Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 4th October 2004 commencing at 7.30 pm

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, Cliff Moss, Gurdip Saini, Cliff Shuker, Ann Tomline and County Cllr David Turner with G Russell in attendance. Also present were Suzanne Willers, Rural Housing Enabler from ORCC and ten residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor John Goodey and PC Richard Prybble of Thames Valley Police.

2. Public Participation

a. In response to a question from Mr Tipping, Mr Rodger explained the recent changes to the design for the Community Hall, which had been driven by Miss Randle's wish to see the height of the building reduced. There is a Village Hall Management Committee on Thursday at which these matters can be raised. People can still register themselves to speak at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 13th October although a total of five minutes is all the time that is allowed for all those in favour.

b Mr Tipping complained about the state of the waste bin and the safety bark in the Play Area.

c. Mr Townsend brought to the Council's attention his regret that once again there was no representative of Thames Valley Police present at this Council meeting. This, despite the fact that in Mr Townsend's recent experience, the Police appeared to have ample time and resources to call upon his home on two occasions in connection with matters that he regarded as being extremely trivial by comparison with the general needs for an increased police presence in Garsington.

D Mr Rodger reported that a large tree branch had fallen upon the path near the Church in Southend. It was too big for local residents to deal with unaided and County Cllr David Turner said that he would get Highways to deal with the problem.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Anne Eastwood said that she had a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application P04/W1036 concerning 24 Combewell since the applicant was a work colleague.

4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 6th September 2004

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i. The Clerk said that he had not yet received the 'Pavements are for people' stickers.

ii. With reference to the inappropriate planting outside numbers 19-23 Oxford Road the Clerk said that the Conservation Officer has explained that neither she nor the Parish Council has any power in this matter but perhaps the County Council, as possible 'owners' of the verge, does have some powers. It was agreed that before involving the County Council the Clerk would write to the residents with a request for action. The Clerk will draft a letter for the Chairman's approval.

iii. The Council noted the content of David Buckle's letter to Cllr Moss arising from Cllr Moss's complaint that he had been incorrectly prevented from speaking at the August meeting of the Planning Committee.

iv. Following Monica Waud's request for the ivy to be removed from the road signs at the top end of Southend/The Green, Cllr Shuker said that he would talk to the resident concerned.

v. The Chairman confirmed that he was making further enquiries about Monica Waud's comments concerning the section of Parish land outside Gate 1 of the Manor being improperly used for car parking.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Turner thanked Garsington Parish Council for its support for the 'build-out' of the entries to Little Milton. The 'Strategic Network Transport Review' has been completed and Cllr Turner wants to arrange a meeting of the joint Parishes action group within the next 2/3 weeks to press for a weight restriction. He said that the 'missing link' in the speed restriction between Stadhampton and Chiselhampton is likely to be put right in the near future.

There is to be a rally against proposals to build in the green belt land around Oxford. This will take place in St Aldates on 14th October.

Cllr Turner said that he is involved with the campaign that is trying to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy in the County. He was particularly concerned that there should be adequate funding to promote this campaign in the rural areas.

In response to a question from Mr Tipping Cllr Turner said that he would get the County to replace the parent/child sign in Denton Lane

7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she thought the Parish Council should be active in campaigning against the proposals for building new houses in the green belt. She had just come from a presentation in favour of these plans that had been held in The Baldons and confirmed that the possibility of 4,000 houses being built south of Grenoble Road is a serious threat. Similar large-scale developments are being proposed in other parts of the nearby countryside.

The recent Forum for town and parish councils had been well attended and would be repeated. A report of the event will be circulated soon.

Cllr Moss asked about repairs to the roads and also what was being done about felling the trees behind the Elm Drive shops. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she is in touch with the County's local highways inspector, Mike Dickerson, and the Clerk said he had also asked Mr Dickerson for a progress report.

Cllr Shuker complimented the District Council for the prompt action that had followed the recent dumping of cables in Denton Lane.

Cllr Mrs Tomline encouraged attendance at the forthcoming meeting of the Oxford Fringe Forum on 12th October.

8 Finance and cheques for signature

The Clerk circulated copies of the final accounts for the year ended 31st March 2004. These differed hardly at all from the draft that had been presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in May and they were approved for submission to the auditors as the Council's Annual Return

There were no comments upon the Financial Risk Assessment, which had been circulated after being re-drafted by Cllr Bolam.

The balance in the Barclays Community A/c at 30th September was £12,787.29. The Clerk reported that the second half Precept payment of £8,750 had been received.

In the Bank of Ireland account the Balance was £112,190.53. Interest received on 6th September was £415.70

Signing the new mandate for the Bank of Ireland was held over until the next Council meeting.

The following cheques were approved for payment.

C A Grace - Playing Fields Hedge £164.50

Clerk's September/October salary £205 74

Admin Expenses September/October £61.44

Mr E Tipping (honorarium) £1,000.00

It was agreed that a donation of £50 should be made to South & Vale Carers

9 Planning Applications

Cllr Mrs Anne Eastwood left the room while the following matter was discussed

P04/W1036 24 Combewell

Side/rear single storey extension

It was decided to recommend that this application should be rejected due to inadequate arrangements for parking in this part of this Village, which would be made even worse if the application was approved.

P04/W1095 Lower Farm House, Lower Road

Detached garage, carport and stores

No strong views

Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters

PO4/W0773 Oxford Equestrian Centre

Planning permission for change of use granted on 27th September

126 Southend

The appeal by Mr & Mrs Chisholm is granted for development of 2 storey side extension. The details of the Inspector's decision will be circulated.

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

i. Cllr Ann Tomline had written to the Clerk explaining that since she has moved out of the Parish she feels that it would be inappropriate for her to continue as a member of the Parish Council. She will, however, continue to serve as the District Councillor and to attend Parish Council meetings in that capacity. The Clerk will set in motion the procedure for finding a replacement.

ii. The Clerk supplied a copy of the agenda for the meeting of the Oxford Fringe Forum on 12th October. Copies have also been displayed on the notice boards.

iii. The Council noted an invitation from OPFA to attend its AGM on 4th November but no-one is available to attend and the Clerk will send apologies. Also noted were the forthcoming AGM of the Oxford Green Belt Network on 7th October and the South Oxfordshire Countryside Forum on 14th October.

iv. Details of a one-day course on Tuesday, 9th November at Winchester about funding & managing community projects were passed to Cllr Shuker who said that he might be able to attend. The cost for one delegate is £40 and £28 for each additional representative.

v. The County Council has confirmed that detailed design of the entry treatments at Little Milton is being undertaken and the intention is that the work will be commenced before the end of the current financial year.

vi. The documents from the District Council concerning the new arrangements for Licensing had been passed to Basil Townsend for the Village Hall and he will pass them on to Chairman.

vii The Chairman had been received a letter from the Rector asking for the Parish Council's approval for the interment of the cremated remains of a couple who had been married in St Mary's Garsington in March 1936. The Council agreed to this request and the Clerk will confirm.

viii. Mrs Tyler of Willow Close has written to the Chairman concerning the poor state of the road surface in Elm Drive. The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Inspector and respond to Mrs Tyler.

11 Village Maintenance

The Council noted the District Council's guidelines for the provision of litter bins which will come into effect on or soon after 1st November. It was agreed that the Council should be asked to provide a litter bin in the Play Area at the Parish Council's expense and that all the other places where the Parish wanted litter bins to be installed appeared to come within the guideline for free provision.

It was agreed that a special bin should be provided for waste from the burial ground and that the Sports Club's contract with Biffa could be an arrangement to follow.

It was agreed to request White Horse Contractors to advise on the cost of repairs to Sadler's Croft. It was suggested that other possible contractors were ISIS Accord and Mr Donnelly.

Work is required in various parts of the Village and Mr Jeffries, Mr Hill, Mr Donnelly and Mr Young could be asked to quote for it once a specification for exactly what is required has been agreed.

12 RoSPA report on Play Area

The new gates have been ordered from H & C Pearce of Thame and delivery details are to be confirmed.

RSS Playgrounds have visited the play area and supplied an estimate for parts & labour totalling approximately £450 for new seats and chains for the SMP swings. This was approved.

Cllr Bolam is progressing the supply of the new signs.

There are various items for which the local contractors could be asked to quote: a strip of rubber under the aerial runway, and for repairing the perimeter fence. Ian Young, who was in attendance at the meeting, was asked to quote for cutting the boundary hedge. The problem with this job is that it requires access from the adjoining property.

13 Land off Oxford Road

All Councillors had been provided with notes on the meeting with Oxford Road residents on 25th August and there was some discussion on the several points that had been raised.

The Chairman confirmed that a public meeting, open to all residents, would be held before the Council makes any decisions. It was agreed that, subject to the availability of the Village Hall, this would take place on the evening of Tuesday 2nd November and would be widely publicised with a house-to-house delivery of leaflets.

*(It was subsequently confirmed that the Hall is free on that night and the meeting will go ahead as planned).*

14 Old Village Cross

It was hoped that the meeting with the contractors would take place later in this week.

15 Affordable Housing

Suzanne Willers, Rural Housing Enabler from ORCC, gave a presentation of the findings arising from the 'Needs Survey'. She said that the return of 242 forms out of a possible 787 represented a rate of 31%, which was an acceptable level.

Around two-third of respondents had said that they are in favour of the Parish developing a small scheme and 15 had said that they, personally, were likely to want to take advantage of the provision of such housing.

It was suggested that a mixed scheme of 8 new homes should be the target and that, in the meantime, more people should be encouraged to put their names on to the Register since the scheme is essentially reserved for those who can demonstrate that they have a local connection.

Suzanne explained that with such schemes, land within designated 'green belt' can be used and the landowners do receive a payment for the land which is in excess of its agricultural value. The sums paid, however, are well below those would be achieved if the land were to be approved for normal commercial development.

All members of the Parish Council were in favour of moving ahead to the next stage which is to start trying to find one or more suitable sites

*The discussion on traffic calming was postponed until the November meeting.*

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 1st November 2004

The Meeting closed at 10.20 pm