**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 3rd November 2014, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Matthew Dovey, Ian Dickinson, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale for part of the meeting and one member of the public.

11/14/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Paul Bolam – away on business

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie – returning from holiday

11/14/2 Declarations of Interest

None

11/14/3 Public Participation

None

11/14/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6th October 2014

10/14/3 following “families enrolled at the College might be approached, it should read “to be discussed at Cuddesdon Parish Council” not “to be put on Agenda for next meeting”

11/14/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Defibrillator – Clerk will circulate details of costs received.

Mobile Library – Clerk to obtain usage of current stop at Elm Drive Shops and circulate to Parish Council.

11/14/6 County Councillors Report

County Councillor’s report had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

The County Councillor had sent her apologies she would be attending the meeting but needed to attend Sandford Parish Council Meeting first.

Cllr Anne Eastwood gave details of the meeting arranged by Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and the Highway Safety Officer, Area Steward, Headteacher, Governors and Parish Council following the traffic issues outside the School, raised at the last Parish Council Meeting.

She reported that none of the current TA’s at the School will agree to take on the duties of the School Crossing Officer.

The following conclusions were reached after observing the traffic problems.

1. The white lanes would be repainted to try and deter parents from parking.

2. OCC would obtain a quote for extending the pavement at the junction of The Green/Wheatley Road, to improve visibility along the Wheatley Road for parents who parked at the Three Horseshoes. If this work is approved and funding can be raised, parents would be encouraged to use this option and then use the rear entrance via the alleys to gain access to the School.

3. A feasibility study would be carried out by OCC to cost the removal of the banks outside the School entrance to provide a dedicated drop off area.

4. A feasibility study would be carried out by OCC to look at the provision of a pedestrian crossing.

Items 1 and 2 would be relatively low cost. It was possible that the Parish Council would be asked for funding. Items 3 and 4 would require major funding and currently the County Council did not have funds available to carry out the work. Raising this funding would need to be explored more fully when the feasibility studies were available. It was noted that pedestrian crossings can cost around £30,000.

Cllr Ian Dickinson said he had some reservations about the pavement extension, this was quite a sharp turn into the Green from the Wheatley Road and cars were regularly parked on the opposite side of the road right up to the junction. Although white lines were painted in this area, vehicles still parked, the lines were not very visible and at this time of the year were covered by fallen leaves.

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale joined the meeting.

llr Mike Patrick asked if grants were available for this type of work. The County Councillor did not know, she would try and find out. She said she was prepared to pay for a speed survey, but her available funds were now very limited.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale was pleased to report that John Cotton had been appointed as the new leader of SODC following the sad death of Ann Ducker. The issues of houses being built on the green belt would be one of the first major challenges that he faced. Pressure was being applied by the City Council to build on land off Grenoble Road. Chairman Chris Wright asked if Garsington Parish should be organising residents meetings. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale said that she was hoping to have a meeting with John Cotton and Elizabeth Gillespie at the earliest opportunity, she did not think any action should be taken now, but she would ensure that she kept the Parish Council updated on developments.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale reported that whilst at the School, the question of the drains problems were raised, she had now investigated this and it would appear that whilst the problem had been reported to Carillion it had dropped into a black hole. They claimed they had not received it and the problem had not been logged. This had now been rectified and would be further investigated. Dyno Rod was scheduled for a site visit on 6th November 2014. It was agreed that the County Councillor should pass the information to Janet Bolam as the Parish Council Governor and she would liaise with the School.

11/14/7 District Councillors Report

Clerk had circulated an email from District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie following the sad death of Ann Ducker.

11/14/8 Finance

Barclays Bank Current Account at 30th September 2014 £38,169.72 (October statement not yet received)

Council to note the DD payment to Grundons for September amounting to £79.26

The following cheques were approved for payment.

Village Hall hire for Community Plan Meetings £37.00

Colourplus October/November Newsletter £814.76

Southern Electric supply for Christmas tree £21.70

HMRC/PAYE £93.80

Clerks Salary £278.35

Newsletter Editor £96.38

Positive Tree Care (cutting back hedge on Oxford Road Hill) £200.00

11/14/9 Planning

No applications received.

11/14/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

1. Email from resident regarding overhanging trees and hedges, planters outside The Plough, new kerbstones outside the Manor.

Clerk would respond as follows:

Ask for clarification on which trees and hedges still needed attention.

Write to owners at The Plough and ask for planters to be removed.

Advise resident that new kerbstones at The Manor were part of Southend drainage improvements and were paid for by OCC drainage division.

2. Email from Wheatley Road resident regarding traffic and speed in Wheatley Road.

Clerk had forwarded this to PCSO Ken Cooney and asked if it was possible to have Garsington put on Thames Valley Police speed van schedule, he had passed on the request. Clerk will advise resident of action taken and also inform them of the recent purchase of a Mobile Speed Indicator device which would be moved around the village. County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale felt that the flow of traffic through the village would improve when the current road improvements were complete.

3. BT Broadband new box on green area by phone box. Cllr Matthew Dovey advised the meeting that he had circulated all Parish Councillors details of where the proposed new boxes would be placed in the village back in July. Chairman Chris Wright asked for it to be circulated again, it was felt that no sensitivity appeared to have been used when installation of this new equipment had taken place.

4. Defibrillator. The Clerk had written to both the British Heart Foundation and The Red Cross, responses was still awaited. Clerk had received some information from a supplier of equipment, this would be circulated. Cllr Mike Patrick said the Sports Club were very interested and wondered if that would be a good site, he also reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had no objections to one being sited at the Village Hall providing it was attached to the wall and not to the building. Cllr Matthew Dovey reiterated his previous comment that consideration should be given to one being installed at the lower end of the village. Further discussions will take place, when costs and information were received.

5. Kissing Gates. Tina Everett had advised the Parish Council that she had met with David Mather and Andy King regarding the positioning of gates 1, 2 and 3. All the problems have now been resolved; Tina was requesting approval from the Parish Council for the installation of metal gates rather than wooden ones. These would be position alongside the existing stiles preserving the old stone markers. She would also be contacting Mr Barclay and Queens College on the suitability of a metal or wooden gate for site 4. The Parish Council did not have any objections. Clerk will advise Tina Everett.

5. Requests for Donations, at the previous meeting a request had been received from the Oxfordshire Blind Association. As requested the Clerk had looked at who had received donations in the last twelve months. It was agreed, donations would only be given to organisations which had direct links with the village. Approval was given for a £50 donation to South and Vale Carers Association, cheque to be signed at the December meeting.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale left the meeting.

11/14/11 Playground Safety

This was carried over to the next meeting.

11/14/12 Village Maintenance

Burial Ground – The Clerk had circulated notes from the meeting that had taken place with Emma Pennington in October.

Chairman Chris Wright highlighted the problems that exist. Clearer guidelines need to be given on who can be buried or ashes interred. In order to preserve the available space some form of marking of plots to be actioned. Empty spaces on the far side by the trees need to be used if possible. Clarification needs be sort from the PCC on the re-use of areas in the church yard after 100 years.

The following guidelines were agreed in principle.

1. Only Garsington residents to be buried or interred. This would include any residents that were in a nursing home. Cllr Mike Patrick felt that if the child of a living village resident died outside the village, burial should be allowed if a request was made.

2. The gravedigger needs to be consulted about the best way to use the empty spaces on the far side of the burial ground, they use a mechanical digger and access to these sites could be a problem. Tighter controls on where plots are excavated, also needs to be formalised.

3. Remaining Plots need to be marked in order to maximise the available remaining space.

4. Any requests from non- residents must be referred to the Parish Council, even if they have a village connection.

It was generally felt that with space being at a premium, earlier plans that had been suggested to plant additional trees and put in pathways should not be taken forward. A further meeting will be arranged with Emma Pennington, Chairman Chris Wright and the Clerk to progress this.

Badgers, currently there is only limited badger activity in the bank at the top corner of the burial ground, no new holes have appeared. The Clerk reported that some residents in Southend now have a male badger causing problems in their gardens.

Disabled Ramp at Elm Drive Shop

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that he had spoken to Judith Ann, she did have to give assistance to some clients, whilst not an urgent undertaking it was felt that a ramp would be useful. Cllr Mike Patrick said that we should look at this, a quote for the work had been obtained and it should be included in any budget figures for the coming year. Clerk will provide details of the quote for the next meeting.

OCC Grass Cutting Agency Agreement

An Agreement had been received for signature for variations to the Minor Highways Agency Agreement of June 2007. The Clerk had not been able to locate this previous agreement. The variation was for 2 cuts per year together with cuts to visibility splays at junctions sufficient to ensure maximum vegetation height of 300mm. The cuts are to be undertaken at appropriate intervals between April and October. Chairman Chris Wright signed the agreement and requested that a copy of the 2007 agreement should be obtained. Clerk to action.

11/14/13 Community Plan

A copy of the draft had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

Cllr Matthew Dovey gave an overview of current developments with the plan, some areas were already moving forward, these included litter picking, a good neighbour scheme which would run alongside the voluntary driver scheme, bulb planting, and neighbourhood watch. Meetings had already taken place with volunteers who had expressed an interest in these areas and some bulb planting in the village had already taken place. They would be looking for a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator as Marlies James wished to stand down.

