Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 1st August 2005 commencing at 7.30pm.

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

The Chairman expressed the condolences of the Council to Mrs Rosalind Ingrams upon the recent sudden death of her husband, Leonard.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Anne Eastwood who is on holiday and Cliff Moss who is unwell. County Cllr David Turner was unable to attend the meeting due to another engagement and had also sent his apologies.

2 Public Participation

a. Mrs Luckett asked about the status of the new flood prevention scheme at Larch End. It was explained that the pipe works would be completed after the harvest.

b. Mr Darnell raised the matter of parking on the grass at The Green and it was agreed that this matter should be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Council meeting.

c. Some residents expressed their concern about the new pub licensing laws. The Parish Council will be losing its opportunity to comment on such matters on a regular basis because premises licences will be long-term. The Chairman said that he would raise the matter again later in the meeting.

3 Declaration of Interest

As a close neighbour to the property, Cllr Shuker declared a personal interest in Planning Application P05/W0760 for The Three Horseshoes

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th July 2005

After the correction of a typographical error in para. 2(b) line 3 these minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i) Payphone at Kings Copse; Cllr Mrs Tomline has arranged to discuss this matter with Jaz Lally of SODC later in the week.

ii). Contact with John Palmer; the Chairman will write to Mr Palmer.

iii). Old Village Cross; the date for the start of repairs has still not been fixed – it was promised for the month of August. It was noted that the contractors have asked if the Village Hall could be made available for use by their staff.

iv). New seat at The Gizzel; this will be collected by Ian Young and installed within the next few days.

v). The value of the Village War Memorial; Michael Harris of Abingdon Stone & Marble has not yet made his valuation for insurance purposes.

vi). Consultation on SODC statement on Community Involvement in planning policy and consideration of planning issues; the Clerk was asked to reply saying that the Council believed that instead of time wasted on endless surveys and expensive reports what is required is a return to a sense of fairness in Planning Services and the prompt, vigorous enforcement of violations. There was doubt that the Planning Services ever listened to the views of local people.

vii) Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act. it was agreed that this should be placed on the agenda for the September meeting.

6 County Councillor’s Report

Through the Clerk, County Cllr David Turner asks that Cllr Cliff Moss should write to him if he wishes to take forward his complaint about the Police.

Cllr Turner says that the Heyfordian bus is a subsidised route. He is in talks with Thames Travel about improving services for King’s Copse. He wonders if there would be any merit in having the Wheatley service extended so that it turns round at King’s Copse rather than in Garsington. There was positive reaction to this suggestion and it was agreed that Cllr Baker will carry out a survey once he has received more information. Cllr Mrs Tomline will supply Cllr Turner’s e-mail address.

7 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she is very concerned about the lack of effective planning enforcement by the district council. She will supply the Clerk with a list of all the sites within the Parish where the enforcement department is involved. She would like the Parish Council to support her efforts to improve the department’s performance by writing a letter of complaint.

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she is disturbed about fly-tipping in the area and will try to get the council to install its covert camera to monitor the most affected areas.

8 Finance and cheques for signature

The Council’s bank balances were as follows:

Bank of Ireland balance at 5th July £116,198.56 (interest received £391.04)

Barclays current a/c balance at 30th July £8,702.47. There have been Burial Ground receipts of £456 and Newsletter advertising receipts of £456.

The following cheques were approved for payment:

M J Hill mounting block repairs £250.00

Biffa – Cemetery waste service £10.46

Recreational Supply Services (swing repair) £830.73

Electricity – standing charge £5.60

Mole control on Playing Fields £164.50

Clerk’s salary £290.56

Admin expenses £78.35

Wheatley Park School (donation) £50.00

Information Commissioner (Data Protection) £35.00

9 Planning

a. Applications

P05/W0760 The Three Horseshoes, The Green, re-surfacing of rear car park.

The Council considered that this application should be approved.

P05/W0822 75 Southend, Installation of two velux windows to the south elevation.

The Council considered that this application should be approved.

b. Decisions and other Planning Matters

Appeal re P04/W1216 87 Southend; extension to house and erection of double garage and summerhouse.

Appeal dismissed for several reasons. The inspector’s report will be circulated.

P05/W0591 26 Wheatley Road; removal of existing garages and erection of replacement garages. Planning permission granted 20th July

P05/W0631 185 Oxford Road; amendment to previously approved extension to change size and shape of roof.

Planning permission granted 29th July

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. The Clerk confirmed that he has been in contact with Mike Patrick concerning the Sports Club rent and supplied details of the Council’s current bank account. The next payment of £1.05 is due in mid October.

b. The SODC Leisure & Economic Development team is conducting a survey to identify the need for providing sports and physical activities in rural areas. A questionnaire needs completion by 30th September. The team would like local residents to be involved . More time can be made available if required. Details are being circulated.

c. An invitation has been received to attend the second town and parish forum at Crowmarsh on Tuesday 20th September at 6 pm Two representatives can attend. There are several workshop choices. Registration is required by 26th August.

d. Public footpath at The Hill: The Parish Council’s application to record this footpath has been submitted by OCC to an inspector from the Planning Inspectorate.

e. OCC Scrutiny programme for 2006. suggestions are wanted and the letter and leaflet will be circulated.

f. An invitation to attend SALTEX (September 6-8) free of charge will be passed to the Sports Club.

g. The Chairman said that he would respond to the town & parish survey about the free tree project. The review is in order to see if the project should be repeated.

h. The Chairman reviewed the status of the licences of the various public houses, clubs etc within the Parish. Information on this subject is available from the district council’s website. It was agreed that although the Parish Council will no longer be a statutory consultee within the licensing process, the Council should still take a view upon all applications from within the Parish which cover any form of entertainment or the sale of alcohol. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that the Parish Council would still be able to take advice from SODC’s Environmental Health section and to pass its comments.

11 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk has made copies from the annual return form of the details of what is involved in being an ‘internal auditor’. It is understood that Warborough Parish Council pays its internal auditor £200 per year.

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach Andrew King of 9 Oxford Road and ask if he would be interested in this appointment.

12 Land off Oxford Road

Cllr Shuker said that the committee has met and he will be circulating a paper to all members of the Council for discussion at the next meeting.

13 Traffic Calming

The next stage of public consultation is about to begin. Notices will be displayed within the village and advertisements will appear in the local press. Cllr Bolam said that he has received data about recent traffic surveys both in Garsington and elsewhere. He will summarise this information and distribute the conclusions to all.

14. Affordable Housing

Cllr Bolam is waiting for feedback from Suzanne Willers. The land agent for the owners of Kiln Farm (Christ Church college) has requested a meeting with the Council and Mrs Willers will be asked to advise the Council on how to proceed.

15 Village Maintenance

Ian Young has quoted £800 to cut the Playground hedge (Mr Grace had quoted £1,200) and is to be asked exactly what this covers, the work to be done in the autumn. There has been new graffiti on the notice on the gate for the play area but the Clerk has a spare copy as a replacement.

16 Burial Ground Regulations

Cllr Bolam has prepared a new version of the text but still wishes to review the order in which the regulations are published. It was pointed out that the burial fees have not been adjusted since January 2001 and it was agreed that these should be reviewed at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm