**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 5th August 2013, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), John Hieatt, Paul Bolam, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present was 1 member of the public.

8/13/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mike Patrick and Matthew Dovey both on holiday. Cllr Ian Dickinson family bereavement.

8/13/2 Declarationsof Interest

None

8/13/3 Public Participation

Mrs Nutt a resident in Southend advised the Council that approximately 5 years ago the Parish Council were going to take steps to do something about the speed of traffic in Southend. She had read in the Newsletter that discussions were taking place regarding The Hill in Oxford Road and would like an update on any plans for Southend. The Chairman, Chris Wright said the Council would look at carrying out a new speed traffic survey in Southend, it was very unfortunate that the County Councillor was not present at the meeting, as the resident had taken the trouble to attend.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the County Councillor if a new speed survey could be requested, it was suggested that the monitoring device should be sited as close as possible to 112 Southend which is about halfway along the long straight stretch of the road where vehicles appear to drive above the 30mph speed limit. County Councillor would also be asked if it was possible to provide details of when the last speed survey was carried out and if the records still existed.

Mrs Nutt also raised the lack of footpaths in certain areas of Southend particularly on the bend by the Manor, it made it very dangerous for pedestrians. This had been looked at before, but would again be brought to the attention of the County Councillor.

8/13/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 1st July 2013

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed

8/13/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

7/13/10 Cllr Anne Eastwood reported that the bag of salt stored by the shops in Elm Drive appeared to be solid.

7/13/12 Old School Garden. Chairman Chris Wright said he had spoken to John Palmer about the Conifers they had also discussed Mr Palmers possible plans for this land. There is a possibility that he might consider leasing it to the Parish Council, the plot does not have an official entrance point from the road, it is also very overgrown and would require considerable work to be carried out. It was left that Mr Palmer would come back to the Council when he had thought about it.

8/13/6 County Councillor’s Report

The County Councillor was not at the meeting

A report had been received and circulated

8/13/7 District Councillor’s Report

The District Councillor was not at the meeting

8/13/8 Community Plan – Steve Inch

Steve Inch gave a progress report, the Committee held meetings on a monthly basis.

They were still gathering information from all the Village Events, they were planning to attend the Poplar Close Fun Day, holding a Coffee Morning at Kings Copse and would attend the Fun Day at the Sports and Social Club in September.

There were still some large gaps for some age groups where input was very sparse. It was very unlikely that the final questionnaire would be ready for several months

The Litter Pick had been very successful and they were currently discussing the possibility of setting up a car share service for doctors and hospital appointments, shopping etc. This had been one of the most requested items that people had raised at the various events the Committee had already attended.

8/13/9 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 31st July 2013 £34,112.61

Payments received in July

£125 Annual rent from Sports and Social Club (this represents 125 adult members)

Council to note the DD payment to Grundons in June amounting to £66.29

The following cheques were approved for payment

Southern Electric £14.13

Colourplus August/September Newsletter £872.77

Clerks Salary £344.60

Hire of Village Hall for Community Plan Committee Meeting and Litter Pick Tea

£37.00

Audit- email confirmation has been received that the audit has been completed. The signed audit papers and the full report have not yet been received. One of the main issues raised was completion of a risk assessment for the 2012/13 period. The Auditors appointed by the Audit Commission had also requested to see copies of the Council expenditure for the last two years, although an explanation had been provided regarding the large sum of money which had been used for the Village Hall project. Cllr Paul Bolam said that he had copies of risk assessment document that had been prepared previously and he would forward them to the Clerk.

Insurance – confirmation of the renewal and insurance schedule has been received. The Blacksmith at Chalgrove Manor has said he will provide a valuation for the gates at the memorial playing field. Photographs and measurements have been sent to him by the Clerk, valuation awaited. Chairman Chris Wright confirmed that he had spoken to someone about a valuation for the War Memorial.

8/13/10 Planning

a) P13/S1706HH – College Farm Cottages, Lower Road

Proposal to replace the partly pitched and flat roofs with a new hipped pitched roof with reconstructed slate roof covering to match more with the existing house roof.

There were no objections to this application

P13/S1761/HH – 12 Southend

Proposed single storey rear extension

The Council were in agreement that permission should be refused, it is in the conservation area and it is overdevelopment of the site.

8/13/11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Letter received from Marion Gunther regarding the increasing traffic problems in Pettiwell and the damage to the verges.

Chairman Chris Wright suggested that we ask for the weight limit on this road to be reduced, also improved signs were suggested. Clerk to write to County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay Gail for further advice on this.

Rob Jeffery had emailed on behalf of the Sports and Social Club requesting permission, for additional area for parking for the fun day planned for September, mini car boot sale at the same event, and erection of a marquee for a wedding in September. Permission was agreed for all items

He also raised the plans the Club are currently discussing to improve the building, Chairman Chris Wright had already been approached by the Club Chairman, Tony Price. It was agreed that the Council would assist them where possible and requested that the Council be kept advised of any future discussions.

8/13/12 Playground Safety

Safety Inspection would take place in August, Cllr Paul Bolam would be present at the inspection

8/13/13 Village Maintenance

Bollards at the Wheatley Road/North Manor Junction, it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a meeting with Malcolm Hill at the site. It was felt that 30 Bollards was too many and the cost needed to be reduced by half. At the present time only one end of the road would have the bollards installed. Clerk to keep the residents of North Manor informed.

Grass Cutting – The long grass had been cut in Parsler Piece, this was too soon and would affect the wild flowers. Clerk to circulate the grass cutting specification for further discussion.

Litter Bin – Kiln Lane - The Waste Team at SODC were looking at this and would report back

Footpath opposite the Old Bake House – Cllr Paul Bolam raised the problems of the Willow Trees that were growing out of the bank some of which are very tall. It was agreed to wait until the next meeting when Cllr Mike Patrick returned from holiday.

8/13/14 Village Bus Service

Deferred until the next meeting

8/13/15 Community Assets

See 8/13/5

8/13/16 School Transport

To be discussed at the next meeting, as neither the County Councillor, or Cllr Matthew Dovey were present

8/13/17 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Oxford Road Speed Monitoring- reports still awaited

8/13/18 Any Other Business

Green area by the alley on the Hill – Cllr Judith Westgate reported that on the Enclosure Maps this area did not appear to be assigned to anyone. Chairman Chris Wright suggested that it should be registered as common land/village green. It was suggested that a first step might be to look at how the Gizzle was registered. Clerk would contact Geoff Russell to see if he can help with this.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**SEPTEMBER 2013**

**BETTER BROADBAND FOR OXFORDSHIRE**

 On Monday 5 August, the County Council announced that BT will be the provider for a multi-million pound investment in the county’s broadband network and infrastructure. Faster broadband is vital to Oxfordshire’s economy and the aim of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme is to extend the reach of superfast broadband to an additional 65,000 homes and businesses by the end of 2015. The £25 million programme is made up of £10 million from the council, £4 million from the government and £11 million from BT. We have been able to make a large contribution by including the replacement of the County Council’s own network in this contract and therefore getting better value for money for the public purse.

This is good news for the 90%+ premises that are included in the bid. However for areas that are not included, (in this Division they are Warborough, Shillingford and Nuneham Courtenay) the question is why not?

The contract we agreed was based on achieving the maximum coverage for the county for the funding available. There has been months of technical work on the bid to ensure maximum value for Oxfordshire’s taxpayers.  Those communities that find themselves in the 2-24Mbps areas on the map are those where it is currently most challenging to extend broadband infrastructure.

The map is indicative, giving preliminary coverage. From now through to December 2013, BT will send crews out across Oxfordshire to assess the situation on the ground. It may be the case that where conditions differ from contract assumptions, the coverage areas may change.

Further funding may become available that could enable coverage to be extended further. District Councils have an option through our contract with BT to contribute additional funding to secure further coverage in their area. Some communities are also pursuing funding available from DEFRA designed to support broadband extension into the most challenging rural areas. At a national level, Government has also very recently (June) announced an additional £250 Million to help extend broadband coverage to 95% of the country and we are awaiting details on how we can access that funding.

If you would like a more detailed conversation on the situation in your parish, please feel free to get in touch with someone from the programme team.  In the first instance please contact Lisa Michelson, Broadband Community Engagement Lead at the council.  She can be reached at 01865 815673 or lisa.michelson@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

**HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

The consultation into Home to School Transport has been delayed. The County Council is now waiting for guidance from central government, and it looks as if any proposals may not come into force until 2015 as a result.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

There are a number of funds available to local organisations in the Division.

* **Councillors Community Budgets**

We have continued to fund these popular local funds to support local organisations. If you know of any organisations that might be interested, please contact me or seek further information at *http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/councillor-community-budgets*

* **Area Stewardship Funding**

These are continuing but are now organised differently. I will attend meetings with other councillors in my locality to pool our funds together for greater effect where possible. It is used to fund highway issues in particular.

* **Chillout Fund**

We have continued a £100,000 fund to support projects for children and young people across the County. More information is available at *http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/chill-out-fund-youth-activities-and-projects*