**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 4th August, 2014 commencing at 7.30pm The Vice Chairman, Anne Eastwood presided: present were Cllrs Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were 4 members of the public plus District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie and County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay- Gale who joined the meeting at 7.45pm.

8/14/1 Apologies for Absence

Chairman Chris Wright – ill

Cllr Ian Dickinson – work commitments

8/14/2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Paul Bolam declared an interest in planning application P14/S2252/HH 151 Oxford Road.

8/14/3 Public Participation

Mrs Holmes asked the Vice Chairman why an emergency public meeting had not been called to discuss the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031, she felt that a lot of residents would not have understood the importance of responding, particularly as it did not specify the site at Grenoble Road in the options, she also said the information given in the leaflet was not clear and the response form on the website that you were asked to use was very difficult to complete.

Vice Chairman Anne Eastwood explained that the date for responding only gave the Parish Council a short amount of time and they had contacted as many residents as possible via Garsington Society, personal contacts and leaflets. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said that she did appreciate that it was difficult to understand the options, she also apologised for the website problems however alternative addresses for responding had been passed to Parish Councils. The Clerk said that these alternative addresses had been attached to the leaflets that had been distributed throughout the Village.

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said that a public meeting had been arranged at Sandford, at which she had spoken, she also felt that not specifically mentioning Grenoble Road had perhaps worked to our advantage, if it had been clearly identified it could have generated a massive response from residents in other areas mentioned in the options, who would be quite happy for houses to be built here rather than in their own areas. Mrs Holmes asked why residents had not been informed about the meeting in Sandford. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said that Chris Wright had attended. In her view this was only the beginning, there would be many opportunities in the future to call public meetings, this was only the preliminary round of discussions. They were testing the water and villages would need to arrange meetings to keep residents informed, particularly when the next stage of the Strategic Housing Policy came up for consultation. Mrs Holmes made the point that 92% of residents in Garsington had indicated in the Village Plan Survey that they wished to remain a village and not become part of the Oxford City. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said protecting the Green Belt remained one of her priorities and she would continue to fight to protect it.

8/14/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 7th July 2014

The Minutes as circulated were adopted and signed.

8/14/5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

8/14/6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale circulated her report to Councillors and apologised for not emailing it prior to the meeting.

She outlined some of the items in the report, the success of local athletes at the Commonwealth Games, the successful traffic management for the GLA Games Fair at Blenheim Palace, the launch of the Oxford Station Masterplan. The report also included items of local interest for the Parishes, this was welcomed. County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay Gale reported that she had recently visited Garsington with the Area Steward, Keith Stenning to look at all the outstanding items that needed to be addressed by the County Council, she had now agreed a list of jobs that would be carried out and paid for from her Stewardship Expenditure for the Berinsfield and Garsington Division.

The Area Steward had also had a meeting with Vice Chairman Anne Eastwood regarding the water running down the hill in Oxford Road and the ditch that needed maintenance behind Larch End, which had been installed some time ago following flooding to properties. After speaking to one of the residents in Larch End it was discovered that maintenance of this ditch was the responsibility of SODC. The Area Steward whilst on site spoke to the person responsible at SODC and arranged for the work to be carried out.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale reported that the speed survey in Southend had now been arranged, she apologised for the oversight. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with Nigel Clarke at OCC and arranged for the survey to be done in September when the Schools returned and the remedial work that was currently being carried out in Southend to deal with the springs was completed. Vice Chairman Anne Eastwood reported that water was now coming out of the bank on the other side of the road County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she had seen this.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she had attended the Fun Day in Poplar Close the previous Saturday and in spite of the rain it appeared to be well attended, she had been very pleased to give £500 from her budget to assist with the running of this event.

8/14/7 District Councillor’s Report

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie reported that much of her time recently had been taken up with the Local Plan 2031 and the Strategic Housing Policy, the numbers were being challenged. She said she felt this was a battle that could be won and as stated earlier her main priority was to continue the fight to protect the Green Belt.

A question was raised regarding the reference to Travellers Sites in the Local Plan 2031, it was requested that any reference to Kiln Lane should be removed. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie agreed this had been temporary permission for one plot and said she would be keeping an eye on this in any future discussions.

