#### Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 5th January 2004 commencing at 7.30 pm

1. The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, John Goodey, Cliff Moss and Gurdip Saini with G Russell in attendance. Also present were 5 residents of the Parish.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ann Tomline, due to illness, and from County Councillor David Turner. Cllr Turner said that his term of office as Chair of Oxfordshire County Council comes to an end on April 6th and he hoped that he would have more time to attend Parish Council meetings after that date.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Eastwood said that they had an interest in the application in the application for a PEL Annual Licence at The Great Barn, Southend

4 Public Participation

(i) Mr Ernie Tipping referred to the top hedge near the play area and asked if the Council would be obtaining contractors' estimates. The Chairman replied that when it was known which Councillor would be taking special responsibility for the play area it would be up to that person to make recommendations to the rest of the Council. Cllr Eden said that a special Council meeting could be held on this matter if required.

(ii) Mr Tipping said that the trees in Pettiwell require attention and the Chairman asked the Clerk to write to Mrs Osborn about this.

(iii) Mr McInerney asked about the status of the new Village Hall project. The Chairman replied that there is a need for clarification as what proposals would meet with the approval of the planning officers.

(iv) Mr McInerney said that there ought to be a sign pointing towards Garsington at the roundabout at Cowley. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask County Highways about this.

(v) Monica Waud asked why some Councillors believe that it is appropriate to declare an interest in the matter of The Great Barn's PEL Licence while other Councillors believe that they have no such interest. It was explained that in such matters each Councillor has to make a personal judgement. There is an established procedure for complaint when it is felt that a councillor has not acted correctly.

5 Minutes of the Meeting of 1st December 2003

Two changes to the minutes as previously circulated were agreed.

Page 42 par.6(i) now read

'there had been over 3,000 objections to the proposal for new housing on land south of Grenoble road which is detailed in the County's draft structure plan.'

And page 44 12 (ii) now read

'Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she had spoken to Mr. Pym and the Council on this matter and evidence in the form of a diary of times the barking occurred was needed before any prosecution or action could be taken.'

The Minutes, as amended, were approved and signed as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(i) With the exception of Cllr Saini all councillors confirmed that they would attend the Code of Conduct training on 9th January at Marsh Baldon village hall.

(ii) The Chairman reported that the King Family Trust has declined to contribute towards the £5,000 scheme to improve the drainage in Larch End and that the District Council had indicated that it would have no funds until the start of its new financial year in April. Cllr Eden said that he was awaiting further comments from Mr Gwynne of SODC, particularly in connection with whether the Council has any powers to insist that the landowner make a contribution. Cllr Goodey asked if the builder of the properties could be held responsible and it was agreed to ask the planners.

(iii) Cllr Moss confirmed that he had the information about applying for a grant to improve the Sports Club car park.

(iv) The Chairman said that the householder affected would clean off graffiti recently applied in Combewell. Cllr Mrs Eastwood said the School is shortly to receive an inspection. She asked that the graffiti near the School be removed and for a new waste bin to be located outside the School.

(v) The Clerk confirmed that he had reminded Martin Gammie about the Council's request for advice about the trees behind the shops on Elm Drive.

7 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner had sent his apologies for absence from the meeting.

8 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Mrs Ann Tomline was away sick but through the Chairman she reported that the Parish Council of Sandford is trying to co-ordinate further action against the proposals contained in the County 's Draft Structure Plan. A joint meeting is to be held within the next 2/3 months.

The Chairman also said that Cllr Mrs Tomline has been looking into the question of whether handrails alongside footpaths need planning permission. Apparently they do and it is accepted that whatever is provided must be suitable for its location. The subject will be placed upon the Agenda for the next meeting.

9 Finance and cheques for signature

The Council's bank balances were as follows::

Bank of Ireland 5th December £109,132.65 (Interest in month. £289.25)

Barclays Community Account 31st December £10,132.58

Barclays Base Rate Tracker Account 10th December £8,182.48

The following cheques were approved for payment

Southern Electric £11.95

Oxfordshire CC £82.50

Household Pest Services £164.50

Clerk Salary & Expenses £252.22

Young Brothers £2,291.25

Colourplus £585.54

Newsletter advertising receipts during the previous month had totalled £460

10 Planning Applications

i) P03/W1043/LB Garsington House, Oxford Road

Relocation of pedestrian access with replacement of existing gate. The removal of a door to the rear elevation to be replaced by a new window to match existing.

The Council had no strong views about this application

ii) P03/W1045 87, Oxford Road

Two storey front extension with two dormer windows to the west elevation

The Council had no strong views about this application although concern has been expressed about a neighbouring wall

Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters

9 Poplar Close PO3/W0955 Conversion of garage to bedroom with en-suite

Planning permission was granted on 11th December

75 Southend PO3/W1002LD

A lawful development certificate has been granted relating to the erection of garages and a workshop incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling.

Land adjacent to St Mary's Church - appeal by developer

The appeal against the District Council's refusal to permit the demolition of barns and the erection of a 4 bed roomed house has been dismissed.

11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

(i) Thame CAB had written to thank the Council for its recent donation of £200 and to request that the Council give it support to the CAB's lobby of SODC Councillors stressing the vital work that the Bureau performs. This was agreed.

(ii) Details have been received of the meeting of the Oxford Fringe to be held on 20th January but it was thought unlikely that anyone would be available to attend.

(iii) A company called Special Branch - tree services specialists - has written offering its services. It was agreed to keep the details on file.

(iv) Mrs D Mitchell of Chalgrove requested permission for her grandfather, Joseph Sellar, presently very ill, to be buried in Garsington when the time came. Mr Sellar was born in Garsington and has many members of his family still living there. She also requested that her grandmother, Mrs Greta Sellar, be buried in Garsington preferably in a plot alongside her husband. It was agreed that Mr Sellar could be buried in Garsington and the Clerk will contact Rev Cowles.

(v) The Garsington Society needs to know if its members are covered by the Parish Council's insurance policy when they are carrying out voluntary work on the Council's behalf, both in terms of personal injury and third party liability. The Clerk was asked to find out as a matter of some urgency.

12 Allocation of responsibilities to Councillors

Cllr Bolam has produced another schedule of responsibilities. There are still some vacancies but it was agreed to wait until the council vacancies are filled before finalising the schedule.

The Clerk said that he was dealing with the Parish Council's website arrangement through the 'Local Channel'. Darrell Whitley seems to have moved away from Garsington. The URL www.garsingtonnewsletter.co.uk is not functioning and the registration of this name has so far not been renewed

13 Village Maintenance

Ian Young has quoted £1,854 for continuing with his duties in 2004, an increase of 3% on 2003. It was agreed that the contract is of such a size that the Council should request two other firms to provide estimates. The Clerk will provide the Chairman with a specification of what is involved.

Cllr Mrs Eastwood said that the sign outside the Village Hall has still not been repaired. She had understood that Cllr Mrs Tomline was trying to get this done.

The Clerk was asked to see if BT would agree to move a telegraph pole in Wheatley Road which is located in a potentially dangerous position where the road narrows. The Chairman said that he would give the Clerk further details of what is required.

14 Street Lighting

It was agreed that this matter should be carried forward until the next meeting.

15 Purchase of land off Oxford Road

All councillors have now looked at the exchange of correspondence and the pre-contract details and no further information is required. The Clerk was asked to contact the solicitors and request that the contract be prepared for signature.

The residents of Oxford Road who live adjacent to the property have all been written to and reassured that they will be consulted about the Council's plans for the area.

16 Parish Council Vacancies

There have been three expressions of interest received in writing. The Chairman is to meet Stanley Wheeler who is one of the three. Mr Wheeler has past experience of Parish Council work in another area but is relatively new to Garsington and has requested this talk.

17 Traffic Calming

Brian Short has been contacted by the Clerk and reminded about his statement that he hoped to submit a scheme by around the beginning of 2004.

18 Report from Parish Remuneration Panel

The report deals with the payment of members' allowances; a chairman's allowance; and travel and subsistence payments for all.

It was agreed that all councillors would study the document and discuss the matter again at the next meeting.

19 Horspath Parish Council's bridge campaign

The Council agreed to support the campaign to retain the bridge. More details will be available at the February meeting.

1. Storage of Council minute books and other records

It was agreed in principle that the County Records Office should be entrusted with the safekeeping of the older minute books and that no one should be permitted to take the current books away from the Clerk except under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Council.

Cllr Goodey said that he thought that his lawyer held two Minute Books and he will have them returned.

1. Licensing Consultation - PEL Annual Licence, The Great Barn, Southend

(Cllrs Eden and Mrs Eastwood declared an interest and left the room whilst this matter was discussed)

Cllr Moss proposed and Cllr Goodey seconded a motion to support the renewal of this licence and the motion was carried with no votes against.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 2nd February 2004