**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 2nd June, 2014 commencing at 7.30pm. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Matthew Dovey, present were Cllrs Paul Bolam, Ian Dickinson, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie and 2 members of the public.

6/14/1 Apologies for Absence

Chairman Chris Wright – Away

Cllr Anne Eastwood - Away

6/14/2 Declarations of Interest

None

6/14/3 Public Participation

None

6/14/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6th May 2014

5/14/8 Cllr Paul Bolam queried the amounts for Newsletter Editor and HMRC amounts were the same. Amount paid to HMRC was incorrect this should have read £92.60.

6/14/5 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Mike Patrick reported that the sign in the Wheatley Road had been moved. He also reported that the speed survey for Southend had been passed to County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay -Gale as she had requested the survey to be carried out. Cllr Lindsay-Gale will be asked to provide this. 30pmh roundels cannot be put in Oxford Road but SLOW might be possible. There was no response yet to the previous issues raised regarding the gulley clearing and Pettiwell.

The Plough - Cllr Mike Patrick raised the issue of vehicles blocking the road whilst waiting to enter the Plough, the original plans had stipulated that vehicles must be able to access the property and turn round without blocking the highway. Mr Williams said there should not be a problem as clients made an appointment for drop off and collection and they were allowed access to the site. Cllr Patrick had photographic evidence which showed three vehicles waiting to enter the premises recently. Mr Williams said this would only have happened during the building work and is not normal practice, he would speak to his wife regarding this issue.

Auditor – The Clerk had contacted Aries Accountants who had advised that they were not registered with audit commission and could not do the work, in the meantime Geoff Russell had managed to contact IAC who did the audit last year and the audit is arranged for Tuesday 10th June 2014

6/14/6 County Councillor’s Report

The report had been circulated to all Councillors.

In the absence of the County Councillor, discussions on Southend would be carried forward to the next meeting.

The Hill, Oxford Road, Cllr Mike Patrick said that water was once again running down the hill off the fields because the drains were blocked with debris, he agreed to advise the County Council that the drains needed clearing.

6/14/7 District Councillor’s Report

New Wall at the Plough - District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said she was waiting for a full response from the Planning Department and would report back.

Greenwoods- response from Police and emails from residents to be forwarded to District Cllr Gillespie who would take up the matter with SODC and report back

CPRE were challenging the Strategic Housing policy. