Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 6th September 2004 commencing at 7.30 pm

1. The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Anne Eastwood, John Goodey, Gurdip Saini, Cliff Shuker and Ann Tomline with G Russell in attendance. Also present were twelve residents of the Parish.

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Paul Bolam and Cliff Moss and County Cllr David Turner

3. Public Participation

a). Monica Waud asked if the Parish Council could take action to have the ivy removed from the road signs at top end of Southend/The Green as it makes it difficult for visitors to locate the turning.

b). She also asked the Parish Council to ensure that the section of Parish land outside Gate 1 of the Manor is not used for car parking during future opera seasons and that the area is re-instated with grass.

c). She said that the comments from the Chairman in the Parish magazine regarding development have puzzled residents and the County Council do not understand them either. If the Parish Council wishes residents to write in regarding threats to the Green Belt, then could they be given more information to do so?

d). On behalf of the applicants living at The Well House, 15 Southend, who wish to erect a carport with first floor study/office space over Mr David Hignell, planning consultant, emphasised that the proposed office is for private and not commercial use.

e). Speaking on behalf of another client Mr Hignell asked the Parish Council to note that the proposed two-storey extension at Willow House, 87 Southend is intended to provide accommodation for the parents of the present occupants and, possibly, a brother also.

4 Declarations of Interest

As a friend and neighbour of the applicant, Councillor John Goodey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in P04/W0953 at 161 Oxford Road.

5 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 2nd August 2004

After some amendments the minutes were approved and signed as a correct record. The amendments involved the addition of the words 'and a site visit' to para 6 ii. concerning the Old Village Cross; 'as long as the existing planning conditions are maintained' to para 9 v. concerning Greenwoods of Garsington; and 'by questionnaire or survey' to the penultimate paragraph of Minute 15 dealing with Traffic Calming.

In Minute 13 dealing with land off Oxford Road, the sentence reading "Cllr Mrs Tomline has an application for change of use, which Miss Randle at SODC has indicated could be dealt with under delegated powers" was altered to read "Cllr Mrs Tomline has forms for an application for change of use, which Miss Randle at SODC has indicated may be dealt with under delegated powers."

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a). An administrative error had prevented Cllr Moss from speaking at part of the District Council's Planning Committee meeting on 4th August. An apology has now been received and this will be circulated along with correspondence on this subject between Cllr Moss and David Buckle, chief executive of the Council.

b). The Clerk said that he had been promised a small supply of 'Pavements are for people' stickers but these had not yet been received.

c). The Clerk confirmed that he had asked the Conservation team at the District Council to comment upon the IJP quotation but their reply is still awaited. Cllr Shuker said that he though Mike Darnell would be able to advise the Council and suggested that he should be invited to the proposed site meeting. Another resident, Julia Simmonds, works for the National Trust and may be able to suggest an alternative contractor.

d). The Clerk has asked RSS Playmakers to visit the Play Area and look at some swings supplied by SMP Playgrounds where chains and links may be in need of replacement and supply a report and quotation. No action had so far been taken and he had telephoned again. SMP Playgrounds had recommended RSS Playmakers.

e). The Chairman has asked the Garsington Players to remove out of date advertising posters as soon as possible and asked all Councillors to contact the appropriate village organisation about any posters which needed to be removed.

f). The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Conservation Officer about inappropriate planting outside houses in Oxford Road which had made what should be a roadside verge take on the appearance of being part of a garden. Councillors voted by 4 votes to 2 in favour of asking for these plants to be removed.

g). Cllr Goodey said that he was concerned to note from the Minutes that Oxford Road might not be included in the first phase of village traffic calming measures. The report from Mr Pete Ronald is expected for discussion at the October meeting.

7 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner had intended to be present but had telephoned the Clerk during the afternoon to say that he was unwell.

8 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Mrs Ann Tomline said that she had recently been sent unpleasant items of anonymous mail - the first time that such a thing had happened since she had been elected as a councillor. The District Council had been fairly quiet during the August holiday period and there was nothing further to report.

9 Finance and cheques for signature

The Bank Balances were:

Bank of Ireland £111,774.83 at 5th August with monthly interest earned of £378.44.

Barclays Community A/c £3,957.95, which included the VAT claim for a refund received in full at £3,426.68

Newsletter advertising receipts during the month totalled £850

The Council decided that the new Bank of Ireland mandate should be two to sign from the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Cllr Cliff Shuker and Cllr Anne Eastwood. The Clerk will progress the formalities, which will involve each Councillor producing evidence to prove their identity.

The audit for the year to 31st March 2003 was completed during August. There had been a comment about the size of the Council's 'Reserves' but the auditor had been satisfied by the Clerk's explanation. The Council agreed to note the auditor's comments. The Notice advertising the completion of the audit will now appear on the Village notice board.

The following cheques were approved for payment

HLB AV Audit £293.75

Total Pest Control (mole control) £164.50

Playground Management

(Play area inspection) £84.01

Colourplus (Aug/Sep issue) £540.57

Clerk's salary Aug/Sep £205.74

Admin expenses Aug/Sep £55.41

10 Planning Applications

Cllr John Goodey left the room while the following matter was discussed

i) P04/W0953 161 Oxford Road

Construction of extension to first floor and dormer window to the existing loft space

The Council had no strong views about this application.

ii) P04/W0972 The Well House, 15 Southend

Erection of car port with first floor study/office space over and attached log store to rear

The Council recommended that this application should be approved.

iii) Willow House, 87 Southend

Request by Planning Consultants for opinion on proposed two storey extension

The Council said that in principle it had no objection to this proposal but it would have to reserve its final decision until it had seen the official planning application.

iv) PO4/W1006 24 The Hill

Demolition of 3.4 metre section of brick wall to allow for driveway with room for turning vehicles

The Council recommended that this application should be approved.

Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters

PO3/W0476/LB 18 The Green

Conversion of semi-derelict barn into ancillary domestic accommodation

Listed Building Consent granted 10th August

PO4/W0723 66 Oxford Road

Erection of two dwellings

Planning Permission granted 10th August

PO4/W0598 Garsington House, 38-40 Oxford Road

Conversion of barn to chiropractors

Planning Permission granted 11th August

PO4/W0735 78 Oxford Road

Erection of two storey side extension

Planning Permission granted 23rd August

PO4/W0870 71 Oxford Road

Erection of rear entrance lobby

Planning Permission granted 3rd September

Planning Appeal

The Council was informed that the Appeal ref 155-157 Oxford Road had been successful. The Clerk would circulate the Inspector's written decision but he had not yet received a copy.

11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a). Trevor Gwynne has written confirming that the District Council has approved expenditure on the flood alleviation scheme in Larch End. Design work is in hand

b). The Council noted that the County proposes that the footway along a length of Oxford Road is to be resurfaced in the near future.

c). The Council has been invited to a meeting at Benson to discuss the future of the County's Waste Disposal programme on 16th September 7-9 pm and to the Thames Waterway Plan Consultation evening at Kennington Village Centre on 22nd September. No-one was available to attend either meeting

d). The Council noted that the next meeting of the Oxford Fringe Forum will take place on Tuesday 12th October in The Merry Bells at Wheatley

e). The Chairman has received letters about the need for making progress on the traffic calming from two residents of Wheatley Road. The Clerk was asked to acknowledge these letters.

f). The Chairman reported that there had been a case of fly-tipping that morning near the premises of Iron Awe. Details of registration plates had been noted and the District Council is understood to be taking action.

12 Village Maintenance

It was agreed in principal that the Council should order its own litter bins for the Play Area and other sites but Cllr Mrs Tomline pointed out that the Clerk should check first to ensure that the District Council's contractors would be able to service such bins. Subject to confirmation of this point the 'Admiral' style on page 9 of Glasdon's catalogue was selected.

It was agreed that quotations should be obtained for making good the surface of Saddlers Croft. The County has said that it would not accept responsibility for such work and so it will have to be paid for by the Parish Council if it is to be done at all.

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she had observed contractors carrying out a survey of the BT telegraph pole in Wheatley Road, which might be a sign that the intention is to remove it to a more suitable location.

13 RoSPA report on Play Area

Cllr Moss has obtained a quotation from H & C Pearce of Thame for two new gates to the Play Area for a total of around £140. It was agreed that this should proceed. Delivery time is understood to be around 5 weeks.

It was agreed that the RoSPA Inspector's report should be circulated and all required action should be discussed and agreed at the October meeting. It was likely that the local firms of contractors who have registered an interest in taking on projects for the Council could undertake several of the recommendations. The Chairman will contact Mr Tipping about cutting the boundary hedge.

There was much discussion about the honorarium paid to Mr Tipping for looking after both the Play Area and the Burial Ground. At present the payment is £600 for both tasks. It was suggested that this should be increased by a substantial percentage provided Mr Tipping agreed to undertake certain specified extra duties including trimming around the stones commemorating persons who had been cremated, tidying path edges and emptying the bin in the Play Area. It was agreed that the Chairman should discuss this with Mr Tipping and offer a new figure of £1,000 per year to be paid on 1st September.

14 Land off Oxford Road

The meeting with residents had taken place on 5th August as planned and a further meeting had taken place on 25th August. Cllr Shuker reported on this meeting and said that he would give copies of the report to Cllrs Bolam and Moss so that the Parish Council could discuss the matter in October.

The Meeting closed at 9.25 pm