**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th July, 2014 commencing at 7.30pm The Chairman, Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood, (Vice Chairman), Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, Ian Dickinson, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were 6 members of the public. County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay- Gale joined the meeting at 7.50pm.

Election of Officers, this should have been dealt with at the previous meeting, but due to the absence of some members of the Parish Council this had been deferred until July.

Election of Chairman 2014/15, Cllr Paul Bolam proposed that Cllr Chris Wright be elected as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Anne Eastwood. There were no other nominations. Cllr Chris Wright agreed to accept the nomination.

Election of Vice Chairman2014/15, Cllr Mike Patrick proposed Cllr Anne Eastwood be elected as Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Ian Dickinson. There were no other nominations. Cllr Anne Eastwood agreed to accept the nomination.

7/14/1 Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie

7/14/2 Declarations of Interest

None

7/14/3 Public Participation

Land adjacent to St Mary’s Churchyard.

Mr David Hignell spoke on behalf of the Young family regarding this planning application.

He outlined why the previous applications had failed and gave details of the appeal that had been made following refusal of the second application. He said that the appeal decision had been flawed, they had not been able to respond to the Appeal due to the length of time the Appeal Committee had taken dealing with it. There were a number of issues concerning this Appeal some of which remained outstanding.

The current application took into account all the previous arguments. The new build would be substantially smaller some of the current buildings were being retained and would be incorporated into the new build, whilst others would be retained for agricultural purposes. Impact on the surrounding countryside would be minimal.

Chairman, Chris Wright thanked Mr Hignell and said he would be given further opportunity for comment when the application was discussed later in the Agenda.

7/14/4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd June 2014

The Minutes had been circulated and were adopted with one amendment.

6/14/12 should read “burial ground” not burial grave. This was corrected

7/14/5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

7/14/6 County Councillor’s Report

The County Councillor’s report had been circulated.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale highlighted some of the items in the report, she also confirmed that money had now been allocated for flood defences to go ahead in Oxfordshire.

Cllr Mike Patrick, said although it was informative to be kept up to date on County Council business, we needed to know what was happening with outstanding issues at the local level. There were a number of outstanding items in Garsington and we did not receive any feedback, it would be helpful if local issues could be included or reported separately.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said that funds of £12,500 had now been made available for dealing with local issues. Keith Stenning had resumed his role as Area Steward and she would be meeting with him to discuss all the outstanding issues in her area the following day. She hoped to be in Garsington in the morning and asked if anyone from the Parish Council would be available to meet them.

The Councillors raised a number of outstanding issues, Southend, Pettiwell, Pot Holes, Greenwoods, Gullies, Road Signs obscured due to vegetation not being cut back. Cllr Mike Patrick raised the problem with the ditch behind Larch End, this had been put in to alleviate the problem of properties flooding a few years back, and this needed attention it was getting very overgrown and residents had raised concerns. He also raised the problem of water running across the pavement and down the hill in Oxford Road due to drains being blocked.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she would discuss all the problems with Keith Stenning on Tuesday. Cllr Anne Eastwood said she would be prepared to meet with them and show them the ditch behind the properties in Larch End. The County Cllr said that because of constraints on the monies available she was not sure that every outstanding item would be completed.

Cllr Paul Bolam raised the damaged to the steps opposite the Church. Chairman, Chris Wright said that as this was of a minor nature and the Parish Council would look at this repair.

7/14/7 District Councillor’s Report

No report received.

7/14/8 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 30th June 2014 £40,849.38

Receipts:

VAT Return for 2012/13 £2,876.85

Newsletter Advertising £252

Grasscutting Grant £396.47

Sports and Social Club Rent £120 (120 members over 18 years old)

Council noted the DD payment to Grundon in June amounting to £66.18

The following cheques were approved and signed.

CPRE Membership 2014/15 £36.00

Colourplus June/July Newsletter £814.76

Rob Jeffery (Bus shelter, Kings Copse) £450.00

J J Bark (Mower Repairs) £45.49

Mrs D Wells (Community Plan – Meal Winner) £50.00

IAC (Internal Audit) £222.00

HMRC/PAYE £92.80

Clerks Salary £275.60

Newsletter Editor – June/July £95.51

Southern Electric (Christmas Tree Supply) £17.39

Internal Audit

The Annual Audit had taken place on Tuesday 10th June, 2014. The internal audit report had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

Items raised in the report were discussed. Chairman, Chris Wright raised the item regarding the Clerks Salary Scale which had changed in April 2013, it was agreed that the new rate should apply with immediate effect and any outstanding amounts from the previous year should be paid.

The Auditor had raised a question regarding the amount of reserve currently in the bank account, he had suggested that this was rather high and the Council should review the level of reserve they held. This would be discussed further in future meetings. He had also pointed out that the budget should be set prior to the precept being approved in November/December. He further suggested that the bank reconciliation should be carried out at least quarterly and reviewed.

The accounting statement for year ending March 2014 plus the bank reconciliation were accepted and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. These statements will be sent to BDO LLP who are the auditors currently appointed by the Audit Commission.

7/14/9 Planning

P14/S1785/FUL Land adjacent to St Mary’s Church

Demolition of existing agricultural buildings. Retention and repair of one building for agricultural purposes. Conversion of other retained buildings to form a single storey dwelling and improved access.

Councillors were in agreement that this application should be approved. The Council had supported previous applications for development of this land. The latest application had taken into account all the observations previously raised, it was substantially smaller and would therefore not have any great impact on the surrounding area. Cllr Mike Patrick said that when responding to the application it should be emphasised that the Council had supported previous applications. Cllr Anne Eastwood asked about the track access, Mr Hignell told the Council that the track would remain in its current state, it was not intended to make this a tarmac drive, the only change would be the wall at the road entrance, this would be moved back to make the entrance more accessible as shown on the plan.

P14/ S1717/HH 13 The Hill

Erection of a single storey extension

There were no objections to this application.

P14/S1889/HH 2 Sadlers Croft

Construction of front and rear dormer roof structure and erection a two storey rear extension to facilitate first floor accommodation.

This had already been approved, it was being resubmitted because of a change in the roof height. Cllr Matthew Dovey said he had some objections, he understood that neighbours had not been kept informed. The majority of the Councillors did not object and it was agreed that the application should be approved.

7/14/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Local Plan 2014

Details had been circulated to all the Councillors.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale said that she would be attending the meeting that Sandford Parish Council had organised for Thursday 17th July, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie was speaking along with John Cotton, and she urged people to attend if they were able to.

Chairman, Chris Wright had received correspondence from Horspath Parish Council which had been circulated.

Chairman, Chris Wright gave an overview of the options outlined in the Plan. Responses need to be with SODC by 23rd July 2014. It was agreed that as many residents as possible should to be informed. Garsington Society already had an email circulation list for their members and it was agreed to enlist their help, details should also be put on the parish website. Chairman Chris Wright also suggested that Councillors should contact neighbours, friends etc. Clerk will circulate Parish Councillors with the Chairman’s overview of the options this week. The Parish Council then needs to consider the options and put forward any recommendations, a response on behalf of the Parish Council can then be prepared.

Bike chained to Bus Stop sign at the Plough, Helen Williams had raised this. As this appeared to only happen occasionally it was agreed that the situation would be monitored. Clerk to advise Mrs Williams.

Oxford Green Belt Way

Tina Everett had advised that funds were available for 5 new gates to be installed in our area. It was agreed that more information was required, type of gates to be installed and in which locations. Clerk to ask Tina for this information. To be carried forward to next meeting.

The Clerk advised the Council that correspondence had been received from the County Council regarding the “Lights Out” event 10-11pm on Monday 4th August 2014. This was a national event to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War. The Clerk also advised that a Vigil to mark the centenary would take place at St Mary’s Church at 7.30pm on the 4th August 2014.

7/14/11 Playground Safety

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that the moles were still very active. Grass cuttings were a problem. When left on the safety surfaces it reduced the life span of these areas. The picnic tables still needed attention. He also reported that the sign had not yet been ordered but this would be actioned.

Clerk advised that the safety inspection had been booked, she would also find out about the picnic tables.

7/14/12 Village Maintenance

Burial Ground – response from PCC still awaited.

Badgers – Licence had not been received, Clerk would chase Natural England. The badger activity over the past few weeks had been monitored the activity appeared to be only in one area in the burial ground now. Chairman, Chris Wright suggested that costs should be obtained for putting a chain link fence into the ground to a depth of 1.5m as suggested by Natural England. Clerk will look into this.

Overhanging Trees and Hedges – Not all the hedges referred to previously had been cut. Chairman Chris Wright said he had spoken to Robert Surman regarding Pettiwell, Cllr Mike Patrick agreed to speak again to other residents where problems still existed.

Winter Salt- Clerk had received the annual request form from OCC for salt supplies for the winter. As the previous winter had been mild no further supplies were needed. The Clerk advised the Council that she and her husband had started to clear the bag of salt at the Elm Drive shops, some of it had been used to top up all the salt bins in the Village, the remainder would be put into smaller bags and stored for future use at the Clerk’s address. It was hoped to complete this shortly.

Parsler’s Piece – Clerk will speak to Ian Young to find out when the long grass will be cut, Cllr Anne Eastwood said perhaps a larger area should be cut shorter. Chairman Chris Wright said he would visit the area over the weekend to look at the current area and check the Ash trees, which had previously been reported as being diseased.

7/14/13 Community Plan

Chairman Chris Wright said that a meeting had taken place with Steve Inch, Chairman of the Steering Committee and Cllr Matthew Dovey. A copy of the results had been circulated to Parish Councillors. Chairman Chris Wright had agreed the results should go in the August/September Newsletter on the front page, where the Chairman’s report normally goes. Cllr Matthew Dovey will liaise with Chairman and Editor.

A copy of the results had been circulated to Parish Councillors. Items highlighted for the Parish Council would need to be actioned, and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

7/14/14 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the service was reasonable. The diversion into Unipart which had commenced with the new timetable was not popular with commuters.

7/14/15 Police and Speed Monitoring

Police report had been circulated.

Speed Indicator Device, Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that information from the Road Research Laboratory indicated that such devices did have an impact on motorists. He had a meeting arranged with PCSO Ken Cooney for week commencing 21st July to carry out a site visit and recommend potential sites in the village where a machine would be most effective, he would also get clarification regarding attaching the portable device to existing street furniture. Chairman, Chris Wright suggested that if the outcome of this meeting was positive the Council should purchase a machine. This was agreed.

7/14/16 Any Other Business

Cllr Matthew Dovey asked about the plans for Guydens Farm which appeared on the SODC planning website. Clerk reported that she had not received any notification and would investigate this.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm