**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 3rd March, 2014 commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, John Hieatt, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present District Councillor, Elizabeth Gillespie and 3 members of the public.

3/14/1 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Cllr Ian Dickinson, delayed due to traffic problems

3/14/2 Declarations of Interest

None

3/14/3 Public Participation

None

John Hall and Steve Inch had come to speak about specific items on the Agenda, it was agreed their input would be included when the items came up for discussion.

3/14/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 3rd February 2014

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed with one amendment.

2/14/8 Rights of Way Consultation should read – The Council agreed total funding of £300 would be made available for improvements.

3/14/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Chairman Chris Wright asked if anyone had received the DVLA information from Cllr Ian Dickinson. It was agreed that as Cllr Dickinson was not present he would be contacted and asked to supply the information.

Chairman Chris Wright reported that Alan Bower had looked at the wall behind the Old Stone Cross; the stone was of a low quality and would not be suitable for re-use. It was agreed that a quote for the work would need to be obtained. Cllr John Hieatt said he might know someone who would do the work, he would contact them and report back.

Leylandii Trees, no response had been received to the letter sent to Mr Palmer. Chairman Chris Wright said he will contact him.

3/14/6 County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay- Gale was on holiday. The report received had been circulated to all Councillors

Items which needed discussion would have to be deferred until the next meeting.

Greenwoods, it was understood that the police had put notices on some of the vehicles parked in Pettiwell.

Cllr John Hieatt raised the problem of the Garage Door that had been blown off during the high winds from the rear of the shop premises in Elm Drive, the garage door was blocking the bridleway and rubbish from the garage had been blown everywhere. Contact had been made with the Landlord but action had not been taken, Cllr Hieatt reported that he had contacted SODC and was awaiting a response. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie agreed to look into this.

3/14/7 District Councillor’s Report

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie apologised for the outcome of the Planning Meeting on the planning application for the Take-Away at Elm Drive Shop.

She reported on the Strategic Economic Partnership, she was very involved, first draft to LEP’s was very city centric but surrounded by Green Belt, she continued to apply pressure to ensure that rural needs and concerns about the Green Belt are in any submissions made.

Chairman Chris Wright asked about the City Deal, Cllr Gillespie reported that nothing was really happening at the moment however, she was continuing to monitor this.

Cllr Gillespie advised that SODC and The Vale are now all located in the offices at Crowmarsh.

3/14/8 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 31st January 2014 £33,363.73 (February Statement not received)

Council noted the DD payment to Grundons in January amounting to £49.03

The following cheques were approved and signed:

HMRC/PAYE £92.80

Village Hall Hire – Parish Council Meetings and Community Plan £88.00

Garsington Sports and Social Club – Grass cutting £1000

Colourplus Feb/March Newsletter £766.83

Clerks Salary for February £275.60

Newsletter Editor £95.43

3/14/9 Planning

P14/S0126/HH Kiln Farm, Kiln Lane

Raise roofline and add first floor window to side elevation.

No objections were raised, application was approved.

P14/S0383/FUL College Farm, Southend

Proposed conversion of stone barn to include alterations and lean to extension (amendment to scheme approved application re P12/S0702/FUL

Cllr Anne Eastwood raised concerns regarding the amount of development at this site. After a discussion it was agreed to approve the application, but to note that any further requests should not be considered under permitted development.

3/14/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Chairman Chris Wright reported that he had been contacted by Mr Soanes, 29 The Hill, Chairman Chris Wright advised that he really needed to take legal advice on the responsibility for the problems with regard to his property.

Clerk had received confirmation of the OCC Grass Cutting Grant for 2014/15 totalling £396.47, the letter also advised that the grant for 2015/16 was likely to be reduced by 50%

Grass cutting quote for 2014/15 had been received from Sports and Social Club for £1200, this was an increase of 20% on previous year. Cllr Anne Eastwood felt it should be accepted, she said that they did make a really good job of cutting the area, following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would go back to the Sports and Social see if there was any possibility of a reduction on the 20% increase.

OALC renewal £318.14 inc. VAT. This subscription had not been renewed for the past two years. It was agreed not to renew.

Pettiwell Green – Owner of one of the cottages had given instructions for paths to be laid across the green. Chairman Chris Wright spoke with the owner and advised this area was common land and following an initial stand off some of the removed turf has now been replaced, a compromise had been reached regarding the path. Cllr Judy Westgate advised that she had made an appointment to view the records of areas of common land that had been registered for Garsington.

ORCC Membership renewal invoice £50, this was agreed, cheque to be authorised at the next meeting.

The Big Clean Up – Cllr Anne Eastwood confirmed that work had been carried out on footpaths on the hill.

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) although previously the Council had decided not to take part in this, Cllr John Hieatt felt it was worthwhile and agreed to be the representative for Garsington. Clerk will advise David Turner.

3/14/11 Community Plan

Steve Inch told the Council that all the amendments to the questionnaire had been completed. This included any contributions from SODC, OCC and ORCC. Local authorities had been very complimentary. The printing budget previously set had been too low, but the steering committee had over budgeted in other areas. Steve Inch had discussed this with Chairman Chris Wright and unless there are any unforeseen costs the original total budget figure predicted should not change. An application had been made to ORCC for £500 and it was hoped this would be successful. Target was still to start delivery of questionnaires to each household at end of March.

3/14/12 School Transport

Cllr Matthew Dovey had hoped that the County Councillor was going to be present to explain the decision.

He reported that his understanding was that Garsington did not qualify for a split village, 20% or more of households were required to be closest to the current catchment school, in the case of Garsington this was not the situation. Decision made would only permit concessions to closest school and for the majority of the village this would not be Wheatley Park. Cllr Dovey had sent a note to the Chairman, Eddie McDowall, Friends of Garsington School, he had not yet received a reply.

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie left the meeting at 8.20pm

3/14/13 Village Maintenance

Clerk reported that quotes had not yet been received for the Kings Copse Bus Shelter or the EIIR climbing frame. Mr Hill had verbally expressed his concerns about liability with the work at the bus shelter. It was decided to ask Rob Jeffery for quotes for the above work and also the disability access that had been requested by Elm Drive Shops.

Power Supply for Christmas Tree – Clerk had spoken to Electricity Supplier and was waiting for local area office to make contact. A survey would need to be carried out. At the present time no costs were available.

School Crossing Officer – Chairman Chris Wright asked if there were any developments on this. Cllr Paul Bolam said he would speak to the Governor, Janet Bolam and report back.

Burial Ground - Chairman Chris Wright and Cllr Mike Patrick had been invited to attend a meeting at the Church with the Church Warden, John Hall and other residents to discuss how to make the Church Yard and the Burial Ground more welcoming to visitors. John Hall outlined the plans that had been discussed for the Church Yard with the proposed planting of trees, hedges and wild flowers, to encourage birds and wild life. Some ideas for the Burial Ground had also been put forward. The amount of space available for the future was something that needed to be considered. It is possible to re-use graves after 100 years. It was agreed that a formal request should be made to the Church requesting written confirmation that this would be an option in the future. It was also agreed that before any further discussions could take place, a plan of the area (in scale) needed to be drawn. Clerk offered to do this.

3/14/14 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam confirmed that he had carried out a routine check. The other non- urgent work will be actioned when the weather improves. Notice for gate had not yet been ordered.

3/14/15 Community Assets

Waiting for details, process takes 6-8 weeks now that forms have been submitted.

3/14/16 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey said the service continued to be erratic and we were not the only Parish suffering. He had looked into the Share situation and they were currently trading at £20, purchase would have to be made by an individual not the Parish Council. It was agreed to gift the money to Cllr Dovey allowing the purchase of one share.

3/14/17 Policing/Speed Monitoring

The latest police report from PCSO Ken Cooney had been circulated to all Councillors.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported on the mobile sign, he had been in contact with SODC Safety Officer. Two types are available a stand- alone machine or one that can be fixed to a lamp post, they could only be used as a deterrent. PCSO Ken Cooney had advised that it was possible to borrow one from the Police, following training of volunteers. Chairman Chris Wright thought it would be better to purchase a machine, he also asked if you are allowed to attach to existing street furniture. Cllr Dovey will get clarification and report back.

3/14/18 Annual Parish Meeting/Community Fair

Cllr Matthew Dovey had received a good response from Village Organisations. His next step would be to come up with a plan of how it would work.

3/14/19 Any Other Business

Chairman Chris Wright asked if the Parish Councillors wished to send a letter to Mrs Robinson new owner of Garsington Manor, some concerns had been raised about the lack of response to various requests made by village organisations. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm