**Garsington Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 10th May 2004 commencing at 7.30pm

1. The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden presided; present were Councillors Cliff Moss, Paul Bolam, Ann Tomline and Ann Eastwood. Also present were eight residents of the Parish.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Cliff Shuker, Gurdip Saini, County Councillor David Turner and Parish Clerk Geoff Russell.

3. Public Participation

(i) Mr Tipping continued to be concerned regarding car parking in the vicinity of North Manor by parents delivering children to school. They arrived early from 8.15am and 2.15pm. The school seemed to be in use seven days a week.

The Chairman sympathised with Mr Tipping and would refer the matter, again, to the Police, he would ask the School Governors to support this action.

Councillor Eastwood advised that new security arrangements did not allow children access to the school until 8.40am.

(ii) Mr Tipping reported continued vandalism at the Memorial Playing Field with further palings being kicked out of the Playground fence and broken glass in evidence.

The Chairman recognised the problem but indicated that unless surveillance measures were introduced it would be difficult to control. He agreed that Mr Tipping must not put himself at risk by remonstrating with possible vandals. Councillor Tomline stated that when mobile surveillance equipment was available in the not too distant future she would see we were on the list for action.

(iii) Mr Tipping advised that the highway sign for the green had been vandalised. The Council had been made aware and Councillor Tomline would submit a report to the District Council.

(iv) Mr Tipping raised the question of the new bin for the Memorial Playing Field and the continuing problem with soiled nappies.

Councillor Eastwood was concerned at the length of time being taken for the delivery of the litterbins.

The Chairman agreed to progress this item and would highlight the nappy problem in the newsletter again.

(v) Mr Townsend wished to raise issues with the County Councillor and was concern that he was not in attendance. Councillor Tomline stated that Councillor Turner had sent his apologies. He was required at Stadhampton Annual Parish Meeting and would attend if that meeting ended early. She reminded the meeting that his attendance was not mandatory and he attended as often as his other duties allowed. The Chairman indicated that he had attended the March meeting.

4 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Eastwood declared an interest in Planning Application P04/W0088 as she was a close neighbour.

The Chairman declared an interest in Planning Applications P04/W0382 being related to the applicants.

5 Minutes of the Meeting of 5th April 2004

Councillor Tomline required an amendment to Matters Arising 6(vii). ‘District’changed to ‘County’ and ‘, information to be in next magazine’ added to the end. With this amendment the minutes were agreed and duly signed.

6 Matters Arising

(i) Councillor Moss passed the minute books to the Chairman.

(ii) The County Council had reported that Sadler’s Croft is not their responsibility to maintain except as a footpath. No one present could verify whether the Parish had paid for any previous repairs. It was agreed to convene a site meeting.

(iii) Salt Bins to be ordered for delivery in the autumn.

(iv) The User group meeting for the Local Channel had been postponed until 25th May.

(v) Councillor Bolam was awaiting the risk assessment details from the circulation documentation.

(vi) The clerk had contacted Mike Dickinson regarding the dead elms and the tree specialist would be investigating.

(vii) The clerk had attended the OALC information policy seminar and concluded the Council needed to adopt a ‘Publication Scheme’ and a code of practice for handling complaints. Copies of the documents were provided to councillors and will be included on the agenda of the June council meeting for adoption. It was noted that the clerk should have an employment contract and this needed further discussion.

(viii) Councillor Tomline reported on the favourable response from the Kassam Stadium regarding traffic on match days. A notice would be included in their programme.

7 County Councillor’s Report

Councillor Tomline reiterated the County Councillor’s apology and was able to report on traffic calming. Brian Short had advised him that a backlog had built up due to staff shortages and the increase in requests for calming measures. However a scheme for Garsington was anticipated by the end of June.

The tree consultant was due in the village on 11th May.

