**Garsington Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 6th June 2011 commencing at 7.30 pm. The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden presided; present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood, John Hieatt, Mike Patrick and Judith Westgate. Also present for part of the meeting were District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie and five members of the public

6/11/1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from County Cllr David Turner.

6/11/2 Election of Parish Council Chairman 2011-12

Cllr John Hieatt took the chair for the following business.

Cllr Godfrey Eden was proposed as Chairman for 2011-12 by Cllr Mike Patrick and this nomination was seconded by Cllr Hieatt. There were no other nominations. Cllr Eden was duly declared as being elected and he resumed the chair, having signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office

6/11/3 Parish Council Vacancies – Co-options

Chris Wright was nominated and unanimously elected. It was agreed that Cllr Wright would be invited to join the Parish Council at its meeting with the Sports and Social Club on the following day, 7th June, where he will be asked to sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6/11/4 Declarations of Interest on items on this agenda

None

6/11/5. Public Participation

Mr Ernie Tipping asked about the enforcement action connected with the field adjacent to Greenwoods and was told by District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie that if the breach was still occurring on 13th June, the final date of the period of notice, evidence would be collected in order to start proceedings. Mr Tipping complained about the number of cars parked on Pettiwell, in Tadpole Lane and outside premises in Denton Lane. He suggested that a car repair business was being carried out in Tadpole Lane and motor bike repairs in Denton Lane.

Mr Tipping asked what progress has been made in getting white lines put down to discourage parking by school traffic, especially in North Manor. He was told that this has already been referred to the County Council by Cllr. David Turner.

Mr Tipping also raised a number of matters in connection with his job specification. The Chairman said that this is not yet finalised and discussions will continue. Mr Tipping asked whether he has authority to remove things from the burial ground that do not conform with the Parish Council’s regulations. He was told that he does not have that authority. Items can only be removed after a specific request has been made by the Parish Council.

6/11/6. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 9th May 2011

After the spelling of ‘Westgate’ was corrected in item 5/11/13 the Minutes as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

6/11/7. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a. The Clerk reminded all councillors that they should complete their returns for the Register of Interests

b. The Clerk said that Rev Emma Pennington was not keen on the idea that burial plots could be reserved in advance. He was asked to explain that in this case it was a request to pay for two plots in advance rather for specific space being reserved.

c. The Chairman said the number of people attending the meeting with the Sports and Social Club did not concern him. It might be beneficial if the meeting is well attended because that would mean that more people could hear directly from the Parish Council representatives what they propose and why.

d. Cllr Anne Eastwood said that Wynn Jones is checking to see whether school crossing signage was included in the original scheme. If not, she understood that the Parish Council would have the option of providing signs at its own expense.

e. Cllr Judith Westgate confirmed that she has the papers to start the process of registering the Council’s ownership of the Playing Field with the Land Registry.

6/11/8 County Councillor’s Report

Apologies have been received from David Turner who is on holiday.

Cllr Patrick will contact Cllr Turner about the street light in Kiln Lane; the traffic lane control system leaving the Ring Road for the entrance to BMW and the junction with Garsington Road; traffic congestion in Pettiwell; and a section of the pavement in Combewell that has been damaged by tree root growth.

6/11/9 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said that following her re-election in May she looked forward to working together with the Parish Council over the coming four years. Cllr Patrick told Cllr Gillespie that he expected that planning enforcement issues would continue throughout this period. Some sites have a history of being contentious.

The Chairman said that there may be a planning issue concerning land near the Thames Water unit off Wheatley Road, where the scheduled use of the site for agriculture appears to have been changed without the proper permission being given.

6/11/10 Finance

Change of mandate: now that Chris Wright has re-joined the Council the change is not so urgent but the Clerk will progress the addition of Cllrs Ann Eastwood and Judith Westgate to the list of signatories.

Barclays Current Account at 31st May £22,552.80

Barclays Tracker Account at 10th March (no change) £50.97

Bank of Ireland at 5th May £40,054.85

Bank of Scotland (fixed deposit) (no change) £50,548.34

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Andrews Eades (Balance of Village Hall fees on account) £5,926.32

Allianz Insurance plc (annual insurance premium for mower) £285.14

CPRE (annual subscription) £29.00

Local Council Review (annual subscription) £15.50

Admin (May) £98.44

G Russell (Clerk’s salary) £369.69

The Council discussed the honorarium paid to Cyril Tomline in respect of his work on Garsington News. In May 2010 £1,150 was paid and it was agreed that this would stay the same in 2011.

The Annual Return was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk in preparation for the Internal Audit that is being carried out on Wednesday 8th June. The Internal auditor’s report will be available for discussion at the July meeting.

6/11/11 Planning

a. Applications:

P11/W0839/CA & P11/W0628 4 Pettiwell

Rebuilding of existing boundary stone wall.

The Council agreed to recommend the application for approval.

P11/W0744 145 Oxford Road

Single storey rear extension.

The Council agreed to recommend the application for approval.

P11/W0698 16 The Green, The Three Horseshoes

External pergola with outside seating area and raised seating area

The Council agreed to recommend the application for approval.

b. Other planning matters

Land adjacent St Mary’s Church; Planning application refused by SODC

The Council noted that the applicants have appealed. The letter from the Youngs’ planning agents will be circulated for interest.

6/11/12. Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. Oxfordshire Buildings Trust has recently published a leaflet setting out a historical trail at Ascott Park and asked that it should be distributed in the nearby parishes. It was agreed to accept some copies for distribution.

b. Via the Village website the Parish Council has received a letter about Kiln Farm from a would-be purchaser. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Council to become involved.

c. PCSO Ken Cooney has sent the latest Police report and this has been circulated. He has also asked the Council to tell him of any issues of particular concern. There are none at the moment apart from school parking and this has already been reported.

d. The Chairman reported that the County Council has contacted him about the site of the bus stop in Oxford Road. There was a suggestion that this should be moved so that it was not in an area where cars are often parked. After some discussion the Council concluded that there were no better locations than the one being used now. Cllr Eden said that he would convey that opinion to the County.

e. An application has been received asking for permission to commemorate the late Malcolm Price. This is in the form of a flat ledger stone measuring 6’ 6” x 2’ 4” with a simple inscription and the Council approved the application. The Clerk will confirm this to Rev Pennington and emphasise that the ledger must be laid so it is on the same level as the surrounding turf.

6/11/13 Village Maintenance including Burial Ground

The Clerk confirmed that the annual ROSPA Playsafety inspection of the Play Area has been booked for July. He also said that contact has been made with Safe & Sound Playgrounds of Aylesbury. The company is just setting up a ground repair and maintenance division and he hopes that there will be a report about work in the Play Area in time for discussion at the July meeting.

In the meantime, it was suggested that Malcolm Hill might be able to take on some of the minor repairs that had been identified in the 2010 inspection.

Cllr Eastwood said that the repairs to the wall outside Garsington House have still not been done. The damage is as a result of a road traffic accident and the Clerk will contact County Highways to ensure that they are aware of the need for repairs.

The Council agreed to hold a site meeting in the Burial Ground on Monday 13th June commencing at 1.30 p.m. This will be an opportunity to look at graves which have not settled within the normal time span; planting and memorials left on particular graves and commemorative stones; tree maintenance; and the location of surplus soil dug from new graves. Cllr Eastwood suggested that Chris Gamblin be asked to quote for tree maintenance work

6/11/14 Sports & Social Club Lease

A meeting at the Club has been arranged for the evening of Tuesday, 7th June commencing at 7.30 p.m.

6/11/15 Village Hall

Adrian Townsend gave a presentation in which he brought the Council up to date with the status of the project. Copies of that presentation were later circulated to each councillor. It is hoped that on 22nd June SODC will make a decision about funding part of the cost. Once that decision is known more detail will be available about the timing of the project and, in particular, the phasing of when the Parish Council’s funds will be required.

For the July meeting the Clerk will prepare a schedule showing how much the Parish Council has already contributed.

6/11/16 Bus Services 101/106

Cllr Mike Patrick reported on a meeting held on 25th May between the County Council, representatives from parish councils along the affected routes and the bus company, Thames Travel. The Council noted that shortly after this meeting it had been announced that Thames Travel has been taken over by the parent company of Oxford Bus Company but this is understood to make no difference to the changes planned for 6th June.

Several residents of Garsington attended the Parish Council specifically because of their concerns on this point. The campaign, called ‘Save Garsington’s Buses’ has started its own website www.savegarsingtonbuses.org.uk

Another meeting has been called for 22nd June at which it is hoped that the bus company will respond to some of the suggestions that have been made. It was agreed that Matthew Dovey, a member of the campaign group, should be asked to act as temporary Parish Council Transport Representative and the Clerk will contact County Cllr David Turner, who will chair the June meeting, to ensure that Mr Dovey and Cllr Patrick can both attend.

Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.