**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 6th October, 2014 commencing at 7.30pm The Vice Chairman, Anne Eastwood presided: present were Cllrs Ian Dickinson, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and 4 members of the public.

10/14/1 Apologies for Absence

Chairman Chris Wright – away on business

Cllr Paul Bolam – away on business

Cllr Matthew Dovey - train delays between London/Oxford

10/14/2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dickinson declared an interest in planning application P14/S2947/HH

10/14/3 Public Participation

Natasha Turner was representing parents at the School and raised the road safety issues outside the School. There had recently been a near miss incident with a child, she fully appreciated that parking was a problem and this was currently being made worse by the building taking place in Denton Lane with contractors placing cones on the roadside in Denton Lane to facilitate the delivery of materials. She expressed her concerns at the failure to secure a School Crossing Officer. Vice Chairman, Anne Eastwood said that she sympathised with the comments, unfortunately all efforts to get a replacement for this position had failed. The Parish Council had even discussed making a contribution to the remuneration offered to try and make the position more attractive. Mrs Turner asked about the road markings, it was explained that the white lines currently painted on the road were only advisory and not enforceable, double yellow lines had previously been requested and refused. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said that sadly this was a problem that affected many schools in the County, she suggested arranging a meeting at the site with Mark Francis the Highways Safety Officer to see what might be possible to improve the situation, she would attend and would advise the Parish Council and Mrs Turner of the date. It was also suggested that perhaps one of the current teaching assistants be asked to fill the school crossing officer vacancy, another suggestion was that perhaps a parent from one of the new families enrolled at the College might be approached. To be put on Agenda for next meeting of Cuddesden parish council, Clerk will also advise Janet Bolam (Parish Council School Governor) about the meeting.

Ms Waud spoke to County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale about verge cutting, she had been in email contact with the County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and wanted to know what progress was being made to resolve this outstanding issue. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale reported that she was speaking to other colleagues in the cabinet to try to resolve the matter but under the current plans the verges would only be cut twice a year.

Resident from 110 Wheatley Road asked what further action could be taken to restrict traffic speed through the village, some mornings it took several minutes before he could exit his drive. The speed humps had little or no effect he felt that chicanes were a better option. Vice Chairman Anne Eastwood said the Parish Council were in the process of purchasing a mobile speed indicator device which would be moved around the village, a speed survey had also recently taken place in Southend, although some traffic was exceeding the 30mph, because of the calculations that are applied the survey did not reflect this. Cllr Eastwood said that she had hoped that Cllr Dovey would have arrived at the meeting to give a fuller explanation of the survey. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she had not seen the survey and would request a copy, it was unlikely that any funding would be available to install speed humps etc. It was suggested that a request was made to the Police for the speed detection van to visit the village. Clerk to contact Police.

10/14/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 1st September 2014

The Minutes as circulated were adopted and signed

Cllr Matthew Dovey joined the meeting.

10/14/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

None

10/14/6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale apologised that her report had not been ready for circulation prior to the meeting. She would forward to the Clerk for circulation tomorrow.

She spoke about the Mobile Library Service Consultation which had been notified to Parish Councils, also the successful use of volunteers in local libraries to keep them open following cutbacks. Mobile Library currently came to Garsington on a fortnightly basis and now only made one stop in Elm Drive, a question was raised about the usage. Clerk would find out when it was next due in Garsington and try to ascertain the usage. County Cllr said there was also a housebound service available details could be obtained from Library Services.

Work was continuing on Budgets for 2015/16 increased pressure on all services made this a difficult task and took up a lot of time.

10/14/7 District Councillor’s Report

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie, reported on the sad loss of Ann Ducker, plans to appoint a new leader were currently ongoing, there were two possible candidates.

Main concern currently was the Oxford City Council report and maps on proposed housing in our area. Cllr Gillespie showed the parish councillors the map on her tablet and said she would forward the report and map to the Clerk for circulation. The areas highlighted by the City Council were cause for concern and current directives advising Councils that they must cooperate made the task more difficult, she would continue to fight to protect the Green Belt. Housing was needed in the county but not on the scale being proposed by the City Council in this latest report, smaller developments over a wider area shown in previous consultation documents would have far less impact on the infrastructure which was already being stretched.

Cllr Gillespie also reported on the planned changes to the wards, she hoped to continue representing Garsington.

Cllrs Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and Elizabeth Gillespie left the meeting.

10/14/8 Finance

Barclays Bank Current Account at 30th September £38,169.72

Receipts from Newsletter Advertising £820

Council to note DD payment to Grundon for August amounting to £66.18

The following cheques were approved

BDO Audit £240

HMRC/PAYE £69.60

Clerks Salary £278.45

Positive Tree Care (Work carried out in Southend) £200

Positive Tree Care had also included a quote to cut back the hedge along the footpath on The Hill, the quote was £200, this was approved and Cllr Mike Patrick will confirm to contractor and ask him to carry out the work as soon as possible.

Audit – The final audit had been received and circulated to all Councillors. The audit was adopted and the following recommendations were noted.

Audit must be completed and returned by 30th June.

Any differences between current year and previous year must show a full explanation.

10/14/9 Planning

P14/S2947/HH 28 The Hill

Demolition of existing rear conservatory and erection of rear storey extension

Cllr Ian Dickinson had registered an interest and did not take part in the discussion, although he did raise the point that the planning department did not appear to inform neighbours of proposed applications adjacent to their property. Cllr Dovey said this had been raised with previous applications. The Clerk advised that one neighbour had been notified and had made arrangement to view the hard copy plans, he had been unable to access them on the website, but he did not have any objections to the proposed changes.

Concerns were raised that this building was in the conservation area but this had not been referred to in the application. It was agreed there were no objections to the building application but the question of the site being in the conservation area should be referred to when the council response was submitted to the Planning Department.

P14/S2914/FUL New Dwelling, Tudor Cottage, Lower Road

Variation to condition 3 of planning permission P11/W2127 to allow the part required wall to be part wall part closed boarded fence panels.

No objections were raised.

10/14/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Defibrillator – All of the councillors present were in favour of this being looked into further. Cllr Matthew Dovey felt that consideration should be given to a possible site at the lower end of the village not just the village hall. It was agreed that contact should be made with both the Red Cross and the British Heart Foundation to ascertain if they had anyone available to come and speak to the Council, also costs to be investigated. Clerk to look into this.

School Crossing Patrol Officer – see item 10/14/3

Greenwoods – Meeting with Police and County Council 10/1014 – Clerk had asked PCSO Ken Cooney if Parish Council could be present, this was not possible but he would send a full report.

Invitation to Wheatley Park Prize Giving – 15/10/14 – Nobody available to attend.

Request for donation Oxfordshire Assoc for the Blind – Vice Chairman Anne Eastwood asked if donation had been given in previous years. This was a new request, it was decided that the Council needed to look at the donations currently given before making any decision.

Kissing Gates- Mr King had responded to the liability issue raised at the previous meeting, Clerk read out the response. He had very real concerns about his liability for the installations on his land, he also raised the issue of the historical importance concerning the ancient stile stones. It was agreed that the letter should be forwarded to Tina Everett the Footpath Officer and to Chairman, Chris Wright. Further discussions would need to be taken before any work could progress, the suggested option of putting kissing gates next to stiles did not seem viable at the suggested sites. It was suggested that Tina should talk to Mr King if the Chairman agreed. Put on agenda for next meeting.

Hedges and Verges by Primary School, the School had responded to the issues raised, the verges would be cut more frequently and grass clippings removed, they would also trim the hedge in Sadlers Croft. Catherine Turner, School Business Manager had raised further questions about who was responsible for the steps at the rear of the School and the walkway from Wheatley Road to Sadlers Croft, she advised that work needed to be carried out. Cllr Judith Westgate asked what kind of work, she had recently walked this area and did not experience any problems. Another issue raised by the School was the management of paths and hedges on the way to school, they liked to promote walking, but some of the areas were very overgrown. Clerk would write back to Catherine Turner asking for clarification on steps and advise action being taken by the Parish Council to cut back hedges.

10/14/11 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam was not present this was deferred until the next meeting.

Cllr Mike Patrick said he had spoken with the organisers regarding parking on the upper part of the recreation field and in the future any parking notices would include a reference to children and the play area.

10/14/12 Village Maintenance

Burial Ground – Clerk had met with the Rector, this would be discussed at the November meeting when the Chairman was present.

Badgers – No new activity had been observed in the last 28days, work had been carried out to close the large badger hole in the burial ground and the area would be reseeded.

Parsler’s Piece - it was agreed that removing the cut grass was extremely difficult and an alternative method needed to be looked at for the future, it could not be done manually. Cllr Mike Patrick reported that he had spoken to Robert Surman and it was possible they might have a piece of farm machinery that would do the job. It was agreed that the current contractor did not have the machinery to remove the grass cuttings and alternative quotes were needed. Vice Chairman Anne Eastwood suggested approaching the contractors who had originally worked on the site when the ground was purchased, she would pass the details to the Clerk who would contact the contractors.

10/14/13 Community Plan

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that two meetings with volunteers had taken place, the more popular areas for volunteers were

Good Neighbour Scheme this would be dovetailed with Voluntary Drivers Scheme

Welcome Pack and an Emergency Plan.

Litter Collection

Planting up verges with bulbs

Less popular, work on a Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Watch, Marlies James had agreed to continue in the short term for Neighbourhood Watch but a new coordinator needed to be found.

First Draft of the Plan was currently being worked on and it was hoped to have the final version by December.

10/14/14 Village Bus Service

Time keeping on the service had not been good, most of this was being caused by the road works on the ring road and A34. A meeting was scheduled with the Oxford Bus Company on 8th October.

Go Ride service at the weekends was not paying its way, a meeting had been arranged with David Turner to discuss this.

10/14/15 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Police report had been circulated.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that he had now been in contact with BT, fixing the Speed Indicator Device to telegraph poles was not a problem, he would now get a final quote and order the equipment.

10/14/16 Any Other Business

None

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

**NOVEMBER 2014**

**GCSE RESULTS RISE ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE**

58.6% of Oxfordshire students gained five A\* to C graded GCSEs including English and Maths in 2014. The national state-funded school average for the same measure was 56.1%. **Oxfordshire is also now in the top 25 per cent of local authority areas for progress in Maths and more students made reached the expected progress in English than the national average**. The new system measures the results from the first time the exams are sat, without including resits as before.

*More information at:* <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/oxfordshire-surges-ahead-national-averages-gcse>

**ROADWORKS AROUND OXFORD**

Due to a sequence of successful applications by the Local Enterprise partnership, a business led organisation that works alongside all Oxfordshire’s councils. The County Council has **received significant funding from central government** to allow us to carry out major projects around Oxford.

We already had planned extensive repairs to the London Road in Headington, and this will **improve bus and cycle facilities at the same time**. The work on the Kennington and Hinksey Roundabout’s **will increase capacity by 30% improving traffic flow** in the long term. There are plans to improve Frideswide Square, the Cutteslowe and Wolvercote roundabouts, the Milton and Chilton interchanges on the A34 along with several other schemes across the county.

Full details can be found at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/major-current-roadworks>. Whilst we acknowledge these road works cause disruption in the short term, **to do nothing is not an option as it would result in far worse congestion in the future.**

**OXFORD TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

The Oxford Transport Strategy is being developed to find ways to cope with rising demand for transport in and around the city and will form part of the County Council’s Local Transport Plan. It follows a series of public meetings that discussed how we can create transport systems to sustain forecasts of **85,000 new jobs and 100,000 extra homes by 2031**.

Buses would remain a central part of the city’s future transport, along with proposals for a ‘mass transit system’ such as a **tram route linking outer suburbs** to the city centre. **Increasing park and ride capacity** outside the ring road to encourage more drivers to take public transport into the city is another major part of the draft strategy. The Oxford Transport Strategy is being developed using ideas and feedback provided as part of Connecting Oxfordshire. A final version will be published in Spring 2015 following further consultation.

*More information at:* <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/better-oxford-despite-increased-future-transport-demands>

**SUCCESS OF BOOKS ON PRESCRIPTION VIA LIBRARIES LEADS TO EXPANSION**

A special national scheme via which library services provide books for people experiencing mild to moderate mental health problems such as anxiety and depression is proving successful in Oxfordshire.

The **Books On Prescription Scheme** was introduced into six Oxfordshire Libraries in June 2013 (Oxford Central, Abingdon, Witney, Banbury, Didcot and Thame). It proved to be so much in demand that the county council’s library service **expanded the service to a further six libraries** in April 2014 (Bicester, Cowley, Wantage, Henley, Kidlington and Carterton).

*More information at:* <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/books-prescription-project-succeeds-oxfordshire-libraries>

**OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE EBOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE LIBRARY SERVICE**

Budding authors in Oxfordshire are being offered the chance to have some of their work published electronically as part of a competition run by the county council’s library service. The **Short Story Ebook competition** will run for just over two months starting on October 20 and the winners will see their work become available to be borrowed by Oxfordshire’s library ebook customers.

In my role as Cabinet Member for Cultural Services I have been quoted as saying: “Our librarians are looking forward to reading some imaginative and creative writing. This is a great chance for local people to share their writing skills. We hope the competition will draw people to our ebook service and it represents a great opportunity for those with aspirations in the field of writing.”

*More information at:* <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/ebook-opportunity-prospective-oxfordshire-writers>

**REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE IN FARRINGDON, WANTAGE AND DIDCOT**

Comments are invited on existing subsidised bus services largely in the Faringdon, Wantage and Didcot areas. Several routes operating in South Oxfordshire are also under review

*To access the consultation visit:* <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/Busreview2014/consultationHome>

**CONSULTATION CLOSES: 15th November 2014**

**PARISHES**

**Garsington**

On October 23rd I met with representatives from the Parish Council, the Primary School and parents, together with OCC Area Steward Keith Stenning and OCC highways engineers to discuss the safety issues surrounding the entrance to the school. It’s disappointing that this difficult location is made all the more dangerous by inconsiderate and often illegal parking.

As a result of our discussions it was agreed that OCC would repaint the white lines and zigzags, and include the area opposite the school gate. It will also run a speed check outside the school, and design and cost putting in a wider pavement on the junction between Southend and the Hill to improve the vision splay and safety for pedestrians crossing the road after having parked in the pub car park.

The County Council will look at the feasibility of creating a drop off zone in front and on either side of the school gates and putting in a zebra crossing. There would need to be a public consultation on a crossing, should the engineers be able to find a feasible location. A crossing would be costly and would require the community to make a sizeable contribution to the cost if not cover it completely. So while it is probably a very popular solution, unfortunately it is one that could be difficult to achieve.