Chairman Chris Wright proposed that a meeting should be arranged with Steve Inch and Matthew Dovey to discuss the draft and move forward to the next stage, he asked for another Councillor to join the meeting. He felt that any sub- committee appointed to move the plan forward should be under the control of the Parish Council and would need to adhere to demographic processes. Cllr Anne Eastwood said she would be willing to attend. Steve Inch requested that the meeting be arranged as soon as possible certainly within the next two weeks. Date to be arranged.

As it was not possible to discuss the draft plan fully at this meeting, Chairman Chris Wright asked for all the Parish Councillors to forward to him any observations they had in the next few days.

11/14/14 Village Bus Service

Reliability was not giving any great cause for concern at the present time, timings could be variable but much of this was caused by the major road works that were ongoing.

Cllr Mike Patrick reported that he had attended the meeting at the Bus Company, concerns had been voiced about the viability of some of the services outside of peak times, and a suggestion had been made that perhaps some services would only run every two hours instead of hourly at off peak times. He also reported that costings and usage numbers were not available for the route and there had been changes once again in senior personnel. Some people were now using the service from Unipart. Cllr Matthew Dovey was concerned about the viability issues, he said that in order to provide an hourly service the Bus Company needed three buses to cover the route, without costings and usage it was very difficult to establish if the service was viable or not. He also reported that Go Ride that provided the Saturday/Sunday service were also in trouble, Danny Duggan was no longer employed by the company, unfortunately, the meeting that had been arranged to discuss these problems concentrated on the 135 service and this does not affect Garsington. A further meeting will be arranged.

11/14/15 Police/Speed Monitoring

Police report from PCSO Ken Cooney had been circulated along with a report from Thames Valley Police.

Cllr Matthew Dovey had taken delivery of the Speed Indicator Device and this would be put into operation as soon as possible. The initial installation would be located on Oxford Road. Cllr Dovey said he would welcome any assistance with moving this equipment.

11/14/16 Any Other Business

Councillor’s Areas of Responsibility.

The Clerk circulated a list of the existing responsibilities, this needed to be amended it still included John Hieatt. Only two areas needed to be re-allocated;

Monitoring Road Works/Signs – Cllr Judith Westgate agreed to be responsible for this.

Police/Neighbourhood Watch – Chairman Chris Wright said he would speak to Cllr Bolam.

Once this had been agreed it would be published in the Newsletter.

Cllr Anne Eastwood raised concerns about the traffic during the service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. It was understood that more people would be attending this year; School Children were also taking part. It was too late to ask for the road to be closed the Clerk would contact PCSO Ken Cooney and ask for his advice.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

**DECEMBER 2014**

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**Government grants to protect homes from flooding**

The council has spent over £500,000 on flood defences across the county improving road drainage, strengthening ditch edges, installing culverts and clearing ditches. The council also promotes sustainable drainage as part of new developments so that the impact will be as minimal as possible. This is achieved by using porous pavements, which are able to absorb the water, and ponds and swales, which can capture the water, limiting the effect on the wider area. Further to this, there are many things that residents can do to protect their own homes, and there is a government grant that you can apply for to help. The **Repair and Renewal Grant** could provide up to £5,000 to households to get flood defences put in to their homes. In order to be eligible, you must have been affected by flooding between 1 December 2013 and 31 March 2014. Installing prevention measures could help reduce insurance premiums and preventing the misery that flooding can bring. The deadline for applications for the grant is 31st March 2015. *For more information on making an application:* [*https://www.gov.uk/government/news/repair-and-renew-grant-scheme-opens-today*](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/repair-and-renew-grant-scheme-opens-today)

**HIGH SPEED BROADBAND REACHES 20,000**

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| More than 20,000 homes and businesses across the county are now able to access faster fibre-enabled broadband as part of the multi-million pound ‘Better Broadband for Oxfordshire’ programme, partners Oxfordshire County Council and BT announced today. Better Broadband for Oxfordshire is part of the Government’s Broadband Delivery UK programme (BDUK) which announced last week that 1.5 million premises up and down the country are now able to access faster fibre-enabled broadband as a result of public-private sector partnerships like this one. *For more information see:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/nov/oxfordshire-high-speed-fibre-broadband-programme-passes-20000-premises*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/nov/oxfordshire-high-speed-fibre-broadband-programme-passes-20000-premises) |  |
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**READY FOR WINTER: GRITTING**

We are committed to keeping a network of major roads free from ice to minimise the risk of accidents and ensure the smooth flow of traffic. Precautionary salting (sometimes called 'gritting') helps achieve this aim. **Gritting teams have already been out in November due to falls in overnight temperatures.**

The County Council’s website displays a considerable amount of information including up to date information on road surface temperatures that indicate when and where gritting will take place. It also shows the roads that are routinely salted during the winter. The page also links to general advice on dealing with snow and ice, and school closures. Daily updates on the roads are also sent out via twitter for those following @oxfordshirecc.

*All the information can obtained from:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/salting-gritting-and-snow-clearance*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/salting-gritting-and-snow-clearance)

**WEATHER DELAYS WORK AT KENNINGTON**

The contraflow on the A423 at Kennington is now to be removed by 8 December after bad weather slowed down work on site. It had been expected that the road could be reopened to two lanes in both directions at the end of November. However the recent wet weather has delayed crucial waterproofing work on a number of bridges, meaning that resurfacing will now take place around a week later than hoped.

*For more information see:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/nov/weather-delays-work-a423-kennington*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/nov/weather-delays-work-a423-kennington) *For updates about road schemes you can subscribe to the County Council’s Travel Choices bulletin at:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/travel-choices-stay-informed-about-roadworks*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/travel-choices-stay-informed-about-roadworks)

**MINERALS & WASTE CORE STRATEGY**

**Affecting Dorchester, Warborough, Clifton Hampden, Burcot, Stadhampton, Chiselhampton, Newington, Drayton St Leonard, Berinsfield and Nuneham Courtenay.**

On November 25TH the County Council’s Cabinet resolved to approve the proposed re-drafted Local Plan Core Strategy Document and the Local Area Assessment. It was not a unanimous decision. I abstained because I share the concern of many people who came to speak at the meeting from across the County over one particular, but crucial point. The new planning guidelines require us to conduct a Local Area Assessment of the amount of sharp sand and gravel extracted over the past 10 years to achieve a rolling average figure as the basis for calculating the amount we will have to extract up until 2030. If you do this the required amount for Oxfordshire would be 0.715 mtpa (million tonnes per annum). But the figure proposed and agreed was 1015mtpa, an increase of 42%. The reasons given were: special local circumstances that produced low levels of demand during the recession that led to the mothballing of pits, and the new housing figures in the SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment). 100,000 new homes plus new infrastructure spread across the county will need gravel, but not immediately, and not all at once. A rolling average is designed to take care of fluctuations in demand. There was an opportunity here to just use the 10 year average figure which would have meant that it would be highly unlikely that any new pits would be needed during the life of the plan.

**CLIFTON HAMPDEN AND BURCOT**

The residents of Clifton Hampden and Burcot are actively campaigning against an imminent planning application for a large gravel pit between Clifton Hampden and the river along the A415 up to the railway line. Here is a very real demonstration of how important it is to get a Minerals Plan in place. The success or failure of this application will depend upon the operators proving there is unmet demand in the County. The County Council rightly wishes to get a Plan adopted as soon as possible. But it will be up to a Government Inspector to decide the soundness of the new Plan which will be submitted in April 2015. People in Clifton Hampden already have to cope with the awful traffic build up at peak times, and are now considering an application on land by the Science Centre for a solar farm. The County Council is aware of these circumstances and has plans for a bypass and a new river crossing to take Didcot/Oxford traffic. But as ever the problem is getting such schemes funded.

**GRENOBLE ROAD, UNITARY AUTHORITY?**

Hardly a day goes by without someone from the City Council taking up pages of newsprint to tell us why they need to develop 4,000 houses over the Oxford Green Belt at Grenoble Road. Meanwhile the debate over housing numbers rages on between the four District Councils and the City, who are unwilling to absorb thousands of extra homes that the City say they can’t build. Until this is argument is settled the County Council can only watch and wait. We oppose the City’s plan for Grenoble Road for technical reasons, but we have to provide the infrastructure once we know where houses are going to be built. Because of this obligation OCC has plans for two new Park and Ride sites in the area, and is looking at a possible link road from the A34 north of Abingdon to the M40 passing Nuneham Courtenay and Garsington. It would all be so much easier if Oxfordshire were a unitary authority. However, as every council concerned would have to agree, that looks unlikely unless it was imposed upon us by central government .

**Oxfordshire Strategy for Culture, Heritage and Tourism**

As residents in the county, the cultural and heritage sector provides us with so much to enjoy, it makes Oxfordshire the place it is and why we like to live and work here. It also contributes about £1.3 billion to our local economy through tourism and associated trades.

The County Council together with the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership has recognised this considerable contribution and has embarked on the development of an overarching plan which will feed into the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan. It will allow organisations in the sector to respond quickly to opportunities and identify how and why culture, heritage and tourism encourage opportunities for economic growth. The plan will be used to support future bids for the funding of projects and programmes that deliver economic growth, jobs and investment in Oxfordshire. I’m delighted to be in a position to drive this project forward with the LEP, and look forward to becoming involved with all kinds of projects, people and programmes from across the County.