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay- Gale left the meeting

8/14/8 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 31st July 2014 £39,662.57

Receipts in July £774 Burial Fees

Council noted the DD payment to Grundon in July amounting to £79.26

The following cheques were approved and signed,

SODC Dog Bin Emptying Jan to March £75.35

Colourplus Aug/September Newsletter £756.74

ROSPA Playsafety Inspection Report £99.60

Renewal of Data Protection Registration £35.00

Clerks Salary (including agreed back pay) £326.14

HMRC/PAYE £81.40

Administration Costs £42.15

Audit

The Clerk reported that all the paperwork had been passed to Auditors appointed by the Audit Commission, they had asked for more details regarding why expenditure this year was so much less than last year and how the figures for the Asset Register had been calculated. The Clerk had sent them all the information requested, a report explaining the differences had been sent with the audit papers originally but more in depth explanation had been required. The Clerk had also received notification that a qualification would be put on the accounts, because they had not been submitted before the 30th June 2014, no additional fee was to be levied on this occasion. The Clerk explained that although the accounts had been ready before this date they had not been signed off until the July Meeting. Cllr Mike Patrick suggested that in future a brief meeting should be called once the accounts were ready to avoid this happening.

8/14/9 Planning

P14/S2252/HH 151 Oxford Road

Two storey side extension

Cllr Paul Bolam declared an interest in this application, the remaining Councillors present did not have any objection to the application.

P14/S2421/HH 5 Pine Close

Demolition of Conservatory, erection of single storey rear and side extension – resubmission

No objections were raised.

8/14/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Mr Tipping had responded to previous correspondence regarding his rate of pay, the figure he had suggested was £7.00 per hour. The Clerk said that he was currently paid £6.19 in line with the current minimum wage, Cllr Mike Patrick said this was due to increase at the end of the year. It was generally felt that the amount of £7.00 requested was not excessive and this was agreed. Clerk will inform Mr Tipping.

New Gates on Public Footpaths, email had been received from Tina Everett with a draft letter seeking permission from the landowners which needed to be sent from the Parish Council. Cllr Judith Westgate said that she had walked the paths with Tina where it was proposed the new gates would be installed, the positions on the original map were not quite correct this had been amended. Clerk would write the letters and send them to Tina who would send to the landowners with the amended footpath map.

NAG’s Report this had been circulated, Cllr Matthew Dovey said that some of the items currently being discussed relevant to issues in our area and he would for the time being arrange to attend these meetings. Clerk will let David Turner know.

8/14/11 Playground

The annual inspection report had been received and circulated.

Cllr Paul Bolam highlighted some of the problems that had been raised in the report.

1. Bark under the aerial runway needed attention, a working party would be organised to rake the bark and redistribute it. It was not felt that additional bark needed to be purchased at present.

2. Carousel - although there was some noise from this when it use, it was decided not to take any action it had been highlighted as a fairly low risk on the report.

Most of the equipment had received a fairly low risk score, there were some problems noted with decaying of timbers on some of the equipment and also that perhaps some of the equipment needed updating. Regular monitoring would continue.

Cllr Paul Bolam suggested that perhaps the Council should look to purchase some new equipment. Residents had indicated in the Garsington Plan Survey that play equipment would be welcomed at the lower end of the village, Poplar Close or Parsler’s Piece. Cllr Paul Bolam said he would contact Playdale and get details and prices for new equipment one of the items suggested was a big oval swing. It was generally felt that residents of Poplar Close should be consulted before any equipment was installed in this area.

8/14/12 Village Maintenance

Burial Ground – still awaiting confirmation from PCC.

Badgers – Clerk reported that she had spoken to Lucy James, Natural England and chased the licence, Lucy James confirmed that she had issued the licence but it comes from head office in Bristol and she would chase them. She also confirmed that the holes which had not been active since the monitoring of the site began in June could be filled in. The large hole which still appeared to be active needed to have a badger gate installed this would prevent the badgers going back into the tunnel if they were using it. It was agreed that this should be purchased, Clerk to action. Once the gate was in place the area would need to be monitored for a further for 28 days to check if it was still being used.

The Clerk had also spoken to Malcolm Hill regarding the possibility of sinking wire to a depth of 1.5m into the perimeter of the burial ground where the badger sett was located. The Clerk felt he would treat this work sensitively as he had family graves very close to where the work needed to be carried out.

