Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 5th June 2006 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Paul Bolam, Gurdip Saini and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present were County Cllr David Turner, District Cllr Ann Tomline and eight residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs David Baker and Anne Eastwood who were both on holiday.

2 Parish Council vacancy

The Chairman announced that the Parish Council had unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr John Hieatt of Willow Close to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council that had been created by the resignation of Cllr Cliff Moss due to ill-health. Cllr Hieatt signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed by the Clerk and the Chairman welcomed Cllr Hieatt to participate as a member of the Council for the rest of the meeting.

3 Public Participation

a. Several residents commented upon aspects of village maintenance. These included the area around the bus stop in Oxford Road, the footpath in Combewell, the grass outside Rookery House, the hedge near the Village Hall, a tree in Elm Drive which is overhanging the footpath and dead elm trees near Guydens Farm.

b. Issues of road safety were also raised including the dangers caused by cars parked at the bottom of Clinkards Hill, loads in danger of spilling out of trailers going over the new traffic calming humps, continued lack of police action over dangerous parking by some parents near the village school, road signs being obscured by vegetation, and the risk of flooding at the bottom of Pettiwell because roadside gullies were not being properly maintained.

c. More safety bark is needed under the aerial runway in the play area.

d. Mr McEnerney said that he would continue to campaign for a Garsington direction sign to be placed on the roundabout at Cowley but County Cllr Turner said that he had raised this matter with Highways two years previously and it had been explained that a sign to Garsington in that place would be against policy.

e. Mr Moss said that the Sports Club intends to advertise for a key-holder in the next magazine. District Cllr Mrs Tomline asked to be supplied with the text for this notice.

f. It was agreed that many of the issues raised under Public Participation would be discussed later in the meeting, particularly those concerning village maintenance, and the Council agreed with a suggestion by Cllr Shuker that the whole question of the impact of the new traffic calming scheme should be reviewed at the Council’s October meeting – six months after the scheme had been installed.

4 Declarations of Interest

Both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman declared personal and prejudicial interests in the matter of PO6/W0524 Garsington Manor. The Chairman was at one time employed by the artist in residence and the Vice-Chairman provides bed & breakfast accommodation for members of the opera company.

5 Minutes of the Parish Council AGM held on 8th May 2006

Cllr Saini said that he had sent his apologies for absence to this meeting. This was agreed but the Chairman pointed out that councillors should give a reason for their absence because the Council must decide if the absence is justifiable or not.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Land off Oxford Road; the Clerk said that this planning application is still with the planning officer. There appeared to have been no progress since May.

b. Minute Book; the Clerk said that he had located another supplier of loose leaf binders but this company is even more expensive than Shaw & Sons.

7 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Turner asked for views as to whether 30 mph repeater signs would help to reduce traffic speeds through the village and said that he thought the County has some funds which could be used for this purpose. It was thought this would be a good idea and Cllr Turner said that he would follow this up as well as reporting the areas of poor roadside maintenance which had been mentioned during Public Participation. The Chairman commented that the excessive speed of many vehicles using The Plough corner has made the junction even more dangerous.

Cllr Turner said that the impact of the road works at the Headington roundabout was being felt in the surrounding villages and so the traffic survey on weight restriction policy has been postponed until traffic flows are back to normal. He said that he was very disappointed at this delay.

8 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Tomline said that there is a new recycling bin in the car park at Asda in Wheatley for books, DVD and tape recordings. The money raised will go to charity.

A mobile CCTV camera has been ordered for use in trapping fly-tippers. A new edition of the South Oxfordshire tourist guide is soon to be published. Cllr Bolam commented that special mention should be made of the high concentration of footpaths in Garsington, many with excellent views of the surrounding countryside.

Cllrs Bolam and Shuker said that the new garden waste bin service seems to be working well. Councillors would like to know how many residents have joined.

9 Finance

The Council’s bank balances were as follows:

Barclays Current Account at 31st May £15,484.70

Barclays Community 10th March £50.21

Bank of Ireland at 12th May £120,245.49 (interest earned £472.52)

There have been no other receipts this month.

(Cllr Mrs Tomline left the room while the following item was discussed)

The Council reviewed the annual honorarium that is paid to Cyril Tomline as editor of the Garsington Newsletter. In 2005/6 it was £900 and the Council agreed that it should be increased by 5% to £945 for 2006/7.

The following cheques were approved for signature:

J J Bark Ransomes mower repairs & service £1,752.71

Shaw & Sons Limited £90.70

Biffa Waste Services Ltd £163.06

OALC annual sub £288.31

Oxfordshire Green Belt Network sub £15.00

CPRE sub £26.00

G Russell - salary £332.90\*

Admin £84.65

C Tomline Honorarium £945.00

\* The Clerk’s salary includes the national pay award of April 2006 and £17 back pay.

The new Bank of Ireland mandate was signed. Cheques are to be signed by two from the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and Cllr Shuker and the Clerk is authorised to request bank statements, new cheque books and to confirm balances.

An appeal from Berinsfield Community Business for a contribution towards a campaign against car crime will be circulated for discussion at the next meeting.

10 Planning

a. Applications

PO6/W0516 175 Oxford Road, Garsington

Erection of new dwelling, attached to 175 Oxford Road, with associated new access.

The Council recommended that this application should be approved.

PO6/W0512/LB & PO6/W0513 Hill Farm, Cuddesdon Road Chiselhampton (in the parishes of Stadhampton & Cuddesdon)

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new conservatory.

The Council recommended that this application should be approved.

PO6/W0462 68 Oxford Road, Garsington

Erection of a single storey garden summerhouse.

The Council had no strong views about this application.

PO6/W0471 69 Southend, Garsington

Demolition of existing house, garage and store, and erection of new five bed dwelling.

The Council noted that a neighbour has raised objections to this proposal based upon the scale of the proposed building, drainage and the lack of off-street car parking. The Council recommended that this application should be approved but asked that conditions be imposed which take into account the concerns about drainage and parking. The Council also asked that a condition be imposed which prevents the building work taking place in the evenings and at weekends.

(Cllrs Eden and Bolam left the room while the following matter was discussed)

PO6/W0524 Garsington Manor. Variation of condition 8 of planning permission P01/N0620 to omit requirement to raise and lower acoustic screens between rehearsals and performances.

The Council agreed that, as this is a new application upon which the neighbours have not yet had a chance to comment, the Clerk should ask the District Council for an extension to the consultation period so that the views of neighbours could be taken into account.

P06/W0528 (Agricultural Notification) Lower Farm, Watlington Road

Erection of steel frame portal building. 18.3 m square and 7.1m high (to ridge)

The Council recommended that this application should be approved.

b. The Council noted the following decisions:

PO3/W0662/LD Land rear of 159-161 Oxford Road

Lawful Development Certificate refused 30th May 2006

P06/W0229/LB The Plough

Listed Building consent granted 5th May

P06/W0274/RET 60 Elm Drive

Planning Permission refused 22nd May

P05/W1130 21 & 23 Wheatley Road

Planning permission granted subject to several conditions

Greenwoods of Garsington; Retrospective application

The application was turned down on the recommendation of the officers, which was in line with the Council’s views, but District Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she had complained to the County that neither she nor the Parish Council had been invited to speak at the meeting despite having requested in advance an opportunity to do so.

11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. Peter Rodger has written about the hedge opposite the Village Hall asking that it is cut back as soon as possible. The Parish Council has been trying to contact the owner to do this. Mr Rodger also commented that the safety of the junction would be much improved by bringing out the verge to prevent straight line access to Pettiwell.

b. The Council approved a request from staff at Oxfam to hire the playing field and sports club for an event in July.

c. BMW bridleway closure. The Clerk said that the informal consultation exercise is an initiative of BMW. Comments may be sent either to BMW or to the County Council. If it is decided to put the matter before the County Council’s Transport Implementation Committee this would be followed by a period of formal consultation before a final decision about the future of the bridleway.

d. Bar to help people at Elm Drive shops; Judith Thornley had written asking for this to be replaced. Cllr Mrs Tomline confirmed that the bar had been installed by the Parish Council although ownership of the land is unknown. It was agreed that the bar will be replaced and the Chairman will speak to Mr Hill about doing this.

e. The Council has received an invitation to the OALC AGM on 27th June at which recommendations about the future of ORCC will be discussed. Cllr Shuker said that he would try to attend.

g. The Council has received a letter from CPRE encouraging a response to the South East Plan. The letter was passed to the Chairman.

12 Village Maintenance

Ian Young will be asked to apply weedkiller to the path by the school leading from Wheatley Rd to Saddlers Croft, although perhaps this would be best left until school holidays. The Chairman said that he would report the faulty street light in North Manor and Cllr Bolam will report details of a broken manhole cover. Cllr Shuker asked if contractors working in North Manor could be more careful about the grass verges in Denton Lane. It was agreed that a new supply of play safety bark should be obtained and Ian Young asked to spread it under the aerial runway.

13 Countryside access grants

Details of the County’s support for small-scale projects that will improve access to the countryside have been passed to the Garsington Society. Grants at up to 100% can be awarded for projects between £200 and £1,000 such as replacing catches on gates, stoning of short sections of paths, replacing stiles with gates and producing a local map or notice board with places to walk or ride. The Countryside Service requires an initial expression of interest report to be submitted by the end of July.

14 Police/Parish Council liaison

The recent letter from Sergeant Martin Jubb was read out and it was agreed in principle that the Parish Council should be involved. The papers about this and also the Community Support Officer scheme were passed to Cllr Hieatt for further study.

15. Village Hall planning

The Parish Council viewed the plans of the proposed extension to the Garsington Sports and Social Club which had been drawn up by Peter Bowyer and dated May 2006. The Council agreed that the Clerk should write to Jane Randle at SODC and say that the Council is in agreement with the proposed extension and supports the project. The proposed arrangements will provide the facilities that the new Community Centre should be able to offer to the residents of the village.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm