Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 4th June 2007 commencing at 7.30 pm. The Chairman, Cllr Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Cllrs David Baker, Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, John Hieatt, Judith Westgate and Chris Wright with G Russell in attendance. Also present was District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie and eleven residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from County Cllr David Turner who had been delayed on his return from holiday.

2 Public Participation

Several residents had attended the meeting specifically to voice their objections to the Planning Application for change of use at 27 Elm Drive. There were concerns that if it is turned into a food outlet there will be unpleasant cooking smells and even more noise in the area than there already is. It was thought that the notice advertising the planning application had not been properly displayed.

Mike Patrick expressed his concerns that repairs to the footway on Clinkards Hill had still not been done and said that the adjacent hedge is overgrowing the path in several places. He also noted that signs warning drivers about horses had not been put up. The Chairman said that he would discuss these matters with County Cllr Turner.

Mr Patrick reported that some children are digging tunnels into the play area. He also said that he understood from the Marriotts that they are expecting the Parish Council to pay for the planting of a new hedge between the new fence on the edge of the access to Parsler’s Piece and the boundary of their land. This will discussed later.

Basil Townsend asked about the status of the grant for the new community hall. He was told that this application had now lapsed

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr John Hieatt, as the occupant of business premises nearby, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Application P07/W0507 27 Elm Drive.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th May 2007

These were approved and signed as a true record.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. The new Police Community Support Officer, who will be based in Wheatley, has still not been fully supplied with his uniform but he expects to be able to attend the next Parish Council meeting.

b The ‘Thank you’ pins have now been delivered. The Council was shown samples and the one with the lettering in black was preferred.

c Cllr Bolam said that he would like to know more about what is covered by the Council’s contract with Total Pest Control (UK) Ltd

d The Chairman said that he had studied the consultation document about Oxford City’s proposed procedure for dealing with applications to erect mobile phone masts. He commented that the document was very comprehensive and that no further action is required.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner had been delayed on his journey back from holiday and was unable to attend the meeting.

7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Gillespie said she has been appointed to the planning and community funding committees. All the new councillors are receiving very thorough briefings from officers. Cllr Gillespie said that she had been in contact with the Travellers Liaison Officer about the families who were staying on the roadside at the bottom of Pettiwell and he is dealing with this matter.

8 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 31st May £15,276.66

Receipts in month came to £826, mostly advertising revenue, with £41 burial ground receipts)

Bank of Ireland at 8th May £125,578.93 (monthly interest earned £455.92)

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Biffa Waste Services (3 months waste from burial ground) £172.60

Bryan Lock Services – extra keys for notice boards £16.45

Cliff Shuker – bolts and padlocks for Parsler’s Piece £79.28

Earth Anchors Ltd (Two dog waste bins) £423.06

Malcolm Hill Bus shelter & rocking horse £200.00

G Russell (Clerk’s salary) £315.90

G Russell (Admin) £89.50

The Council agreed that Cllr Chris Wright should become a signatory on the Barclays Bank accounts.

9 Planning

a. Application

(Cllr J Hieatt left the meeting while the following item was discussed)

P07/W0507 27 Elm Drive

Change of use of ground floor from ‘A1’ (shop) to ‘A3’ (Food & Drink)

The Council noted the objections to this application that had come from several neighbours and agreed unanimously that the application should be refused. Should the matter go before the Planning Committee the Council would wish to speak against the approval of the Application.

b. Decisions and other planning matters

The Council noted that the Greenwoods of Garsington- Public Inquiry had been called off because the applicant had withdrawn his appeal. Cllr Gillespie said that she would try to find out why this had happened and would report back.

PO7/W0272 & PO7/W0273/LB Rectory Cottage, 4 The Hill

Proposed conservatory with new vehicular and pedestrian gates

Both planning permission and listed building consent granted 15th May

PO7/W0413 15 Southend

Erection of a single storey glazed extension to rear of property.

Planning Permission granted 25th May

PO7/W0420 25 The Hill

Single storey dwarf wall conservatory to rear of property

Planning Permission granted 24h May

The Council noted the plan for a training course for clerks and parish councillors by OALC on Wednesday 10th October at Didcot Civic Hall from 9.30 – 1 pm entitled “Effective Responses to Planning Applications” at a cost of £20 plus VAT per delegate. Cllrs Hieatt, Westgate and Baker, in addition to the Clerk, all said that they would like to attend.

Cllr Wright asked about the regulation of roadside advertising notices and Cllr Gillespie said that she would investigate.

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. The Council noted both the Thames Valley Police Stakeholder Forum tomorrow at Drayton Park Golf Club and the OALC AGM next Monday evening but no-one was available to attend either meeting.

b. Mike Rothery has written explaining how a further donation from the Parish Council would be used by at St Mary’s Church Restoration Project. It was agreed that consideration of whether or not a further donation would be made should be left until December.

d. The County has written about proposed changes to Weight Restrictions. Several roads in Garsington are affected with the present 3 tonnes restriction being replaced by one of 7.5t. Comments are required by 15th June and the Chairman said that he would study the documents.

11 Village Hall project

Another meeting of the Village Hall Committee has been called for 26th June. It was agreed that there should be no special Council sub-committee for the Village Hall. All matters will be reported to the full Council.

12 Burial Ground Regulations

The new regulations have now been sent to all Councillors. Cllrs Hieatt and Westgate have had a look at the area reserved for the burial of ashes and appreciate the difficulty of keeping the area tidy. It was suggested that the routines for the care of the burial ground need to be reviewed in order to include special measures in this area.

13 Village Maintenance

It was agreed that bins are needed at Kiln Lane and near the shops in Elm Drive. A third bin will be located by Wheatley Road near North Manor Estate.

Phipps Well – the Clerk has been told by Ian Young that rubbish is being dumped there by village resident(s). Cllrs Bolam and Wright will check.

There will be an inspection of the hedge opposite the Village Hall inspection tomorrow by County Council staff. Brian Purcell-Smith (County Highways) thinks that it is either a Parish responsibility or the responsibility of the Old School House owners as adjacent land owners. Mike Dickerson (Highways inspector) wonders whether the junction is so dangerous that access direct to the top of Pettiwell should be blocked.

The Chairman said that he had applied weed killer to the area around the war memorial. Cllr Bolam said that he would see if the paint on the Oxford Road bus shelter could be removed. If not it might be necessary to order new panels.

The Council considered the suggestion that there should be signs in the village warning drivers about the presence of horses. It was agreed that such signs are not necessary.

14 Playground

The annual inspection carried out by the RoSPA inspector will take place in July. The ‘Orbit’ has been ordered. The equipment cost remains £2,450 but there is a small decrease in cost of surfacing; delivery 7-9 weeks.

The head of the rocking horse has been removed. It may have value and could be offered on e-bay if a digital photograph is taken. Cllr Westgate has an e-bay account.

The Clerk has asked Jamie King about the painting. He has been held up by the wet weather; lead free paint must be given two days to be sure of drying.

15 Parsler’s Piece

The Nicholson’s invoice has been received for £20,251.96 plus VAT. Inspections by TOE and SODC are being arranged in the near future so that grant monies can be released. The Chairman will visit the Marriotts and Mr Partlett regarding their concerns about security issues allegedly made worse by the creation of this public access open space.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm