Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 2nd August 2004 commencing at 7.30pm

1. The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Cliff Moss, Cliff Shuker and Ann Tomline with G Russell in attendance. Also present were five residents of the Parish.

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, John Goodey, Gurdip Saini and County Cllr David Turner

3. Public Participation

i. Mr Tipping complained about the irresponsible parking habits of some local residents. The Chairman commented that there had been a recent meeting with liaison officers from the Police and he hoped this would help.

ii. Mr Tipping said that the gate to the Sports Field is in a dangerous condition and the promised temporary replacement had not been delivered. It was agreed that the matter needed to be dealt with urgently.

iii. Mr Tipping said that he knew of a recent case where the Rector had approved a design of monument which is not permitted by the present regulations.

iv. Mr Tipping asked for something to de done about promptly removing posters for events in the village once they have taken place and for the immediate removal of any 'fly-posters' which advertised events taking place outside the village.

v. Mr Tipping said that he and others had noted that the agenda for this evening's meeting referred to an amendment to the plans for the new Community Hall. No-one, however, seemed to know what the amendment involves. It was pointed out, however, that in the first instance this is a matter for the Village Hall committee.

vi. Mr Townsend asked if more 'Pavements are for People' stickers could be obtained and the Clerk said that he would contact the District Council.

vii. Mr Townsend asked for more information about the Trust that was referred to in the minutes of the July meeting. The Chairman asked Mr Townsend to contact the Rector.

viii. Mr Philip Willington asked for news about progress of traffic calming measures. The Chairman said that he would report on this subject later in the meeting.

ix. Mr Willington asked for clarification about the Parish Council's attitude to the proposals for house building in the Oxford Green Belt, south of Grenoble Road. The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council's opposition to these proposals.

x. Mr Tipping asked if the Parish Council would take issue with the resident(s) responsible for inappropriate planting on a grass verge in Oxford Road. The Chairman said that he would soon be meeting a member of the District Council's Conservation team and would raise the matter with her.

4. Declarations of Interest

In the matter of Planning Application P04/W0870: 71 Oxford Road, the Council noted that Parish Cllr Mrs Anne Eastwood and her husband own this property.

All members present felt that it would therefore be inappropriate for them to consider this Application.

5 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 5th July 2004

The Minutes of this Meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i. The Clerk said that the Footpath Modification Order is still subject to a local objection. It is therefore one of many such orders waiting to be referred to the Secretary of State.

ii. The Clerk was asked to seek advice from the SODC Conservation team regarding the quotation that has been received for work to the Old Village Cross. The suggested programme of work goes far beyond what was originally suggested and it is far more expensive as well. The Council feels the need for expert and independent advice.

iii. Following the visit of the representative from Playdale, the Council has received the company's recommended ages for each piece of equipment and a quotation showing the cost of putting a 'Springer' on each of the vacant bases to be approx £600 per base. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

SMP Playgrounds supplied the swings and they have been asked to send a quote for replacement of chains and links which the Playdale rep. agreed were badly worn

iv. The Clerk said that he could not trace receipt of the Sports Club's rent and that he has taken up the matter with the Chairman of the Sports Club.

v. The Clerk confirmed that he has the deeds relating to the Playing Field and the Burial Ground. These are kept in his filing cabinet.

vi. Cllr Moss said that the leylandii at 1 Birch Road have not been removed.

vii. Cllr Shuker reported that the Millennium Maps have now been replaced and the 'kissing gate' installed.

7 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner had sent his apologies together with a written report for the Council's information.

The meeting of the 5 parishes A329 / B480 Action Group has agreed to support the proposals for Little Milton. The matter will be discussed at the September 9th OCC Transport & Implementation meeting.

Cllr Turner said that the Government's "Strategic Routes Study" should be received in late September. As soon as it is, he will reconvene the A329 / B480 5 Parishes Action Group and start immediately pushing the case for the weight restriction on the A239 / B480 from Milton Common to Grenoble Road.

The Council noted this report and expressed the hope that any new weight restrictions would be strictly enforced.

8 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Mrs Ann Tomline said that new regulations concerning the height of boundary hedges would come into force on 4th October. The District Council is expecting to receive a large number of complaints.

The Council Cabinet will consider the report and recommendations of the Mobile Homes Task Force in September. The Council is advertising for more staff for the Environmental Health Department and these will be needed if the Task Force's recommendations are adopted. A copy of the report will be circulated.

9 Finance and cheques for signature

The Clerk confirmed that he had submitted a VAT Claim for the repayment of £3,426.68.

The Bank of Ireland mandate has not been changed for many years and now needs urgent amendment. The Council approved the removal of the following signatories:

A Belcher, R Kelly, H Jezzard, E Macknamara, M Patrick and B. Townsend and a letter, to be signed by A Tomline and M Patrick - the remaining signatories - will be sent to confirm to the Bank that this has been done.

A decision about who should be added to the mandate will be taken at the next meeting. The Clerk said that the Bank had advised him that, under new anti-money 'laundering' regulations, all the signatories will have to produce a current passport or driving licence and a utilities bill or bank statement. These must be originals or certified copies.

The Council noted the recent National pay settlement for Parish Clerks which amounted to an immediate increase in the Clerk's hourly rate by 2.753%, back dated to 1st April 2004. The new rate is £7.913 per hour and will increase to £8.209 per hour with effect from 1st October 2004.

The balance in Barclays Current Account on 31st July was £470.31

The balance in the Bank of Ireland a/c on 7 July was £111,396.39; interest of £337.73 had been received during the month together with advertising receipts of £245.00

The following accounts were approved for payment

Southern Electricity £13.21

G Russell salary July/August (incl. back pay) £271.66

G. Russell admin & travel expenses July/August £38.40

C W Shuker (replacement of maps) £83.42

Garsington Society (kissing gate) £136.30

J J Bark (mower service) £65.58

Cllr Bolam had revised and circulated the Financial Model Risk Assessment so that it was specific to the needs of Garsington Parish Council. It was agreed that this should now be adopted.

9 Planning Applications

i) P04/W0773 Oxford Equestrian Centre

Change of use of veterinary surgery and shop (at ground floor) and restaurant/clubroom (at first floor) for B1 (a) office purposes

It was unanimously agreed that this application should be refused.

ii) P04/W0870 71 Oxford Road

Extension of rear entrance lobby

The Council declined to express an opinion on this application since the property is owned by Parish Cllr Mrs Anne Eastwood and her husband.

iii) P04/W0178 New sports and social facilities on Memorial Playing Fields

Amended drawings received 23rd July - for information only.

Noted. The plans will be displayed

iv). P04/W0862 May Cottage, 118 Oxford Road

Extension and alterations to existing building for consulting rooms

It was unanimously agreed that this application should be refused. The Council is on principle opposed to the spread of business activities within the residential areas of the village.

v). Greenwoods of Garsington - Certificate of Lawful Use & Development for the storage and dismantling of vehicles and parts in conjunction with existing scrap business

The Council had no objection to this certificate being issued.

Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters

PO4/W0723 66, Oxford Road;

Erection of two dwellings

It was agreed that Cllr Moss should attend the Planning Committee meeting on 4th August.

PO4/W0598 38-40 Garsington Road

Conversion of barn for chiropractor

Planning permission grant will be recommended by the SODC officers. It was agreed that Cllr Moss should attend the Planning Committee meeting on 4th August.

PO4/W0599 Garsington House

Replacement garage.

Planning permission granted 20th July

155-157 Oxford Road

The Appeal has been heard and the decision is expected at the end of September.

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

i. The Council noted that the Examination in Public of the Draft Oxfordshire Structure Plan will begin on 12th October

ii. The Council has been invited to send two representatives to the SODC 'Town and Parish Council Forum' starting at 7 pm on 22nd September. The Clerk will e-mail all councillors asking anyone wishing to attend to contact Cllr Mrs Tomline.

iii. Brian Short has written to the Clerk confirming that he will look into the suggestion of a sign towards Garsington on the Oxford Ring Road at Cowley and at the proposal that the BT pole on the narrow pavement in Wheatley Road be moved to a position where it will no longer cause an obstruction to pedestrians.

11 Village Maintenance

Matthew Rowland- Jones has sent an e-mail to Cllr Tomline rejecting the Council's request for more litter bins. Cllr Bolam has, in addition requested a litter bin for the new Oxford Road bus shelter.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for a new bin on the play area. The Clerk will see if there are some bins especially designed for this type of location and submit ideas to the next meeting. Also in September the Council will consider the re-surfacing of Sadlers Croft and an action plan for the Play Area. A second quote for the replacement gate is required.

The Council noted a report on Footpaths and Stiles prepared by Cllr Bolam. Cllr Shuker will raise some of the points with the Garsington Society.

12 Allocation of Councillors' responsibilities 2004/5

It was agreed that that Cllr Shuker should take a special interest in matters concerning the Burial Ground and Finance. The Responsibilities for Bus shelters and Public Transport and for representing the Parish at meetings of the Oxford Forum would be left vacant for the time being.

13 Land off Oxford Road

Cllr Mrs Tomline has an application for change of use, which Miss Randle at SODC has indicated could be dealt with under delegated powers. It was agreed that vehicular access to the land would be for the purpose of site maintenance only.

14 Affordable Housing

Cllr Bolam reported that the response rate of 31% for the questionnaire had been considered as 'really quite good'. The analysis of the replies should be received in time for a report to the Parish Council to be made at the September meeting.

15 Traffic Calming

The Chairman reported on what he felt had been a useful meeting with Peter Ronald, who has been seconded to the County Council to help out during this period of critical staff shortages. He had found Mr Ronald 'refreshingly candid'.

Mr Ronald has a budget but does not wish to produce a scheme for the Village as a whole because it would take too long to obtain approval. He believes that a more 'piece meal' approach would get things moving more quickly and that making the Village entry signs more visible and putting 30 mph roundels in the road would be a good first step. He also wants to give priority to locations in Wheatley Road and outside The Plough with plans for other parts of the Village to follow in future years.

Mr Ronald would like to attend the Parish Council meeting in October in order to present his ideas in detail and it was agreed that this meeting should commence earlier than the usual time of 7.30. The Clerk will make the arrangements. The public will not be invited to attend Mr Ronald's briefing of the Parish Council but all those living in close proximity to the schemes that are proposed will receive a written explanation from Mr Ronald of what is intended.

County Cllr David Turner has spoken at length with Mr. Ronald since the meeting and is taking a special interest in the development of the Garsington traffic calming measures.

The Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.