8 District Councillor’s Report

Councillor Tomline read the following letter from Martin Harris:

‘I have received preliminary information from SODC Planning Policy department's Principal Planner, Tracey Dow, that Brasenose College will be mounting further objections to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2nd draft version at the Examination in Public on June 10th, and although the full picture of what is intended is incomplete, as further documents relating to this may yet be received, my impression is that Brasenose College wish to build an urban extension to the City of Oxford over all the agricultural land which they own between Cuddesdon Road Horspath, the village of Garsington, and on south-westwards to merge with Blackbird Leys and the Cowley works, and to gain rights to develop all the land which they own within the villages of Horspath and Garsington.

This would obviously only be possible if they could gain Planning Permission, and as a step in this direction, they are making formal objections to SODC's policies expressed in the Local Plan for protecting the environment of the Green Belt according to the purposes of the Green Belt expressed in PPG.2, and SODC's existing housing policies (principally H5) currently restricting building developments in the Green Belt villages of Horspath and Garsington.

The objections are taking two forms, but are obviously related:

1. A written submission to propose the building of an urban extension to the City of Oxford out to join Horspath and Garsington, which they claim has the support of Oxford City Council. (I have not yet seen this)

2. Two papers pre-submitted to SODC, to be presented at the Examination in Public of the Local Plan on June 10th 2004. The references for these papers by P. G. Horridge MRTPI, representing Brasenose College, are PR/015 & PR/016 and appear to propose taking Horspath and Garsington out of the protection of the Green Belt, to claim that neither village serves any of the purposes of the Green Belt, and to draw a finite line on the map around both Garsington and Horspath within which there will be very few restrictions on building developments. (I have read these, and now have a copy)

Driving through Horspath and Garsington today, I was impressed just how very "green" and rural they are as Oxfordshire Green Belt villages, and I think that both Parish Councils will want to protect their rural amenity and integrity as villages rather than become suburbs of Oxford. I therefore suggest that the Clerks of the two Parish Councils should try to obtain all the related documentation from SODC on this issue and place it as an Agenda Item on the next Parish Council Planning meeting(s) (in Horspath it will be 18th May). Although the District Council has not asked for any support or specific consultation with the Parish Councils, I personally feel that it would strengthen SODC's resolve to retain the Green Belt in its present form if both Parish Councils and the relevant District and County Councillors, are able to write in to SODC Planning Policy unit, to express whatever views they may have on these proposals. Some specific liaison and reporting between the two Parish Councils might also be advantageous.’

Councillor Tomline indicated the serious ramifications if this proposal was adopted. It was agreed that this should be raised at the Annual Parish meeting and a meeting should be set up with Horspath Parish Council.

Councillor Tomline further requested the more notices should be posted for the Annual Meeting.

9 Finance and Cheques for signature

The Chairman stated that the Audit Report had been received and was favourable, three points had been noted:

(i) The lack of an internal auditor. This could be resolved in the interim by adopting the Financial Standing Orders that had been circulated. Those councillors not in receipt should contact the clerk.

(ii) Risk assessment. Councillor Bolam had previously indicated the position.

(iii) Each page of minutes should be initialled. This to be actioned from this meeting.

The bank balances were as follows:

Bank of Ireland 14th April £110,377.99 (Interest in the month £337.65)

Barclays Community Account 30th April £11,004.40

Barclays Base rate tracker Account 10th March £199.43 (Interest received £16.95)

Half-year precept received £8,750.00

Newsletter advertising receipts during the month came to £670.00

Cheques for approval to pay

Colourplus (April/May Issue) £585.54

Edward Pilling (professional fees) £243.00

Southern Electric £13.08

HLB AV Audit (professional fees) £293.75

Clerks Salary and expenses £213.72

JJ Bark (Mower service and repair) £440.57

East Oxford Education Business Partnership £50.00

(proposed Councillor Moss, seconded Councillor Tomline)

The cheques were duly approved for signing by a unanimous decision

HHB Architects Final fee £5,432.91

This was approved for payment, subject to agreement by the Village Hall Management Committee

The Chairman proposed that a small contingency fund be agreed to facilitate speedy response to problems occurring between meetings. He suggested a sum not exceeding £250, which could be spent with the approval of a quorum (3 councillors) one usually being the Chairman or Vice Chairman with a report given to the committee at the following meeting. This process was unanimously agreed.

10 Planning Applications

i) P04/W0088 (amended) 81 Oxford Road

Demolition of bungalow, erection of two-storey dwelling

Councillor Eastwood absented herself. The Chairman stated that the council had previous approved this application and the plan had been amended to reduce the height by 450mm. The application was unanimously approved.

ii) P03/W0382 44 Wheatley Rd now renumbered 46 Wheatley Rd.

Demolition of conservatory and construction of larger conservatory

*Councillor Eastwood returned, the Chairman absented himself, Councillor Bolam took the chair*. The application was unanimously approved

iii) P04/W0394 1 Lower Farm Cottages

Erection of two-storey side extension

*Councillor Eden resumed the chair*. The application was approved unanimously

iv) P04/W0494 44 Wheatley Rd

Erection of covered patio area with bedroom above

The application was unanimously approved. A note to be added that the plans submitted do not show the current status.

Planning Decisions and other matters

(i) P03/W0916 and LB 78 Southend

Replacement of extension approved 29/3/4

ii) P04/W0122/ RET The Well House

Extension of swimming pool and new plant room approved 8/4/4.

iii). P04/W0266 185,Oxford Rd

Single storey front extension and two-storey rear extension approved 14/4/4

iv) P04/W0226 27 Oxford Road

Two-storey side extension approved 14/4/4

Letter received from Mr and Mrs Hieatt regarding P04/W347-6. The Chairman stated that the application had been refused in February. Councillor Tomline advised that the Enforcement Officer had attended the premises with regard to the containers.

11. Correspondence to the Chairman and Clerk

a) Oxford Fringe meeting 17th May at Sandford

b).. Confirmation of a visit from stonemason representative to view the Village Cross with the clerk

c). Invitation from ROSPA for Playground inspection. Unanimous agreement to accept invitation, Clerk to arrange.

d). SODC Draft Corporate Plan consultation. Chairman agreed to action.

e). Oxfordshire structure plan.

f). Road Works at Ladder Hill commenced 4th May for approx. eight weeks.

g). South and Vale Carers invitation to 10th anniversary – No one to attend.

h). SODC Waste services details posted on Notice boards

i). Details received on SODC Environmental grants.

12. Village Maintenance

Councillor Tomline had been approach regarding the poor state of the War Memorial. Councillor Moss volunteered to take corrective action

Councillor Moss was concerned about the activities carried out in a garage behind the shops in Elm Drive. It was determined that no action could be taken as it was private property.

The Chairman stated that Mr Tipping had requested a visit by the Parish Council to the Burial Ground.

It was agreed that site visits should be undertaken at the Play Ground, Burial Ground and Phipps Well in addition to Sadler’s Croft. There would also be an opportunity to assess the handrails.

The Chairman would ascertain whether the request for a land registry search had been actioned regarding the land adjacent to 1 Birch Road

13. Street Lighting

Nothing to report

14 Purchase of Land off the Oxford Road

It was not known whether a request had been made to Mr Young to clear the path. The Chairman stated that the completion had not taken place but as soon as it happened discussions could take place with the residents nearby. Mr Baker interrupted the meeting to point out that the parish owned the land and everyone should be included. He felt that secret meetings were inappropriate. The Chairman allowed the interruption and responded that the use of the land would be open to all for debate and suggested that it could be discussed at the annual meeting. However the meeting for the neighbouring residents was primarily to address their concerns regarding the security of their properties. With regard the ‘secret’ meeting it was necessary as other parties were interested in purchasing the land.

15 Affordable Housing

Councillor Bolam presented a report from the Sub Group meeting held on 22nd April 2004 detailing the action to be taken. (copy of the report appended). Councillor Moss was concern that he had not been asked to attend being a member of the Group. Councillor Bolam assured Councillor Moss that this was an oversight and apologised.

16 Footpaths - Provision of Handrails

Councillor Moss stated that complaints had been received regarding the handrail in the Little Alley. Councillor Tomline indicated a local tradesman who might be prepared to do the necessary work.

17 Traffic Calming

Covered in County Councillor’s feedback.

Meeting closed 9.07pm