Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 6th June 2005 commencing at 7.30pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors David Baker, Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, Gurdip Saini and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present were four residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence were accepted from Cllr Cliff Moss, who was on holiday. District Cllr Ann Tomline was unwell and had sent her apologies.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Eden declared a prejudicial interest in P05/W0517 100, Wheatley Road, a near neighbour.

3 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9th May 2005

These were approved and signed as a true record

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i) Payphone at Kings Copse; the Clerk said that he had been advised by SODC that the provision of the payphone was not a condition of the licence but Cllr Baker said this was contrary to his understanding of the matter. Further enquiries will be made.

ii). Birch Road trees; in the absence of Cllr Moss this matter was carried forward.

iii). Contact with John Palmer; carried forward.

iv). Old Village Cross; the Clerk was instructed to contact IJP Building to ask if there is any way that the Council can take steps to ensure that the work is done this year.

v). New seat at The Gizzel

A traditional seat has been ordered and will cost £384 plus delivery and VAT. It is expected to be ready for delivery before the next Council meeting

vi). Cllr Shuker reported that the owners of Garsington House have agreed to speak to their contractors and to ask them to keep their vehicles from blocking the footway.

vii). The Chairman confirmed that he has dealt with the consultation documents concerning the draft local transport plan.

viii). It was agreed that a supply of 200 green plastic sacks should be obtained for those residents who wish to dispose of their garden rubbish. New types of sack will become alternative options from 4th July.

ix). The brochures about the celebrations of Trafalgar weekend in October have been circulated. It was agreed that the Parish Council will not organise an event.

5 Finance

Bank of Ireland balance at 5th May £115,377.63 (interest £388.28)

Barclays current account balance at 31st May £12,478.19

The following payments were approved:

Allianz Cornhill (annual premium) £1,374.85

Biffa Waste Services Limited £167.32

(includes £133.50 of annual charges)

Clerk’s salary £262.69

Admin expenses £59.80

CPRE annual sub £25.00

Colourplus £613.72

SODC (green sacks) £130.00

E. Tipping (repair of strimmer) £40.00

The value of the Village War Memorial is to be assessed for insurance purposes.

It was agreed that the Council should donate £75 to the charity Childline.

In the absence of Cllr Moss the signing of the Barclays and Bank of Ireland mandates was held over until the next meeting.

Cllr Bolam said that the Garsington ‘Relief in Need’ charity has now been wound up.

6 Planning

a. Applications

 P05/W0517 100, Wheatley Road; Erection of two storey rear extension and relocation of existing garage along with alterations to the existing access.

The Council agreed with the conclusions of the group of Councillors who had been contacted by Cllr Shuker, the Chairman being unable to participate because of a declared interest in the application.

Approval of the application was recommended on the grounds that it is a good design and well thought-out upgrade of the property which stands on a good size plot.

 P05/W0591 26, Wheatley Road;

Removal of existing garages and replacement of garages.

The Council is aware that this property is already the subject of enforcement action but believes the planners will deal with this application as a separate matter. The Clerk is to enquire about the status of the enforcement action but, on the assumption that there is no linkage, the Council agreed that it would take no strong view. The plans accompanying the application are not clear enough for an informed decision.

 PO5/W0616 15 The North Manor; Demolition of existing outbuilding. Erection of a two storey side extension.

The Council agreed to recommend that this application be approved as being a significant improvement to this property.

b. Decisions and other Planning Matters

 PO4/W0953 161 Oxford Road, proposed extension to 1st floor bedroom and dormer window in loft. The applicant’s appeal has been dismissed because of adverse impacts on the neighbours. A copy of the judgement will be circulated.

 PO5/W0423/O 69 Southend; an amendment has been received (for information only) with the proposed new house moved 1.5m nearer to the existing house.

 PO5/W0398/LB 36, The Hill; new thatch and repairs to southerly gable/buttress. Listed Building Consent was granted 27th May

 PO5/W0373 44 Wheatley Road

New tiled roof to sunroom. Planning Permission was granted 1st June

7 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. The Chairman has received complaints about the boundary hedges of several properties and he agreed to talk to the residents concerned.

b. The Council has received an invitation to attend the WWII 60th anniversary party in Christ Church on 9th July. The vice-chairman will be asked to represent the Council.

c. The Clerk will respond to the request for the Council’s comments on the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016 – Modifications by the deadline date of 17th June.

d. Details of the Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Development framework will be circulated. Comments are required in July.

e. Cllr Bolam said that he would deal with the County’s request that Parish Councils ensure that the roadside bus timetable displays are properly displayed. The Public Transport Information Manager has asked to be told if displays are inadequate.

f. Details of the temporary road traffic order closing a section of Denton Lane for telecoms work will be circulated.

8 Play Area Equipment Repairs

The Clerk reported that RSS have sent an order acknowledgement for the new components for both the flat seat and cradle swings. Total cost including delivery and fitting is £707 plus VAT.

9 Land off Oxford Road

Cllr Shuker said the Council now has quotations from two landscape contractors and three fencing contractors. The lowest pair of quotations totals £12,000 and the highest £26,000. Cllr Shuker said that to allow for all the inevitable ‘extras’ a budget of £25,000 needs to be provided. It was agreed that a working party consisting of Cllrs Bolam, Mrs Eastwood and Moss should be convened by Cllr Shuker to develop the Council’s plans for the future of this site. These would then be circulated to local residents for further discussion. The Clerk will investigate the possibilities of obtaining grants and find out what planning formalities should be observed.

10 Traffic Calming

Peter Ronald has explained that the consultation process is currently with councils and emergency services to find out if they have any major problems in advance of going out to public consultation.

The Clerk was asked to remind Mr Ronald that during a previous meeting with the Parish Council he said that he would be able to make available the findings of the most recent traffic speed survey for Garsington and the surveys at Chinnor that were taken before and after the implementation of the recent traffic calming scheme.

11 Affordable Housing

Cllr Bolam is to convene a meeting of the sub-committee so that a report can be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

12. Village Maintenance

It was agreed that the inside of the Kings Copse bus shelter should be given a coat of paint but Rob Jeffrey would be asked first to do the area around Sadlers Croft and the school. He will be asked to inform the school when he intends to use weedkiller with confirmation to the Clerk.

ISIS Accord has not yet supplied a quotation for the road surface repairs and other contractors may be invited to do so. Recommendations of suitable contractors are invited.

The list of jobs envisaged for the Play Area which had been drawn up by Cllr Moss was approved and Cllr Moss is asked to discuss the matter with Mr Tipping.

The Council agreed that the landlord of the Three Horseshoes could go ahead with cutting the grass outside the pub in between the cuts carried out for the Parish Council by Ian Young.

It was agreed that the Village Hall committee should be asked if they would like Ian Young to tidy up the grass etc alongside the path leading to the Hall entrance.

The Clerk will contact Mike Dickerson, Highways inspector, about cutting low branches off the tree at the junction of Elm Drive with Oxford Road. The view of traffic approaching down the hill is being obscured by these branches.

Councillors were uncertain as to the status of the repair to the old mounting block outside The Old Kennels. The Chairman said that he would investigate.

13 Review of Code of Conduct

The Council worked through the check list of answers which had been prepared by Cllr Baker. These were approved and the Clerk will submit the Council’s replies both to the Standards Board and the District Council’s monitoring officer.

14 Burial Ground Regulations

A copy of the existing regulations had been supplied to each councillor. It was agreed that the style and wording should be made more ‘user-friendly’. Cllr Bolam undertook to draft a version which would be more suitable for distribution through the Vicar and also local undertakers to the bereaved families wishing their relatives to be laid to rest in the Burial Ground.

It was agreed that, in addition to passing on the burial fees, the Vicar should also notify the Council Clerk of the names and contact details of next of kin so that, after a suitable interval has passed, arrangements could be made for graves to be levelled and/or tidied up as required.

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 4th July 2005