Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 4th September 2006 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Paul Bolam, David Baker, Anne Eastwood, John Hieatt, Gurdip Saini and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present were County Cllr David Turner, District Cllr Ann Tomline and seven residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

None; all Councillors were present

2 Public Participation

i. There were complaints about the path to Grenoble Road being overgrown and about the roadside sign on the bend coming from the direction of Oxford. This was vandalised earlier in the year and has not been put back properly. It was also pointed out that there is so much vegetation alongside Kiln Lane that the ditch itself is almost invisible. The Clerk will write to Brian Short about this, because it is regarded as dangerous, with a copy to Cllr Turner.

ii. The Garsington Society has formed a sub-group to support the Parish Council in its opposition to the expansion of the built area on land between Garsington and Oxford.

iii. The ditch from Kings Copse is being flooded by surface water on the road being splashed into the ditch by passing traffic, especially heavy vehicles. There is more traffic than usual on this road because of the road works at Headington roundabout. Cllr Turner said that would take up this matter and also a complaint about an indentation in Oxford Road caused by subsidence near Combewell.

iv. There was discussion about removing the sign indicating the shops in Elm Drive since, at the moment, there is no shop. It was agreed, however, to leave the sign in place until the future of the vacant premises is known.

v. Monica Waud said that safety on the raised walkway in Southend was inadequate. Some of the railings have been removed by workmen needing access and have not been replaced. Cllr Turner will ask Highways colleagues to take action.

vi. A resident said that the street light near the parade of shops is regularly targeted by youngsters trying to break it and the Chairman said that there are several street lights in both Oxford and Wheatley Road which are not working.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Eden, Bolam and Tomline declared an interest in P06/W0860 Pettiwell House and said that they would leave the meeting while this matter was discussed.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th August 2006

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed as a correct record.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Land off Oxford Road

The Clerk confirmed that SODC’s decision on the Parish Council’s grant application will be given by 7th November. He had ben told that there is no reason why an additional application to the Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment should not be made in the meantime. The next closing date for applications for funding from TOE is 10th October and the application papers have been requested.

b. Definitive Rights of Way

The new details are being circulated.

c. The hedge overhanging the footway on Clinkards Hill has been cut back and the Highways inspector, Mike Dickerson, is progressing the work on the hedge opposite the Village Hall by writing to the householders concerned.

The Clerk has written to Mrs Osborn about maintaining the trees on land in Pettiwell.

d. The District Council’s comments on the Jenks tree survey in Combewell have been received through District Cllr Tomline. On the whole the recommendations are thought to be sensible and appropriate although it was suggested that three trees might not need quite such severe reductions as those recommended. It was suggested, however, that any change to the Jenks proposals should be discussed with him. The District Council has great confidence in the contractor’s work and judgement.

The Council noted that the cost of carrying out all the recommended work is £960.

e. The metal safety rail by the shops at Elm Drive has been replaced.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner has asked Highways about the provision of 30 mph roundels in Oxford Road. To have roundels you also need to have repeater signs and you cannot have repeater signs where there is street lighting, because the provision of the street lighting is of itself an indication that there is a 30 mph speed limit. It remains a possibility that ‘Slow’ signs in the road would be allowed and David Turner will investigate further.

Cllr Turner mentioned the scheme for free testing of the safety of electric blankets and also commended the benefits that the Parish Council might be able to obtain after a Parish Plan had been prepared.

Cllr Turner was told that the Parish Council supports the Footpath Modification Order that is currently being advertised. In response to comments about a large pothole in Oxford Road outside Library Farm Barn, Cllr Turner said that the hot summer weather has caused a lot of damage, which will cost £4 million to repair and there is a backlog of work.

Cllr Bolam asked about the setting of priorities for cyclists and pedestrians at the Cowley roundabout and Cllr Turner said that he would find out about this. Questions were also raised about Highways maintenance of the area by the post box outside 52 Southend.

7 District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Mrs Tomline attends meetings of the South Oxfordshire Development Plan task group. Owners can now register land as suitable for development. So far three areas of land within the Parish have been registered along with adjoining land in the Parish of Horspath.

From 6th October the District Council’s website will carry details of land registered for development and there will be a consultation period which runs until the end of November.

Cllr Tomline said that Garsington may be removed from the designation as a ‘larger village’ because of the lack of village amenities, especially a shop.

8 Finance

Balances and cheques for signature

Balances

Barclays Current Account at 31st August £10,008.92

Barclays Community Account at 9th June £50.27

Bank of Ireland at 14th August £121,398.03 (interest earned £439.92)

Advertising receipts this month £550;

The following cheques were approved for payment:

PlaySafety Ltd (Inspection fee) £84.60

Biffa Waste Services £96.39

G Russell (Clerk’s salary) £315.90

G Russell (Admin) £76.50

M J Hill (new hand rail) £200.00

A request for a charitable donation had been received from CAB Thame. Last year the Council had donated £250. It was agreed that the request should be circulated and discussed again at the October Council meeting.

9 Planning

a. Applications:

P06/W0810; 104 Oxford Road, Garsington (amended); Single storey front extension.

The Council had no strong views about this application.

(Cllrs Eden, Bolam and Tomline left te room while the following application was discussed)

P06/W0860 Pettiwell House, Garsington; Conversion of garage/storeroom/playroom to become ancillary accommodation/ granny flat

The Council had no strong views about this application but commented that it would be important to ensure that there continues to be parking and the provision of a safe turning area.

P06/W0885; Highfields, 4 Pettiwell; Demolition of existing sunroom, garage and shed. Construction of new 2 storey extension to house and new open entrance porch, plus a new oak framed 3 vehicle garage and garden store.

The Council recommended that this application be approved.

P06/W0920 78, Southend, Garsington; Erection of detached structure to form garage, carport, storage & office/study

The Council had no strong views about this application.

b. Decisions, etc

Consultation on new Draft Planning Enforcement Policy:

The District Council has published a 16 page document upon which comments are requested in writing by 9th October. It was agreed that the Clerk could circulate councillors with the URL where this document can be read on-line.

The following decisions were noted:

P06/W0190 68 Wheatley Road

Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

Planning permission granted 14th August

P06/W0671; Garsington Parish Council & Sports Club, Denton Lane Garsington

Alterations and single storey extensions.

Planning permission granted 23rd August

P06/W0810; 104 Oxford Road, Garsington;

Single storey front extension.

Planning permission granted 30th August

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. The Chairman had received a letter from Mrs Lesley French of 25 Poplar Close asking for the Council’s approval of her late father’s ashes to be interred in Garsington churchyard. Both she and her sister are residents of Garsington and her widowed mother wishes to move from Old Marston to Garsington in the near future. The Council agreed to Mrs French’s request.

b. The Council has received an offer of assistance from ORCC in the Thame Area Review of Subsidised bus services, specifically by helping the Parish Council to run a Transport Needs Survey prior to the County Council’s area review. It was agreed to accept this offer and to invite Alix Michaelis, the Rural Community Transport Adviser, to attend the meeting of the Council on 2nd October.

c. Details about the consultation by SODC on the licensing of gambling – now an SODC responsibility – will be circulated. Comments are required by 27th October.

d. All Councillors confirmed to the Clerk that the registers are up to date with councillors’ interests, the receipt of gifts and of hospitality.

e. Information received from the Oxfordshire Association for Young People - offering help to increase rural youth provision; provide training and support to volunteers running youth clubs – will be circulated.

f Anti-vandalism posters recently received from Thames Valley Police were approved for publication on the village notice boards.

g. Councillors agreed that they do not require hard copies of the Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 and Delivery Report 2001-2006 and would be content to view the documents on-line at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltp](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltp)

h. Councillors have been invited to attend workshops about Oxford City’s plans for the ‘West End’ area on either 29th or 30th September. Information will be circulated.

i. Councillors noted that ORCC is holding an introduction to Parish Plans on Saturday 14th October at Little Milton and agreed to consider their availability.

j. Cllr Paul Bolam had been contacted by Anna Kennedy, ORCC's new Rural Housing Enabler, who will be having discussions with the planners about sites which have been identified as possible locations within the Village.

11 Sports Club Extension

Planning approval has now been granted. Cllr Baker said that a meeting will be organised with the surveyor and a report submitted to the next Council meeting.

12 Village Maintenance

Cllr Shuker said that he would attend to the weeds growing round the war memorial.

Cllr Mrs Eastwood asked if a beech hedge could be planted around the electricity sub-station in Southend and the Clerk will ask Highways what approval is required for this.

13 Garsington Footpath 40 - Modification Order

Notice of the Modification Order has been displayed on the notice board since 11th August and will remain there until 25th September, by which date any objections or other representations about the Order must be submitted. The Parish Council confirmed that it supports this order.

14 Establishing a new bus stop

Thames Travel has suggested creating a formal bus stop in the vicinity of The Plough for buses travelling towards Watlington.

The specific location identified for such a stop was not much liked by the Council and it was agreed that the matter would best be progressed at a site meeting.

15. Concerns about development of land south of Grenoble Road

It was agreed that there should be a working group, with membership drawn from both the Parish Council and the Garsington Society, funded by the Parish Council as required, which would meet separately to plan and carry out a campaign.

Cllrs Baker, Bolam and Eastwood would represent the Parish Council and the group would invite District Cllr Ann Tomline to be a member as well.

Contact will be made as soon as possible with Martin Harris from Horspath and Elizabeth Gillespie from The Baldons.

The Chairman stressed the importance of the group canvassing the views of all residents. A domain name, [www.garsington.org.uk](http://www.garsington.org.uk), has been registered.

16. Findings of RoSPA Safety Inspection of Playground.

The report stated that most items of equipment are basically satisfactory but sundry items were mentioned; most urgent is the panel on top of the tractor slide chute which has sharp edges and risk of finger trap; and some trip hazards at the edge of surfacing by junior swings; generally excessive weed growth should be removed and treated.

The inspector’s report is available as both a hard copy and by e-mail.

The Clerk will arrange for the local area representative from Wicksteed Leisure to make an appointment to meet with Cllr Shuker on site, to inspect the equipment provided by his company and recommend repairs.

The Chairman said that there have recently been two accidents in the play area, the most recent being on the same day as this Council meeting.

17. Review of Traffic Calming scheme.

This will be discussed more fully at the October meeting. Cllr Bolam will be unable to attend but will put his ideas in writing in advance of the meeting. Cllr Shuker said that he thought that the scheme had been a great success although further measures are still needed.

Speed and traffic surveys are required, probably when the Headington work is finished, although the Chairman said that he might be able to arrange for some information in the near future. Peter Ronald would be asked for his thoughts as well.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm