Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th June 2004 commencing at 7.30pm

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

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs Bolam and Turner

3. Public Participation

Ernie Tipping raised his concerns about the Play Area and a general discussion followed concerning the deliberate damage being done to some of the equipment making it dangerous for others to use. It was said that the police know the names of those involved and that the parents of these people would be concerned about it.

It was suggested that the perimeter fence could be altered so as to make it more difficult for vandals to damage.

It was agreed that a metal, vandal-proof sign should be purchased which specified the times when the Memorial Field car park is open.

Ernie Tipping commented about the large number of out-of-date fly-posters that can be seen around the Village and it was agreed that the Newsletter should carry an appeal that posters are removed as soon as the thing that they advertise has happened.

Ernie Tipping complained that grass roadside verges are not being properly cut. It was explained that some residents take an opposite view, being concerned about wild flowers and so on, although it was agreed that the grass does need to be cut back at all road junctions.

Ernie Tipping raised again the way in which the parents of some of the school children selfishly park their vehicles without consideration for other road users. It was reported that the school has tried to bring this matter to the attention of parents.

4 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Shuker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the planning application for 18 The Green because it concerns a near neighbour of his.

5 The Minutes of the Meeting of 10th May 2004 were approved and signed.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i). It was confirmed that the payment of the cheque to HHB Architects had been approved at the Meeting of the Village Hall Committee

ii). It was agreed that the Council would make site visits to the Burial Ground and the Play area and discuss with Ernie Tipping various issues regarding their management and maintenance raised in this and previous Parish Council meetings

iii). The dangerous trees by Oxford Road have been removed and the County has said that it will arrange to remove trees adjacent to 1 Birch Road although the occupier of this property is not in favour of their removal.

iv). The sites of handrails around the Village was discussed and it was agreed that these should be reviewed during the evening of Council site visits if time allowed.

7 District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that since the last Council meeting she had been much involved with issues concerning mobile home parks and the threat to the local Green Belt posed by the housing proposals that had come from Brasenose College. This matter would be discussed later in the meeting.

8 Finance and cheques for signature

The Clerk reported that the balance in Barclays Current Account on 28th May was £4,207.68 and there was approximately £200 in the 'Tracker' account. The balance in the Bank of Ireland on 5th May was £110,684.9, interest of £306.93 had been received and there had been Newsletter advertising receipts amounting to £305.

The following accounts were approved for payment

Total Pest Control (mole contract - quarterly charge) £164.50

CPRE annual sub £25.00

Oxford Green Belt annual sub £15.00

Allianz Cornhill annual insurance premium £1,255.98

SEC lighting (Elm Drive supply and repairs to supply) £653.57

G Russell salary May/June £269.54

G. Russell admin & travel expenses May/June £134.80

Colourplus £134.80

The large payment to SEC Lighting arose from the installation of a permanent electricity supply point for the purpose of lighting the Christmas tree in Elm Drive. This was greater than it should have been because the supply point had been vandalised soon after it had been installed. It was suggested that residents should be told about this through the magazine.

(Cllr Mrs Tomline left the meeting while the following matter was discussed)

The annual honorarium payable to Cyril Tomline for editing the Garsington Newsletter was discussed and it was agreed that this should be increased from £820 to £860 in the current year. Payment of this cheque was also approved.

9 Planning Applications

(Cllr Shuker left the meeting while the following matter was discussed)

i) P04/W0476/LB 18 The Green

Conversion of semi-derelict barn to ancillary domestic accommodation (amended)

The Council was concerned that this accommodation might not remain ancillary but could one day become a separate residence. A similar proposal had been refused before and refusal was again recommended.

ii) P04/W0598 Garsington House, 38-40 Oxford Road

Conversion of barn to ancillary accommodation for chiropractor

There were concerns about the access to the property being potentially dangerous and about a new business being created within the Conservation Area. On the other hand the applicants had carried out other works to this property sympathetically and it was appreciated that the barn might allowed to deteriorate if a use for it could not be found. Voting on the proposal being tied the Chairman used his casting vote to recommend refusal.

iii) P04/W0599 Garsington House, 38-40 Oxford Road

Erection of replacement garage

On the grounds that the size of the proposed development is excessive, refusal of this application was recommended by 4 votes to 2.

Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters

Shepherds Cottage P04/W0261 RET - retaining wall, picket fence etc

Planning permission granted 7th May 2004

Garsington Manor P04/W0284 & 285LB

Extend height of existing wall between stables and garden

Planning & Listed Building consent granted 27th May subject to conditions

46 Wheatley Road P04/W0382

Demolition of conservatory and construction of larger conservatory

Planning permission granted 25th May 2004

Tudor House. Lower Road P04/W0394

Extension and kitchen alterations, Planning permission granted 26th May 2004

87 Oxford Road P04/W0347

Loft conversion and extensions to both rear and front

Planning permission granted 13th May 2004 subject to conditions.

Cllr Moss asked the Chairman about his comments in the Newsletter concerning the Community Hall. Cllr Eden replied that the application was thought likely to be considered by the Committee at the end of July or early in August.

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

i) The County Council has requested the Council's view about the proposed narrowing at both A329 entries to Little Milton. The Council strongly supports these proposals and the Clerk was instructed to write accordingly.

ii) There was no objection to the issue of a PEL to Garsington Sports Club.

iii) The County's plans for Highways surface dressing in 2004 had been received. The Council noted that no roads in Garsington were on the schedule.

iv) A copy of the provisional map of registered common land and open country published under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2002 showed no such land in Garsington. Cllr Shuker retained the map for further study.

v) The Chairman and Vice Chairman had been invited to attend an OALC event on 6th October but it was thought unlikely that they would be able to attend.

vi) It was agreed that the offer of a Christmas tree for planting should be accepted. This would be done in November.

vii) The Chairman had received a letter from a resident suggesting that signs should be placed in Southend warning motorists that horses might be using the road. It was agreed that this would be considered, along with something similar about cyclists when the area is improved.

viii) The Council agreed to a request from the Garsington Society for funding a kissing gate, to allow wheelchair access, near the Gizzel up to a maximum of £150. The design would be at the Society's discretion.

11 Village Maintenance

The Council regretted that SODC has decided not to supply more litterbins pending a review. The Council had ordered four and had been told that they would be installed before the end of March.

Ian Young was asked to quote for the refurbishment of the bus shelter and seats.

Mrs Lapper of Poplar Close had asked the Clerk who is responsible for cutting the grass in the Close. The Clerk will contact Scion Estates as soon as possible.

The bridleway behind the Elm Drive shops needs to be cleared and there are trees overhanging highways in several areas of the Village.

Cllr Moss asked if the Garsington Society would be willing to take responsibility for looking after the war memorial. It was agreed that the condition of the memorial in unsatisfactory. Cllr Goodey said that the footpath from Poplar Close to Horspath is in a poor state and asked if the Garsington Society would be willing to take responsibility for that as well.

The maps in the Millennium Map stand have been removed by Cllr Shuker for safekeeping and replacements are in hand.

12 Old Village Cross

Another specialist conservation company has looked at the Cross and recommended a much more extensive and expensive programme of works. The schedule has been submitted to the SODC Conservation Officer who will contact English Heritage and also ask about the possibility of obtaining grant aid for this project.

13 Purchase of land off Oxford Road

The Clerk was asked if the legal documentation could be obtained in the near future.

14 Affordable Housing

A written report had been received from Cllr Paul Bolam. The survey forms have been distributed and the deadline for their return has been set as 30th June.

15 Local Plan: Oxford Green Belt

Details of Brasenose College's long-term plans to build upon the farmland, which the College already owns, between Horspath and Garsington and backing on to the BMW and Unipart sites had been circulated to all councillors along with a pro forma for submission to the Oxfordshire County Council Structure Plan 2016. This form supports the Council's revision of policy H1, which now protects the open fields of the Green Belt. It was agreed that the Council should return this form and all councillors were urged to do so individually as well.

16 Traffic Calming

The Clerk had received a call from Pete Ronald from the County's Highways section who said that he would like to come and visit Garsington to have a look for himself at the various problems that were pointed out to Brian Short last October.

He would like to arrange a meeting sometime between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm when he can meet with the Chairman and receive the Parish Council's ideas on the subject. The Clerk had advised Cllr. David Turner that this contact had been made.

The Council was dismayed to learn that there has clearly been absolutely no action to develop a traffic-calming scheme for Garsington following the visits by Brian Short and, before him, Arshad Khan in previous years.

The Chairman said that he would not be prepared to meet Mr. Ronald until, either through Cllr. Turner or the Clerk, the County Highways section fully understood the Parish Council's discontent and had apologized for their lack of action.

17 Publication Scheme & Complaints Handling Procedure

The drafts documents prepared by The National Association of Local Councils were approved and adopted without amendment.

18 Village website: report on meeting of The Local Channel

The Clerk had attended the first meeting of the User Group and been briefed about the company's plans for the future development of the site. Because this meeting of the Parish Council had already lasted for in excess of two and a half hours he did not report in detail but said that he would progress the Parish Council section of the site over the next few weeks.

The Meeting closed at 10.10 pm