Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th November 2005 commencing at 7.30 pm

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 District Cllr Ann Tomline and nine residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence were accepted from Cllr Cliff Moss who is unwell, and County Cllr David Turner.

2 Public Participation

a. Mr Ernie Tipping said that there continue to be parking problems at the school and on Clinkards Hill; the safety surface under the aerial runway in the playground needs attention and the car park at the Sports and Social Club needs resurfacing. He asked about use of the playing field by the school and was told that the field is not being used by the children on a regular basis. He complained about a wreath being left at the war memorial for far too long, the state of the hedge opposite the Village Hall and dead elm trees in various parts of the village. The Chairman thanked Mr Tipping for raising these matters and said that they would receive the Council’s attention.

b. Several residents said that they were concerned about the impact that the proposed traffic calming measures would have on farm vehicles using Oxford and Wheatley Roads. It was explained that the cushions are designed so that they will have no effect on such vehicles. The Clerk said that the matter would be considered by the County Council at a meeting on 22nd December and that members of the public will be allowed to speak at that meeting if they register in advance. He will supply contact details to anyone interested in doing so.

c. There were also comments about the lack of communication between the Council and local residents concerning possible sites for affordable housing. The Chairman assured the meeting that this matter would be discussed later in the agenda.

3 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman said that he had an interest in the amendment to P05/W0656 May Cottage, 118 Oxford Road since the applicant is a member of an organisation of which he is also a member.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd October 2005

Cllr Tomline asked that in the notes of her report it should be explained that details of the King’s Copse site licence had not been ‘finalised’ rather than ‘properly notified’. This amendment was agreed and the minutes of the meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Rob Jeffrey has not yet carried out the work at King’s Copse

b The conifers at Birch Road have all been removed. Cllr Moss had sent a message asking that his appreciation for the work done by Cllr Turner in achieving this result should be recorded.

c The Clerk has spoken to Joanna Freyther of the County Council about enforcement notices concerning the scrap yard business, now under new ownership. There is nothing at the moment to report. Cllr Tomline asked if anyone could find evidence that repairs are being carried out, as this would breach the planning conditions.

d. The Clerk reported that the Conservation Officer has approved the work carried out by IJP on the Old Stone Cross and payment has been sent to the company.

e. Cllr Eastwood had attended the Oxford Green Belt group meeting and been active in the campaign opposing proposals for building houses south of Grenoble Road.

f. Cllrs Baker and Shuker, in particular, were concerned that there was still no report from Mark Sumner, the officer who had been to look at Kiln Lane. The safety concerns need to be urgently addressed.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Turner had sent his apologies and submitted a written report.

He said that due to an administrative delay the discussion on traffic calming in Wheatley Road and Oxford Road will not take place at the Transport & Implementation Committee until the December 22nd meeting at 10:00 am in County Hall. Apologies had been received from the officer concerned.

If a Parish Council representative and or members of the public wishes to address the committee they should register before the meeting. The Clerk has details of this.

Cllr Turner said that he had been advised that the Horspath turn off the Wheatley Road is in Horspath Parish. In addition there had been fruitful talks with the landowner about not planting crops near the edge of the field and so to improve visibility.

He has spoken with Mark Sumner, the officer who came out to look at Kiln Lane. Mr Sumner is liaising with the County Highways Department who are discussing the safety aspects at the King’s Copse end with Thames Water. The report will be sent as soon as these discussions are completed.

7 District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Tomline said that she is hoping the new Community Liaison Officers will be allocated some time in Garsington. The new covert cameras for surveillance at sites where fly-tipping occurs will be available very soon but the details are confidential.

Cllr Tomline said she will soon be attending a meeting about mobile homes. The Council had not yet made a decision about the future of the concessionary fare tokens.

8 Finance and cheques for signature

The Council’s bank balances were as follows:

Bank of Ireland balance at 5th October £117,398.85 (interest £384.70)

Barclays current a/c balance at 31st October – £15,357.60

Newsletter advertising receipts totalled £535

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Colourplus Oct/Nov Newsletter £613.72

Wybone Limited (Play area bin) £458.26

Total Pest Control (quarterly charge) £164.50

Clerk’s salary £290.56

Admin expenses £72.85

ORCC (annual subscription) £50.00

E. Tipping (fuel for mowers) £32.90

E. Tipping (honorarium) £1,000.00

South & Vale Carers (donation) £50.00

John Hardwicke (ORCC presentation fund) £20.00

SODC (Planning application) £132.50

The Clerk asked councillors to let him know of any comments and additions for the draft Asset Register.

9 Planning

a. Applications

P05/W1078 113, Southend

Demolition of existing porch. Erection of conservatory

The Council agreed that this application should be approved

P05/W1080 64, Wheatley Road

Raising of existing roof level to allow construction of first floor extension to existing bungalow.

The Council had no strong views on this application

The Chairman left the room and Cllr Bolam took the chair while the following item was discussed.

P05/W0656 May Cottage, 118 Oxford Road (amendment)

Originally for single and two storey extensions to side and rear, it is now proposed that the single storey rear extension is omitted, the two storey rear extension is reduced and the ground floor window in the end gable wall of the side extension removed.

The Council had no objection to the amended details

b. Decisions and other Planning matters

No decisions received this month

10 Correspondence

a. The Chairman has written to John Palmer about maintenance of the land adjacent to the Old School and is awaiting a reply.

b. The Clerk said that Claire Newell – Sports & Social Club Treasurer, has confirmed that she has arranged to pay the annual rental by standing order on 1st January

c. Brian Short has written inviting the Council to enter into a formal Highway Management agreement with effect from 1st April. This was approved.

d. The Council’s comments have been requested on the County Council’s review of supported bus services. This would affect route 49. The Council agreed that the Clerk should reply with a strong request that this service be retained or even improved.

e. In response to the District Council’s request for comments about its publications, the Council agreed that information published on the Internet is easier to keep up to date but felt that printed leaflets still have an important role to play.

f. The Council noted a public enquiry on 15-17 November to determine the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the demolition of the Horspath Bridge.

g. An invitation to comment on the SODC Local Development Framework document has been received and was passed to the Chairman.

h. A letter from a resident complains about cars parked on Clinkards Hill. It was agreed that the whole subject of parking should be discussed in December.

11 Land off Oxford Road

Cllr Shuker reported on a very positive meeting with local residents on 24th October. It was agreed that planning permission to change the use of the land should be applied for and that an article should be published in the Newsletter explaining the scheme.

The Clerk will research the procedure for registering the land as ‘common land’ and Cllr Tomline will assist Cllr Shuker in preparing applications for grants.

12 Traffic Calming

It was agreed that Cllr Bolam will attend the meeting at County Hall on 22nd December. The Clerk will register Cllr Bolam to speak.

13 Affordable Housing

Cllr Bolam presented notes on the meeting of the Affordable Housing committee which had met on 20th October . The aim had been to discuss with Suzanne Willers responses to the planners’ comments on the possible sites within the village which had been identified as possible locations and to re-vitalize all involved.

It had been agreed that a further meeting with the planners is required but that the village should be informed of the progress so far through an article in the Newsletter and also in the form of a presentation to be given before both the December and January meetings of the Parish Council.

The committee had also agreed that it would reply to the resident who had written expressing concerns about this project.

14. Village Maintenance

a. Cllr Shuker said that the hand rail along the high path in Southend was broken in two places. Cllr Tomline said that she would report this to Cllr Turner.

b. The new litter bin for the Play area was due to be installed on the following day.

c. It was confirmed that the new litter bin by the Oxford Road bus stop has been installed.

d. Ian Young will cut the Play area hedge this week.

e. The war memorial will be tidied in good time for Remembrance Day.

f. A sign outside the Red Lion had caused some comment. Cllr Tomline said that she would find out if any regulations apply to a sign which is not fixed down and signage would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

g. It was agreed that the Garsington Society’s proposal to re-open the path between King’s Copse and Roman Road should be approved.

h. A suggestion had been made that bollards should be placed around the green in Pettiwell. This is thought to belong to the Parish Council but it was not known if permission would be needed first.

i. The Chairman has received a condition report on the trees near the war memorial and they are in need of urgent attention. Cllr Eastwood said that she would find out the contact details for the tree surgeon, Chris Gamblin, who has a good reputation.

15 Village Hall AGM result

A further meeting to discuss the hall’s future will be held on 14th November.

16 Village Post Office

Official notification of the closure of the branch in Elm Drive has been received. Although some people have expressed an interest in running a post office, none of them has suitable premises and none of the public houses is prepared to provide space. It was agreed that the Newsletter should be used to see if anyone else would come forward and, in the meantime, Cllr Tomline will ask Richard Peacock if it might be possible to use Rookery House.

The Meeting closed at 9.44 pm