A decision needed to be taken on how much of the burial ground needed to be wired off, a quote could then be obtained. We only have until December to take any action before hibernation and breeding starts again. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Trees and Hedges – Cllr Mike Patrick said that some of the work had been carried out by residents. Vice Chairman Anne Eastwood said that she would be taking action shortly to get her hedge cut back.

Clerk reported that whilst walking in Southend recently she had been unable to use the pavement by the letterbox because of the overhanging brambles and hedge. Cllr Mike Patrick said he would ask Positive Tree Care to quote for cutting this hedge back.

Footpaths and Rights of Way, following Marion Gunthers article in the recent Newsletter she had reported to the Clerk that the Rix family had kindly cleared much of the overgrown footpath from Pettiwell steps leading to the Church for which she was very grateful. Clerk to thank the Rix family. The Clerk said this was not the only overgrown area another was the walk beside the Gizzle, the seat could not be used due to the brambles. Vice Chairman Anne Eastwood said the Garsington Society used to organise working parties to clear the footpaths and mended stiles and gates, this had not happened recently. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact David Mather who was the footpath officer for the Garsington Society to see if they could help.

8/14/13 Community Plan

Steve Inch had come to the meeting expecting to get answers on items 35,36 and 37 from the Parish Council, this had not been discussed or actioned and would need to be carried over to the next meeting.

He also reported that the meetings were being set up between residents who had expressed an interest in a Swap Shop for Garsington, Litter Picking, Planting of Bulbs and Neighbourhood Watch. Two dates had been provisionally booked 6th and 24th September.

Unfortunately Trish Stableford who had been the coordinator for the original litter pick and Marlies James who had been the coordinator for the Neighbourhood Watch were no longer able to help with any future activities. The Dementia Friendly meetings that had taken place looked as if they would result in a Good Neighbour Scheme being set up.

The Clerk said she had received some wholesale bulb and planter catalogues that she could pass to Steve Inch.

8/14/14 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey said he did not have much to report, the main area of concern was the bus going into Unipart often with nobody using the service.

Cllr Mike Patrick said it had added an extra fifteen minutes to his journey that day, due to the bus having to wait at Unipart Security whilst lorries were checked, he could understand the service going into Unipart at peak service times but it seemed ridiculous that this needed to happen throughout the day at off peak times.

8/14/15 Policing /Speed Monitoring

The latest Police report had been circulated to all Councillors, in response to the question raised by Chairman Chris Wright, PCSO Ken Cooney had reported that the items under miscellaneous were anything that were not serious crimes, such as requests for information from other agencies, minor incidents not crime related and hoax calls.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that he and Cllr Mike Patrick had met with PCSO Ken Cooney regarding sites for the Speed Indicator Device, this had been a successful meeting with several sites identified. Cllr Dovey reported that he had spoken to the County Council Highways Department just to check if they needed to be informed, and whilst initially they did not seem interested they subsequently asked about a Risk Assessment being carried out. PCSO Ken Cooney had confirmed that when the device was fitted for the first time a risk assessment would be carried out. The device had not yet been ordered as confirmation was still awaited about fixing the device to existing street furniture.

Whilst meeting with PCSO Ken Cooney, Cllr Matthew Dovey had raised the issue of the 30mph roundels which had been refused on the road in Oxford Road due to it being a built up area, PCSO Ken Cooney pointed out they had them in Wheatley which was also a built up area.

8/14/16 Any Other Business

Cllr Mike Patrick had received a request from the Sports Club to use the top of the Memorial Playing field on 31st August 2014, there were no objections to this. Cllr Patrick would let them know.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported on the progress of faster broadband for the Village, BT would be installing new boxes in the area, Cllr Mike Patrick asked if planning permission was needed. It was understood that this was not necessary.

Communicating with Residents.

Following the recent problems experienced in contacting residents for the Local Plan 2031 it was agreed that some action needed to be taken. Cllr Judith Westgate said that although email addresses were a good idea it would not be possible to contact everyone by this method, she had a number of neighbours who did not have computers or use email and how would they be contacted.

It was agreed an article needed to go in the next Newsletter to encourage people where possible to sign up with email addresses, but it would also necessary to provide an alternative service for anyone who did not have this facility. To be discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm