Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 3rd September 2007 commencing at 7.30 pm. The Chairman, Cllr Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood, John Hieatt, Judith Westgate and Chris Wright with G Russell in attendance. Also present were District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie and three residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs David Baker and Paul Bolam and County Cllr David Turner who all had other commitments.

2 Public Participation

Mr Tipping said that the mole control contract includes the play area. The play area bin bags are not always collected by SODC’s contractor. The notice on the gate is faded and needs replacing.

Mr Patrick said that the Clinkards Hill repairs are urgently needed. He said that he thought the proposed build-out in the junction opposite The Plough needs a proper kerb, not merely marks painted onto the road surface. In the play area some tree planting would eventually result in much-needed shade. The tension in the aerial runway may need tightening.

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th August 2007

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

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Total Pest Control – Cllr Bolam has said that he is happy with the contractor’s answers about the control methods being used. The remaining question is whether the Parish Council should be paying for this service.

b. The Clerk reported that Playdale has decided to waive the requirement for a deposit payment in advance of delivering the roundabout and that the roundabout will be delivered in the coming month.

c. The Clerk said that the County highways inspector, Mike Dickerson, has confirmed the works orders for the repairs on Clinkards Hill have been placed. Mr Dickerson had said that he will also take a look at the pavement at the entrance to Parsler’s Piece to see if access can be approved.

d. The Clerk had attended the South Oxon Partnership Strategic Consultation event at Didcot. Some interesting statistics about the District had been presented – he will inform councillors of the websites where these can be found. More consultation will follow next year.

e. The Chairman said that he made a site visit to view the visibility problem reported by a resident at the previous meeting. He did not think that action is required.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner was unable to attend this meeting but has said that he would like to hear from anyone in Garsington who is unhappy with the proposed closure of Roman Way at the BMW factory site. He will be attending the Magistrates Court's next meeting on this subject, early in October, and is registered to speak.

7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Gillespie suggested that councillors should visit the recycling plant early in October. Further details are to be confirmed. The District Council is currently consulting the residents about the future of refuse collection within the district.

Cllr Gillespie said that she has passed on the Parish Council’s concerns about the plans at 10/11 Hazel Drive. The planning officers say that they have not yet received the written comment form from the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that it had been sent.

The District Council is totally opposed to the findings from the EIP of the South East Plan which suggests that 4,000 houses should be built south of Grenoble Road. There will now be a political campaign to ensure that this does not happen.

8 Finance

The bank balances were as follows:

Barclays Current Account at 31st August: £12,723.95

Bank of Ireland at 8th August: £103,933.015 (interest earned £581.72)

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Colourplus (August/September) £812.03

Nicholson Nurseries Ltd – Parsler’s Piece mowing (x 2) and spraying £387.75

G Russell (Clerk’s salary) £315.90

G Russell (Admin) £114.20

The Clerk said that forms to alter the Barclays Bank mandate have been submitted.

The Council reviewed the asset register which had been compiled with the help of several members of the Council and, although valuations are not available in many cases, this was approved. In future it will be updated as required. The Chairman said that he would like the mapping project progressed and the Clerk said that he expected to see one of the potential software suppliers during the coming week.

The Council approved the Annual Return, which was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and will now be sent with the Council’s books and records for checking by the Council’s Internal Auditor.

9 Planning

a. Applications

P07/W1025 127 Oxford Road Garsington

Demolition of existing dormer bungalow. Subsequent erection of 2no. 2 storey 4 bed dwellings with integral garage & 2no. additional parking spaces per dwelling.

The papers concerning this application are not yet available and it will be carried over to the next meeting. The Chairman suggested that in the meantime all councillors should try to make a visit to the site.

P07/W0611 3 Larch End Garsington

Erect conservatory on side elevation of property

The Council recommended approval of this application as appropriate development.

b. Decisions and other planning matters

P07/W0746 8 Kiln Lane; Proposed new dwelling with garage and new access.

The Council noted that planning permission for this project has been refused.

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. The Council noted the rejection of the idea of imposing a 20 mph speed limit which was contained in a letter from Malcolm Bowler, OCC Senior Traffic Technician.

b. The Council has been invited to comment in Oxford City Council’s consultation process about the balance of types of dwellings. This ends on 11th September and Cllr Wright said that he would review the papers.

c. The Chairman said that members of the Council had been invited to inspect the work which has been carried out at St Mary’s Church tower and a visit would be arranged before the scaffolding is removed on 21st September. The Council may wish to request that a plaque should commemorate the Parish Council’s donation towards the cost of this work.

d. The Council has been approached about improving the safety of Pettiwell for both cars and pedestrians. It had been suggested that the road should be restricted so that traffic could travel in one direction only and there has also been a suggested that a footway could be engineered along the grass bank approaching The Plough. The matter needs to be discussed with County Cllr Turner and Highways safety experts.

11 Oxford Green Belt – Planning report

Cllr Wright said that the Inspector’s report is a clever document which might well get approval. In supporting the political campaign described by Cllr Mrs Gillespie he said that the arguments against building in the Green Belt need reviewing and redefining. Representation from residents as a whole is not only desirable, it is essential. There needs to be a village meeting, use of local media and the Newsletter. Cllr Wright said that he would develop his ideas in more detail over the coming weeks.

12 Village Maintenance

The Council considered the detail of SODC’s offer of free trees. In addition to the play area previously mentioned there is a dead tree opposite Willow Close.

Cllr Hieatt said that apart from one shop owner everyone had agreed to have the graffiti removed from their property. The bus shelter in Watlington Road could replace the shop on the schedule of places to be cleared.

Cllrs Eastwood and Wright reported on their site visit to Phipps Well. It was agreed that the Garsington Society should now prepare a proposal for managing the site for further discussion with the Council and consultation with residents.

The Council has been asked if it will purchase new football goal posts made of heavy duty steel and costing approximately £775 and this will be decided at the October meeting.

13 Parsler’s Piece

Efforts are being made to get the County’s help in improving the access from Oxford Road but if this is not successful or is not sufficient to satisfy the District Council’s concern about poor access for disabled persons, it may be necessary to change the type of gate used on the access via Combewell. The Chairman queried which areas of the field are to be mown frequently and he will discuss this matter with Ian Young before setting an official opening date.

14 Road Safety at The Plough junction

The Clerk has attempted several times to telephone John Palmer but without success and there has been no further response from any other residents of The Green since the last meeting. Since the Parish Council now has proof that the boundaries of the houses are well inside the hedge the County will again be asked to cut the hedge.

The new road markings will be implemented in October but, at the moment, there are no plans to put a kerb in place until next year.

15. Traffic Survey results

Discussion of this matter was carried over to the October meeting which will take place on 1st October.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm