Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 6th November 2006 commencing at 7.30pm

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden presided; present were Councillors David Baker, Anne Eastwood, Paul Bolam and John Hieatt. Also present were County Councillor David Turner and District Councillor Ann Tomline and one resident.

1. Apologises for Absence

Apologises were accepted from Councillors Cliff Shuker and Gurdip Saini who are both away on family business and Geoff Russell attending an urgent business meeting.

2. Presentation by Primary Health Care Trust

The Chairman advised that the presentation was postponed at short notice until the New Year.

3. Public Participation

Mr Tipping mentioned that the waste collection at the Playground was unsatisfactory and the contractors would only empty one bin. District Councillor Tomline advised that the contractors had tendered for one bin only but they would remove all the waste if sacks were used. The Chairman asked Mr Tipping if he would utilise black sacks, and on receiving assent it was agreed to provide him with a supply.

Mr Tipping raised the question of the age limit for the aerial runway which was confirmed as 12 years for all the play equipment. He suggested a sign be erected on the runway to that effect. He stated that the Memorial Playing Field hedge had been cut but the contractor did not have the appropriate public liability cover for the playground. The Chairman suggested that Mr Young be approached again.

Mr Tipping raised two items with County Councillor Turner, Flooding in Pettiwell and the erosion of the bank at Denton Corner caused by vehicular traffic. County Councillor David Turner responded that the problem in Pettiwell had been reported and the Brian Short had inspected the problem at Denton Lane and had advised that resolution of the problem could not be financially justified. When advised that the erosion was getting worse he stated that he would ask for a re-examination.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bolam declared an interest in Planning Application P06/W1107/LB, the applicant being a work colleague.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October 2006

District Councillor Tomline asked that the minutes reflect that the application P06/W0749 concerned the ‘screens’. The minutes were so amended and then approved and signed as a true record.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

The Chairman advised that Councillor Shuker had met the Wicksteed and Playdale representatives who had provided quotations. These proved to be very costly and he was current seeking local tradesmen to carry out the work. The cost of rubber chips for the aerial runway base was £5,000. It was agreed that this item to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Councillor Shuker had also met the Vicar and an appropriate course of action had been determined.

A site meeting had been set up with Bruce Tremayne, TOE for 14th November following the grant application. The SODC grant application is expected later this week.

The Clerk had advised that Lewis Ward, Public Transport Dev. Assistant, OCC had asked if the bus stop site is unsuitable would the Council prefer the bus not to stop at this location. Thames Travel was also keen to know.

The Chairman advised that a bus stop sign had been erected in the past. Councillors felt it was unsafe for a bus to stop there for long periods but since a resolution was not forthcoming the matter was deferred.

Councillor Hieatt had attended the recent Area Community Safety Group meeting at Wheatley. He stated that the problems raised - parking and young people - seemed to be consistent throughout the area.

Councillor Shuker had responded to the Draft Planning Enforcement Policy consultations raising a number of pertinent points regarding the small number of prosecutions and the possible conflict as decision makers are also the officers who have to achieve performance targets.

Councillor Baker showed an artist’s impression of the Sports Club extension and anticipated approval for the revised scheme by the end of November. He advised that the date for the revised Village Hall AGM had been circulated. District Councillor Tomline advised caution regarding the anticipated timing on planning permission.

7. County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor Turner wished to check the progress of items of concern. He was advised as follows;

a) B480 footpath to Grenoble road – No progress

b) Road Sign – repaired within agreed timescale

e) Subsidence, Oxford road and Library Farm - repaired

f) High Path Barriers – No action

i) Brambles, South End – Not now a problem

k) Wooden Bollard outside Opera Gate 1 – Reinstated.

Other matters ongoing.

The Chairman advised of a missing kerbstone adjacent to 151 Oxford Road.

County Councillor Turner was pleased to receive a number of emails regarding buses which indicated some interest in the service.

He advised the Council of his membership of the JET project – National Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and gave an interesting dissertation on the background of the project and the ‘transparent’ decommissioning programme.

8. District Councillors Report

District Councillor Tomline advised on staffing shortage at the District Council which could impact on the recent flooding problems. Larch End should now be clear.

The Chairman stated that the Clerk had been in conversation with a County Council officer on another matter and had clarified that surface water was a council responsibility unless it contained soil when it became the landowner’s responsibility.

The District Councillor informed the council of the background to the current problems in Larch End and indicated that the landowner had been helpful.

Difficulties were being experienced with the SOHA contractor regarding grass cutting.

The distribution method for bus tokens would be revised from next April for security reasons but she felt it would lead to greater bureaucracy and a lesser service.

9. Finance

Balances

Barclays Current Account at 30th September £16,036.28

Barclays Community Account at 8th September £50.33

Bank of Ireland at 5th November £122,233.44 (int £425.49)

Receipts in period

VAT refund £3668.12

Burial Ground £458.00

Newsletter Advertisers £720.00

The following cheques were approved for payment

Southern Electric £28.69

Total Pest Control (Quarterly Charge) £164.50

BR Consulting (Internal Auditor) £100.00

Colourplus (Oct/Nov newsletter) £764.82

G Russell (Clerk’s Salary) £315.90

G Russell (Admin. Inc trips to Witney x 2, Reading) £124.60

10. Planning

a) Applications

P06/1086, 3 Birch Road.

Two storey extension to provide shower/utility room and bedroom over garage.

The Council agreed to recommend that this application be approved.

Councillor Bolam left the Meeting.

P06/W1107/LB Seven Bells Cottage, 93, Southend: Internal alterations and exchange fixed light for a new casement window with opening lights

The Council agreed to recommend that this application be approved.

Councillor Bolam rejoined the Meeting.

b) Decisions and other Planning matters

P06/W0979/RET Plough Inn -Decking

The Chairman stated that the landlady had asked if the Council were going to speak at the planning meeting. He advised that the Council normally only spoke on matters effecting the majority of the parishioners. It was agreed that, although the majority of Councillors supported the application, no one would attend on behalf of the Council but individuals should do so if they wished.

P06/W0885; Highfields, 4 Pettiwell.

Permission granted 5th October 2006

P06/W0920; 78 Southend

Permission refused 10th October 2006

11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a) Letter of Thanks from Kayleigh Smith, Wheatley Park Donation.

The Chairman commented that with the cost of study books increasing the council should review its donation next year.

b) Letter of Thanks from PCC, St Mary’s Restoration Fund Donation.

The Chairman stated that the lowest tender for the repair work was more than had been anticipated by the Project Committee were hoping that English Heritage would increase the grant.

c) Flooding, Elm Drive from Mr David Mather

A copy of a letter sent to the District Council had been received detailing some historical information. A copy was given to the District Council for information.

12 Transport Needs Survey

A ballot box and the survey forms had been provided by Alix Michaelis. The Chairman stated that the forms should be allocated after the meeting. This was agreed.

13. Village Maintenance

a) Electricity Sub Station.

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had been unable to locate an appropriate person at the Electricity Board. However he had spoken to Martin Gammie, SODC forestry officer who suggested that if the land was adopted highway permission needed to be obtain from the County Council and he suggested ‘living willow’ would be an appropriate screening material.

b) Tadpole Lane

The Chairman reported that Tadpole Lane had been widened. The farmer who claimed ownership had not given permission and it appeared a concrete driveway had been built further down the lane. The District Councillor was asked to refer the matter to the appropriate officer as there were still enforcement matters ongoing in the area.

c) Playground

The Chairman had been advised about an unpleasant incident with the fouling of children’s slide which had now been cleaned. The councillors expressed their disapproval.

d) Identification of Land Ownership

The Chairman stated that recent problems had highlighted the need to establish land ownership. It was agreed that he would liaise with the Clerk to rectify the matter.

14 Review of Traffic Calming

Councillor Bolam reminded Councillors that this item was to be reviewed after the completion of the Green Road roundabout changes as it had been felt the associated increased traffic would skew the results.

15 SODC Site Allocations Development Plan

Several councillors had already responded but additional copies were circulated for interested parties.

The next meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Monday 4th December 2006 at 7.30pm