Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 2nd April immediately following the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman, Cllr Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Cllrs David Baker, John Hieatt, Gurdip Saini and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance, County Cllr David Turner, District Councillor Ann Tomline and four residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Paul Bolam who was away on business and Anne Eastwood who was on holiday.

2 Public Participation

Various Highways repair matters were reported to Cllr Turner including damage to the granite sets in the lay-by outside The Red Lion (by Cllr Shuker), a blocked spring half way down Clinkards Hill, which had been connected to the mains drainage, and the state of the footpath surface in this area which Mike Patrick said was badly damaged.

Mr Patrick also said that commercial vehicles, with their wide wheel bases, are not being slowed down by the traffic cushions. He suggested that consideration be given to a roundabout at the junction of Oxford Road and Elm Drive. He also raised the matter of safety at the junction outside The Plough.

The Chairman commented that he is already trying to tackle these problems through the County Council but he agreed it would be a good idea if Peter Ronald, the traffic engineer, could revisit some calming issues which have not been implemented: the idea of building out The Plough junction and bringing in a 20 mph speed limit by the school, for example, even though these measures might also involve more street lights. County Cllr Turner said that he would raise these matters with Mr Ronald.

It was said that the occupants of 26 Wheatley Road had wrongfully put gates across the footpath near their home. The Clerk will write to them.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2007

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

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i. The War Memorial repairs are not yet complete but will be finished this week.

ii. Dog waste bins: SODC has confirmed to the Clerk that emptying two bins is a viable contract. In fact the village will have three because there is one at the entrance to the amenity land off Oxford Road. The Clerk will order these bins.

iii. Thank you pins; Cllr John Hieatt has discovered a source from which these pins, made in pewter, can be purchased for £120 plus VAT per hundred. It was agreed that 100 should be ordered.

iv. School - Parent parking; Cllr John Hieatt said that a new Police Community Support Officer for Garsington, Horspath and Wheatley starts in post next month and will be asked to target the bad parking habits. County Cllr Turner said that the County is looking at introducing pilot schemes for parking control outside schools and it was agreed that Garsington would probably be interested in taking part. Meetings should be held with the appropriate County officers.

v. Local Transport Scheme; Cllr Turner said that Jackie Edwards is the co-ordinator at Chalgrove who would be able to advise Garsington Parish Council about how the scheme works.

vi. 153 Oxford Road flooding. The Clerk said that Highways inspector Mike Dickerson had been asked to investigate.

vii. Trees outside 31 Combewell; the Clerk brought a copy of the tree report that had been prepared by Paul Jenks last summer. Work on two of the trees had been carried out but the remainder had been left for the time being.

6 Planning

a. Applications

P06/W1321/O Farmer’s End 115 South End;

Erection of replacement chalet bungalow (outline) amended.

The Council noted the amendment. There is no change to its view that the application should be approved

PO7/W0272 & PO7/W0273/LB Rectory Cottage, 4 The Hill

Proposed conservatory with new vehicular and pedestrian gates

The applications both for planning and listed building consent should be approved as being an enhancement to the property.

b. Decisions and other planning matters

PO7/W0067 Lower Farm, Lower Road Two storey side extension

The Council noted that this application has been withdrawn.

7 Balances and cheques for signature

Barclays Base Rate Tracker at 9th March £50.45

Barclays Current Account at 30th March £8,687.58

Bank of Ireland at 5th March £124,539.56 (interest earned £452.15)

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Waste Recycling Group (re land of Oxford Rd project) £540.00

LCR (annual magazine subscription) £13.50

Great Greenery Company (Play bark) £658.00

Jenks Oxford Limited (Combewell Trees) £305.50

Allianz Cornhill (annual insurance) £1,477.27

Robert J Webb (quantity surveyors) £528.75

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils £299.16

G Russell (Clerk’s salary) £315.90

G Russell (Admin) £129.70

Garsington Village Hall (room hire) £75.00

The increase in advertisement charges proposed by Cyril Tomline was approved by the Council. This took the price of a full page advertisement from £30 to £36.

8 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. Grass Cutting; the County Council is seeking the Parish Council’s assurance that it has public liability cover in place up to £5 million. This will be confirmed. There is some doubt over who is responsible for cutting the grass off Birch Road where the leylandii were removed from last year. The Chairman will try to find out.

b. Local Elections: the council noted that nominations close at 12 noon on 4th April and the arrangements for vote counting and the declaration of the results, should a ballot for the Parish Council be necessary.

c The Council has received an invitation to the CPRE AGM on 19TH April.

d. Cllr Shuker said that 53 entries had been received for the children’s play equipment competition. The most popular items were a roundabout and a see-saw. Prizes will be awarded on an age group basis and the Council will fund this up to £50.

e. The Parish Council has been invited to enter a team in the Garsington Society Quiz.

f. The Chairman thanked Mr Baker and Mr Day for helping Cllr Shuker and himself spread out the recent delivery of play bark under the aerial runway.

9 Burial Ground Regulations

Cllr Shuker has drafted a letter to be sent to the relatives of those whose graves are unsafe or which in some way do not conform with the Parish Council’s regulations for the care and maintenance of the Burial Ground. He will seek the comments of Rev. Richard Cowles and agree the names of those who are to receive letters from the Clerk.

The area which is reserved for the burial of ashes needs attention. Cllr Shuker asked councillors to discuss this matter at the next Council meeting in May.

10 Land off Oxford Road

A letter has been received from Mr and Mrs Marriott of 4 Combewell who are extremely concerned at their loss of privacy and security as a result of the hedge being removed. It was confirmed that extra fencing has been ordered at a cost of £800.

The site as a whole has now been cleared. The tree experts have recommended the felling of more trees than had been anticipated.

The Parish Council agreed that the land should in future be called ‘Parsler’s Piece’ and that signs should now be ordered.

Meeting closed at 9.54 pm