Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Sports Club, Denton Lane on Monday 6th December 2004 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Anne Eastwood, Cliff Moss, Gurdip Saini and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. District Cllr Ann Tomline was present for part of the meeting. Also present were nine residents of the Parish, Mr David Hignell and Inspector Graham Sutherland from Thames Valley Police.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Paul Bolam and John Goodey. County Cllr David Turner had sent a message saying that he hoped to attend before the end of the meeting.

2 Public Participation

a. Inspector Sutherland said that there are now three area beat officers based at Wheatley and a Community Support Officer has also recently been appointed. The Inspector's aim is to increase the visible presence of the police on foot. In the longer term he is keen to improve the facilities at Wheatley and to increase the numbers of hours that this office is open, possibly with the help of volunteers.

In response to several comments about the problems of parking outside the School, Inspector Sutherland said that he would get a police officer and the area traffic warden to visit and advise how these problems should be avoided. He preferred this option as a first step rather than issuing tickets. The area traffic warden is mainly deployed in Thame and Watlington.

Inspector Sutherland explained the system for dealing with telephone calls to the police. These are now handled by call centres at Kidlington and Windsor where they are graded for priority. Less urgent matters may receive a follow up the next day.

b. Basil Townsend wanted more information about the fees paid to the architects of the proposed community hall and said that there should be a public meeting to discuss the traffic calming proposals as soon as these were known. He felt that the purchase of the land off Oxford Road had been an unwise use of Parish resources and cautioned against further large expenditure on repairs to both the Old Village Cross and 'unadopted' roads. He wanted the Parish Council to set as low a Precept as possible for 2005/6.

c. Monica Ward said that she hoped that if permission is granted to change the use of land at The Well House from agricultural land to paddock, there should be conditions attached which limited riding and prevented the erection of jumps etc.

d. Mr David Hignell addressed the Council in support of the planning applications from his clients that would be discussed later in the meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 1st November 2004

After some amendments these were approved and signed as a correct record. The changes were that in the District Cllr's Report comment about the owners of King's Copse was changed from 'have been' to 'will be' instructed; in the list of cheques that a cheque was paid to Cliff Moss for £204.52 for playground repairs and not to Cliff Shuker; and 'the Club and the Club' is changed to 'the Club and the Council' in paragraph 10.i.'

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. The Clerk reported the response that he had received from Mr Collins of 19 Oxford Road regarding the letter that had been sent about inappropriate planting. It was agreed that this matter should be discussed at the January meeting.

b. The Clerk confirmed that he has told the Highways Inspector that in the Parish Council's view repairs to Elm Drive are needed.

c. The report concerning the responsibility for maintenance of the trees at 1 Birch Road was discussed. The County has pointed out certain difficulties that need to be resolved before any action can be taken. Cllr Moss said that he would discuss this matter with Mr Crooks, the property owner.

d. The Clerk reported that the Sports Club's rental payments have not been received. Cllr Moss said he would try and clarify what Mr Patrick had had in mind when he asked the Council to pay an honorarium to Trevor Woodington, who cuts the grass outside the playground.

e. The Chairman had attended the meeting of the Five Parishes about the A329/B480. Peter Ronald has been given the task of developing a weight limit strategy for the area.

f. The District Council has informed the Clerk that the supply of free trees has now been exhausted.

g. Cllr Bolam reported that some sites have been identified as being potentially suitable for affordable housing and these are to be discussed with planning officers.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor David Turner had been detained at another meeting but, through the Clerk, he reported that he been told by Peter Ronald that the Council will be provided with details of the proposed traffic calming schemes for Wheatley Road and Oxford Road in February.

7 District Councillor’s Report

District Councillor Ann Tomline said that residents from King's Copse had attended a recent meeting that had been held to provide an overview of the new regulations concerning residential parks. She said that the Licensing Consultation had produced a lot of comments and that a revised document will be distributed early in 2005.

8 Finance and cheques for signature / Change to bank mandate

The change to the bank mandate would be put on hold pending Cllr Bolam's return.

Balances were reported as:

Bank of Ireland £112,975.68 with November interest of £406.32

Barclays Bank balance at 30th November £10,194.19

The following cheques were approved for payment:

BIFFA Waste Services £118.68

HHB Architects (on account) £1,810.97

Clerk's Salary (November/Dec) £262.69

Admin Expenses November £66.04

Cliff Moss (playground gates) £185.00

Mr N Nott £10.00

Mr E Tipping (mower parts) £59.85

Appeals received from the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind and the Oxfordshire Woodland Project will be held over for a decision at the next meeting.

With regard to the 2005/6 precept it was agreed that the Clerk will liaise with the Chairman and Cllr Shuker before the next meeting. A revised quotation for work on the Old Cross is awaited from IJP Building Conservation Ltd.

9 Planning Applications

P04/W1201 159, Oxford Road; erection of a two-storey rear extension as amended by drawing and agent's letter of 21st November

The Council had no strong views upon this application

P04/W1215/O Willow House, 87 Southend; erection of a new dwelling

The Council considered that this application should be approved as being an appropriate development. It was understood that some comment had been made that this property is outside the area of the village development but this was not regarded as a significant matter.

P04/W1216 Willow House, 87 Southend; erection of a two-storey extension to dwelling. Erection of a detached double garage and summerhouse.

The Council considered that this application should be approved as being an appropriate development.

P04/W1239/O Farthings, 91, Southend; erection of one detached dwelling and garage

The Council considered that this application should be approved as being an appropriate development

P04/W1250 Scrubland adjacent to Guydens Farm; change of use from agricultural into domestic garden

The Council considered that this application should be approved as being an appropriate development

P04/W1294 75 Southend; glazed link extension between house and outbuildings

The Council had no strong views upon this application

P04/W1330 15 North Manor Road; additional unit of accommodation

The Council considered that this application should be approved as being an appropriate development

b). Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters

PO4/W0178 Proposal for new Community Hall

There is a time limit for making an appeal, which is three months from the date of the decision being made. A meeting with SODC has been planned to see in what way the application could be amended in order to make it acceptable, but it will not be possible to arrange this meeting within the time limit for an appeal.

It was agreed that an appeal should be lodged. The grounds for the appeal must be stated on the application. These would be discussed with Mr Peter Rodger and the architect and reported to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

It was noted that architects' fees to date total £10,788.75 excluding VAT.

P04/W1151 The Well House, 15, Southend: Change of use from agricultural land to paddock and relocation of existing stable building to new paddock. The Clerk had been contacted by the Planning Officer following the Council's response to consultation after its discussion at the November meeting. The Officer was concerned that the application may have been misunderstood and also asked if the Council would agree to support the application if a screen of trees were planted.

After some discussion the Council agreed that it was confident that the original application had been fully understood and that the suggestion of a screen of trees would make no difference to its complete opposition to the proposal.

The Council noted the following decisions:

PO4/W1006 24 The Hill

Notice of intention to appeal against refusal of SODC to grant planning permission to Dr Green for the demolition of a section of wall.

PO4/W0862 May Cottage, 118 Oxford Road

Planning permission granted 29th October for extension to provide consulting rooms.

PO4/W1036 24 Combewell

Planning permission granted 29th October for side/rear single storey extension.

PO4/W1102 21 The Hill

Planning permission granted 24th November for greenhouse.

PO4/W1112 Lomond House Southend

Planning permission refused 25th November for change of use of garden room etc and erection of detached garage.

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. Mr Luckett had written to the Chairman complaining about people parking on the new pavement at Larch End.

b. The Council has received notice that the Justices Licence at The Three Horseshoes is about to be transferred.

c. A copy of the draft order and notice of the proposal to restrict traffic speed to 30 mph along a length of the A329 Thame Road at Little Milton had been received.

d. Details of the report on the Parish Forum, the 'Quiet Lane' scheme in the Chilterns and the new Dial A Ride scheme have been received and will be circulated. It was agreed that publicity should be given to the Dial A Ride scheme.

e. A press release about SODC's Christmas rubbish collections and recycling had been received too late for inclusion in the Newsletter. The Clark has asked SODC to release this information earlier in 2005.

11 Village Maintenance

The new gates for the Play Area access have been fitted. The Clerk was asked to write a thank you letter to Cllr Cliff Moss, and to Steve McInerney and Mick North who had helped to install them.

The new Play Area litterbin has been promised but not yet installed. The supply and service arrangements for litter bins elsewhere in the village remains problematic because the District Council does not yet agree the need for them.

The Clerk is to meet a contractor who will quote for a new surface under the aerial ride on the play area as a replacement for the bark which is currently used and is difficult to keep tidy.

The Chairman asked Cllrs Anne Eastwood and Cliff Shuker if they would let him have a list of village maintenance tasks and routines that need attention, although suggestions from all councillors would be welcome.

The Clerk was asked to contact the owners of the businesses on Elm Drive to see what could be done to tidy up the area and also Mr John Palmer concerning the land adjacent to the Old School House.

A quotation for tarmac repairs and resurfacing in the area of The Hill has been received from White Horse Contractors. The total costs exceeded £6,000 and other quotations would be required and invited in the New Year.

12 Land off Oxford Road

A quotation for site clearing, stone burying, seeding and the supply wildflower turf strips has been received from White Horse Contractors. The total costs exceeded £9,000 and other quotations would be required and invited in the New Year.

The question of providing fencing should also be discussed.

13 Parish Council vacancies

The Returning Officer has received no indication that residents wish that a by-election should take place and it is now open to the Council to co-opt new members to fill the two vacancies.

14 Traffic Calming

The Chairman confirmed that he has met again with Peter Ronald and that ideas for Oxford Road had been discussed as well as ways of slowing traffic at The Plough junction. It was planned that Mr Ronald would present his ideas for discussion at the February meeting with implementation to be scheduled for 2005/6.

# The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 10th January 2005

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm