Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 5th September 2005 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors David Baker, Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were County Cllr David Turner, District Cllr Ann Tomline and six residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence were accepted from Cllr Cliff Moss who is unwell and Cllr Saini who was unable to attend due to another engagement.

2 Public Participation

a. Mr Andrew Clarke of Combewell asked about the traffic calming consultation procedure, having been told by a representative of the County that the County’s process will be completed by mid September. He was concerned that several residents would miss the opportunity to pass on their comments to the Council and wanted there to be more time for these comments to be made, to be followed by a public meeting at which the County’s proposals could be further discussed.

b. Mr Basil Townsend asked if the Council had received a letter from the resident of 64 Wheatley Road. The Clerk had not seen this communication.

c. There were concerns about the dangerous condition of Kiln Lane and County Cllr Turner said that he would arrange for an officer from the County Council to view it.

d. Mrs Holmes told County Cllr Turner that many people consider the Horspath turn, off Wheatley Road, to be dangerous. It was important to reduce the speed of approaching vehicles.

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st August 2005

These were approved and signed as a correct record.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. The Clerk said that the work to repair the Village Cross is due to commence on 19th September.

b. The Council noted that the new seat at The Gizzel had not yet been installed.

c. Cllr Mrs Tomline confirmed that she has raised with Jaz Lally the matter of the need for a replacement payphone at Kings Copse. His department has a heavy workload at the moment and quick action is unlikely.

d. Cllr Bolam said he would like to attend the Parish Council forum at Crowmarsh on 20th September and asked the Clerk to re-send the list of discussion topics.

e. The Clerk said that the overwhelming majority of Parishes had been delighted with SODC’s scheme to supply free trees and that he had been told the scheme would be repeated in 2006.

f. The Chairman has written to Mr Palmer but so far has received no reply.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Turner said that he had received a phone call from Cllr Cliff Moss updating him on his meeting with the Police concerning problems at the Sports Club. Cllr Turner said that he would now take this up with the appropriate people.

Cllr Turner has asked that information about the bus service proposals should be sent to Cllr Baker direct.

7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Ann Tomline said that Parish Councils are being consulted about changes to the scheme for concessionary fares that would come into effect in 2006.

She confirmed that the flood prevention scheme for Larch End has now been completed. The District Council’s planning enforcement team has only one officer in post; another is on sick leave and there is also a staff vacancy. The County is responsible for enforcement matters concerning the scrap yard business in Pettiwell.

Cllr Tomline said that under the new licensing arrangements there is a review process which can be set in motion by any member of the public.

8 Finance and cheques for signature

The Council’s bank balances were as follows:

Bank of Ireland balance at 5th August £116,617.98 (interest £419.42)

Barclays current a/c bal. at 31st August £9,248.50

Newsletter advertising receipts totalled £240 and a County Council payment for grass verge maintenance amounting to £317 had also been received.

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Playground Management Ltd (inspection) £86.95

Biffa – Cemetery waste service £84.01

Colourplus August/September newsletter £660.93

Orchard Street Furniture Gizzel seat £451.56

Clerk’s salary £290.56

Admin expenses £83.45

Members of the Council agreed to assist the Clerk in the compilation of an Asset Register, which would list all the Council’s fixed assets and, where applicable, a record of where deeds etc are held for safe keeping.

9 Planning

a. Applications

P05/W0839 131 Oxford Road

Double and single storey rear extensions to existing dwelling

The Council recommended that this application should be approved

P05/W0862 28 Combewell

Demolition of existing garage. Erection of new single storey side extension

The Council recommended that this application should be refused as it represented an overdevelopment of the site.

b. Decisions and other Planning matters

P05/W0616 15 The North Manor

Erection of two storey side extension

Planning permission granted 23rd August

P05/W0656 May Cottage, 118 Oxford Road

Erection of single and two storey side and rear extension

Planning permission granted 5th August

P05/W0664/RET 131 Oxford Road

Erection of double garage to the rear

Planning permission granted 5th August

P05/W0682 40 Elm Drive

Erection of conservatory to rear

Planning permission granted 11th August

05/W0760 The Three Horseshoes

Re-surfacing of rear car park

Planning permission granted 25th August

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. The RoSPA inspector’s Play Area report has been received and the Chairman agreed to monitor the Play Area while Cllr Moss is unwell.

b. The Chairman asked all councillors to attend the AGM of the Village Hall Committee that will be held on 17th October commencing at 7.30 pm.

c. The Council gave its general support to the idea of a bonfire party at The Three Horseshoes on 5th November which, this year, falls on a Saturday.

d. The Clerk said that Oxford City Council has invited the Parish Council to comment upon community involvement in the planning process. It was agreed that the Council’s response would be similar to that sent to the District Council when the same question had been asked.

e. The Clerk gave details of the ORCC consultation on the DEFRA Social & Community Programme. Meetings will be held at Stratfield Brake pavilion on 23rd and 26th September.

11 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk had met Andrew King of Richardsons, chartered accountants in Thame, and had received a quotation of £400 per year as the fee that his firm would charge if appointed as internal auditor to the Council. As an alternative suggestion he put forward the name of Brian Rollerson, formerly a member of the District Audit team who now acts as internal auditor for a number of parish councils in the area, including Stadhampton. Mr Rollerson’s fee to Stadhampton PC is £120 per year and is unlikely to be significantly higher for Garsington. It was agreed that Mr Rollerson be appointed.

12 Land off Oxford Road

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Shuker and the members of the sub-committee for the preparation of their detailed report. It was agreed that an edited version of the committee’s report would be prepared by Cllr Shuker and sent to the residents who are immediate neighbours of the site, inviting them to a meeting which it was hoped could take place before the end of October. Proposals would then be prepared for discussion by the village as a whole and submission for the necessary planning approval, applications for grant aid etc.

13 Traffic Calming

Cllr Bolam reported verbally on the results of the traffic survey; a written summary will follow. It was agreed that the Parish Council is in favour of the scheme as presented to the village in the County’s detailed proposals. If the County is not prepared to extend the consultation process beyond that which is currently going on the Parish will take the initiative and consult all residents so that everyone has an opportunity of expressing a view.

14. Affordable Housing

Cllr Bolam will attend the meeting being held at Benson Village Hall on 26th September and report to the next Council meeting.

15 Village Maintenance

The bin near The Plough is partly obscured and this probably accounts for the fact that it is occasionally not being emptied. The play area bin is on order.

Rob Jeffrey has completed some but not all of the specified tasks. The Clerk was asked to find out when the work will be completed.

Cllr Bolam repeated his request for a litter bin by the new bus shelter and the Clerk will enquire whether the District Council is willing to provide one.

16 Burial Ground Regulations & Fees

Cllr Bolam submitted his second draft of the new regulations and these will be considered by the Council. The Clerk confirmed that the burial fees have been increased each year by Rev Cowles to maintain them in line with the fees being charged throughout the diocese of Oxford.

17 Parking on The Green

The Clerk was asked to draft a letter which would be sent to all the residents who live on The Green, asking them not to park cars or any other vehicles on the grass or grass verges.

18 Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act

It was agreed that the details of this Act should again be circulated for further consideration to be followed by a discussion by the Council as to whether or not it wished to take advantage of the new powers that are being offered.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 3rd October 2005

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm