Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th February 2005 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors 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 eight residents of the Parish

1. Apologies for Absence

The Council accepted the following apologies: Cllrs Paul Bolam, who had been delayed at another meeting, and Anne Eastwood, who was on holiday.

Apologies were also received from County Cllr David Turner

2 Public Participation

a. Ernie Tipping commented upon the Chairman's latest column in the Garsington Newsletter. The Chairman said that his comments had been intended to provoke comment and interest and would be discussed later under Correspondence.

b. Mr Tipping asked that councillors should speak more loudly during the meetings so that the public could hear what was being said and complained that the Parish Council did not seem to get much done; cutting the perimeter hedge at the Play Area and levelling of graves in the Burial Ground being two examples.

c. Basil Townsend and Mr Tipping both asked for the vandalised post box in Wheatley Road to be re-instated.

d. Mr Townsend said that he greatly regretted the further increases in Council Tax and said that many people on low incomes just could not afford to pay.

3 Parish Council vacancies

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no response to the invitation to the electors of Garsington to call for an election so the Council is now free to co-opt members to fill the three vacancies.

The Chairman said that he had received a letter from Mr David Baker of 66 Beta Boulevard, Kings Copse saying that he would be interested in becoming a council member. Councillors unanimously agreed that Mr Baker would be an excellent addition to the Parish Council and he was co-opted forthwith.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Baker to the Council. The Clerk will prepare the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for signature at the next meeting and will also bring Cllr Baker full details about the Code of Conduct for signature in due course.

4 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cliff Shuker declared a personal prejudicial interest in Planning Application P05/W0052 as a near neighbour to the applicant at 18 The Green

Councillor Godfrey Eden, due to his employment by the artist in residence at Garsington Manor in 2001, declared an interest in the PEL Annual Licence, The Great Barn. Garsington Manor.

5 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 10th January 2005

There were no requests for amendment to the draft which had been circulated and the Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Cllr Moss said that the schools have made a formal application to make use of the sports field. The Chairman said that he would find out if this is to be a regular occurrence and, if so, whether the arrangements for paying a fee could start again.

b The Clerk confirmed that the District Council will be supplying ten small free trees (3 Oak, 3 Scots Pine, 2 Sweet Chestnut, and 2 Walnut) and the Chairman asked councillors for their suggestions as to where they should be planted.

c. The Clerk has written to Mr Malcolm Roberts and to the County Council about the hedge in Kiln Lane and to Mrs Rix about her request for traffic calming measures in Pettiwell.

d. District Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she had asked the Council to investigate the lack of emptying of the litterbin halfway down the hill on Oxford Road. This is frequently over-flowing.

e It was agreed that the Council would offset its recent hire (£10) of the Sports Club against the arrears of rent.

f. There is to be a meeting with the District Council planners on 8th February to discuss the Community Hall project. The Chairman will report progress at the next Council meeting.

g. The Chairman will make contact with John Palmer about the site adjacent to the Old School.

h. The Council noted that Alison Jones is applying for the transfer of the licence for The Three Horseshoes into her name from the names of Mr Viney and Mr Dearie.

i. Cllr Moss reported that the County is going to obtain a quotation for cutting back the trees by 1 Birch Road. The County, however, expects the householder to pay for this work although it may agree to make a contribution towards the total cost.

7 County Councillor’s Report

Through the Clerk, County Cllr David Turner reported that Peter Ronald, the Area Engineer, is getting Mike Dickerson to inspect the elm trees at Guydens Farm tomorrow. Apparently they did look at them quite some time ago but did not consider them dangerous at the time. County policy is only to remove dead trees when they become dangerous. They will now re-assess the situation and report back.

Mr Ronald will be attending the March meeting and will supply the Parish Council with two costed traffic-calming proposals, one for Wheatley Road and the other for Oxford Road. He has received a letter from a resident in Pettiwell asking about traffic calming measures but it is difficult to see what measures could be put into place particularly because of how narrow the road is.

With reference to the request from Mr. McInerney about a Garsington sign off the Cowley works roundabout, Mr Ronald is checking on the County policy but thinks it generally only permits signs to the next significant road junction, which in this case would be the junction of the B480 and the A329 at Stadhampton. He will report the full details at the March meeting.

Cllr Turner is attending a meeting tomorrow morning with the Area Engineer, three other County Councillors and the Police to discuss the weight restriction proposals for which Peter Ronald has been given the task of finalising proposals. The Police claim that the current system works very well but Cllr Turner will take the survey figures that refute this statement.

8 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Ann Tomline said that she had been in touch with Mike Dickerson about various highways issues including the lack of progress repairing the collapsed bank to the side of the high path in Southend. She commended the Community Action Group (CAG) meeting about waste recycling to be held at Wheatley. Cllr Moss said that he had been unable to attend the briefing meeting about the new licensing arrangements. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she was sure that Jas. Lally of Environmental Health would be able to give advice when required. She commented that implementation of the scheme had been delayed because the Government had incorrectly printed a form.

9 Finance

Balances:

Bank of Ireland Account 14th January £113,779.53 (January interest £396.06)

Barclays Community A/c 31st January £5,353.18

January income: Advertising income £760 Burial ground fees £79.

The following cheques were approved:

Biffa Waste Services (delivery charge) £4.70

Colourplus (Dec/Jan) £585.54

Clerk salary Jan/Feb £262.69

Admin expenses £39.70

Oxfordshire Woodland Project £50.00

An appeal concerning the Oxfordshire Playbus scheme will be circulated for further consideration.

Cllr Cliff Shuker signed the bank mandate

10 Planning

a. Applications

P05/W0008 23 The Hill;

Single storey rear extension

It was unanimously agreed that this Application should be approved

P05/W0026 14 Combewell;

Demolition of existing garage and construction of a new garage to include cloakroom and utility room

It was agreed by 3 votes to 2 that this Application should be approved

P05/W0040 131 Oxford Road;

Proposed two storey and single storey rear extension to existing dwelling

It was unanimously agreed that this Application should be refused.

P05/W0109/RET The Red Lion, Oxford Road

Installation of kitchen extract ductwork; to erect parapet screen to existing kitchen ductwork

It was unanimously agreed that this Application should be approved

(Cllr Cliff Shuker left the room while the following application was discussed)

P05/W0052 18 The Green

Conversion of existing barn/ancillary building into a small one-bedroom dwelling

Two letters of objection had been received from neighbours.

It was agreed by 3 votes to 1 that this Application should be refused on the grounds that what was being proposed represented an over development of the site and an aggravation to already serious problems concerning car parking and traffic.

b) Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters

75 Southend PO4/W1294 Glazed link extension between house and outbuildings

Planning permission granted 12th January

15 North Manor Road PO4/W1330 Additional unit of accommodation.

Application withdrawn

Lower Farm House P04/W1095 Erection of detached garage, carport and stores

Planning permission granted 13th January

161 Oxford Road P04/W0953 Appeal has been lodged against the Council's refusal of planning permission for an extension to the first floor and dormer window to the existing loft space. The Parish Council does not wish to make any representation at this appeal.

18 The Green

It was understood that enforcement action is already being taken against a previous sub-division of this property.

11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

(Cllr Godfrey Eden left the room while the following application was discussed)

a. Licensing Consultation PEL Annual Licence The Great Barn

There was no objection.

b. Information about grants for Environmental Improvement Schemes

This was passed to Cllr Shuker.

c Christine Ravenscroft had sent an e-mail to the Chairman about his comments in the recent issue of the Garsington Newsletter. The Chairman said that he had replied explaining that his purpose had been to stimulate interest and debate. He had received a number of comments, not all of them negative. Cllr Moss said that it was understandable that some people had been offended. In his view there really are a great number of activities being carried out in the village. Cllr Baker suggested that more people would be interested in the Parish Council if more people knew what the Council did. He suggested that Council minutes should be posted onto the notice boards and printed in the Newsletter.

d. Details about plans to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II will be circulated along with comments received from ORCC about the status of Parish Plans within the parishes of the county.

e. The Clerk was asked to contact Royal Mail to request that the Wheatley Road letterbox be restored.

12 Village Maintenance

a. It was agreed that the cost of a surface to replace the play bark is prohibitive. Councillors were asked to consider what maintenance routines should be introduced to improve the current situation.

b The grass cutting quotation received from Young Brothers represented a large increase over the previous year. It was decided that the Clerk should write and ask Ian Young to agree to hold this price for 2006 as well. If he would do this then the Council will accept the quote.

c. Some quotations for other village maintenance work have been received but at least one more is expected. It was agreed to defer a decision until were received.

d The Clerk will contact Mr Grace about cutting the hedge by the play area.

13 Land off Oxford Road

More quotations are required.

14. Review of Councillors' Register of Interests

Cllrs Eden, Moss and Saini said that no changes are required but Cllr Shuker said that he needed to add that on a regular basis he provides bed and breakfast to electricians who work at Garsington Opera.

Cllrs Bolam and Eastwood will be asked to review their declarations at the next meeting.

15 Consultation on The South East Plan

County Cllr Turner suggested that it would be best if the Parish Council was represented at the SEERA meeting in Oxford Town Hall on 9th February. This would help to balance the argument against those in the City who want to build in the Green Belt adjacent to Garsington. Cllr Shuker said that he would attend.

The Clerk said that a quantity of briefing material is available.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 7th March 2005. Cllr Saini said that he would be unable to attend as he will be away.

# The Meeting closed at 9.38 pm