Atkinson had written to say that, due to a change of family circumstances, he was no longer available to be co-opted to fill one of the two vacancies on the Parish Council

## c) The Clerk said that his research into the availability of internal auditors was on-going. The market rate seems to be about £28-£30 per hour and it was likely that 5/6 hours work would be required at six monthly intervals.

## c) The Clerk said that the new administration at the District Council is making further organisational changes to the planning committee arrangements and that details of the new system were expected soon.

## d) Cllr Eden confirmed that he was happy to continue to be the Council’s representative on the board of school governors.

## e) Progress of the Order confirming the footpath from Oxford Road to The Hill continues to be frustrated because of an objector. This could ultimately result in the matter being referred to a public enquiry. The Council wondered whether the County Council would release the name of the objector so that the Chairman could discuss the matter with this person to try and resolve the problem.

## The Clerk reported that the village school uses Tappins and Plastows coaches to bus their pupils each day. Councillors said that these were not the companies whose drivers needed to be cautioned. The Clerk was asked to contact Wheatley Park School to see which companies serve those pupils.

## Cllr Goodey asked if the practice of not naming the residents who take part in the Public Participation section of the meeting could be changed. It was agreed that, although residents can retain the right to request that their names do not appear in the Minutes of any meeting in which they have participated, in future the normal practice will be that they will be named,

## Cllr Mrs Eastwood asked if the Minutes could be prepared and circulated more quickly after each meeting and the Clerk said that he would try harder to achieve this. She also made the point that to date there had been no written record of the Council’s decision in regard to the land off Oxford Road. This had been discussed as a confidential matter after the Annual Meeting of the parish Council held on 12th May.

## The Chairman suggested that Councillors meet Rev Richard Cowles on site at the burial ground so that the issues regarding maintenance and the rules about monuments could be fully discussed.

1. County Councillor’s Report

Through the Clerk, County Councillor David Turner reported that new bus timetables will commence on July 7th including a new service connecting Garsington with Cuddesdon, Denton and Wheatley.

He also said that at the County Council Transport Implementation committee on 29th May the 50 mph traffic orders for the A329 / B480 from Milton Common to Grenoble Road except where 30 mph limits already exist were confirmed. The signing work will start asap. There had, however, been one slight glitch. A mistake in the application means that the stretch between Chiselhampton and Stadhampton will not be confirmed until a resubmission is approved which is being advertised together with an application for a 50 mph limit on the B480 Stadhampton to the Watlington road.

1. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Mrs Tomline had sent her apologies for absence from this meeting.

1. Finance and cheques for signature

The Council’s bank accounts contained the following balances:

Bank of Ireland £107,170.07 (6th May)

Barclays Current a/c £10,266.48 (30th May)

Barclays Tracker a/c £8,111.11 (10th March)

Income during the month included £276.02 interest paid by the Bank of Ireland.

Cheques approved for payment

CPRE £25.00

Clerk salary & expenses £242.75

OALC £41.12

Each year the Council receives several letters from organisations requesting donations. The Chairman suggested that a budget for such expenditure should be drawn up with reference to an appropriate allowance per head of the Parish electorate. The Clerk will research the historic levels of the Council’s donations and report to the nest meeting.

1. Planning

Applications:

(a). P03/N0356/LD 155-157 Oxford Road

Application seeking Lawful Development Certificate for the display and sale of stone garden ornaments.

Cllr John Goodey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter and withdrew from the meeting for this item of business. Councillors felt unable to make any comment about the history of the use of this land over the past 10 years. It was assumed that the neighbours had been asked to comment.

(b). P03/N0358/LB 16, Oxford Road

Listed building consent for the replacement of all windows in main house with new wooden windows. Take up existing rotten floor in sitting room and replace. Block up doorway in porch to west of house to match existing stonework.

It was considered that this application should be approved.

(c). P03/N0371 18 The Green,

Change of use of semi derelict barn to ancillary domestic accommodation

The Council considered that this application should be refused. There were concerns about over development of this area leading to increased parking and other traffic problems in an area where these problems already exist.

The Council asked the Clerk to find out if planning permission, if granted, could be limited by the imposition of conditions.

Planning Decisions

Brooklyn, Pettiwell Application Reference PO3/N0304 has been withdrawn

Land adjacent to King’s Copse; Change of use of land from agricultural to residential; PO3/N0053; Application refused

81 Oxford Road, Erection of side extension; PO3/N0205; Application refused

Rook Barn, off The Green, Erection of two storey side extension; PO3/N0228; Application refused

7 Elm Drive, Extension to existing dormers; PO3/N0270; Application granted

Other Planning Matters

Further correspondence concerning the land adjacent to Church and an amended plan will be circulated

The Council noted that the applicants’ appeal against the refusal of the District Council to allow further development at Home Farm Cottages had been dismissed

1. Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

## i) PEL Licence for Garsington Playgroup at the Sports Club – no objections

## ii) Agenda for Oxford Fringe Forum on 30th June – it was agreed that Cllr Moss would represent the Council at this meeting in Stanton St John. Cllr Goodey agreed to attend the Oxford Fringe Forum that will be held on 15th September, venue to be agreed

## iii) It was noted that the OALC AGM clashes with the next Parish Council meeting and the Clerk was asked to send the Council’s apologies for absence

## iv) Cllr Mrs Eastwood said that she would like to attend the OALC training day for new councillors on 12th July.

1. Playground

The Clerk reported that the annual RoSPA inspection would include an appraisal of how the Playground conformed or needed to be altered to conform with the Disability Discrimination Act. The Chairman said that a risk assessment of the area needs to be done. It is anticipated that this subject will be a major item on the agenda for the September Council Meeting.

1. Old Stone Cross

It was agreed that if Magma Masonry had not completed the scheduled repairs by the end of July another contractor would be found to do the work.

1. Village Maintenance

## There was a feeling that the roadside signs in Garsington do not get cleaned as much as those in other parts of the County, that many of them are allowed to become obscured by long grass and other vegetation and that when, for whatever reason, they are damaged or knocked down the County Highways team is very slow to arrange repair and/or replacement.

## There were several comments about litter bins which needed replacement by similar or, even, larger sized bins. The Chairman said that a complete audit was necessary so that the issue could be dealt with for the Parish as a whole.

## There is a similar need to review the need for dog hygiene bins over the whole area of the Parish..

## The hedge growing over the footpath on Clinkard’s Hill continued to be a problem. The Chairman said he would discuss the matter with Andrew King.

1. Parking at Sports Club

It was agreed that the Garsington Newsletter be used to request that people use the car park rather than parking on Denton Lane.

1. Parish Precept

The correspondence between the Clerk and Michael Jacques had been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr Moss that in the current year the sum of £2,500 should be ‘ring fenced’ against expenditure and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Eastwood. The motion was approved by four votes in favour with one abstention.

1. Parish Council Vacancies

It was agreed that the Garsington Newsletter be used to make people within the Parish aware of the two vacancies on the Parish Council in the hope that two or more people might offer themselves for co-option to the Council. It was suggested that any interested persons should be asked to contact the Clerk by the end of September so that the vacancies could be filled at the October meeting.

1. Housing Needs Survey

It was agreed that this item should be held over until the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to see if a representative from ORCC could attend and speak at this meeting.

1. Review of Standing Orders

It was agreed that in future the Council should meet in August and the Clerk as asked to book the Village Hall for a meeting on Monday 4th August.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.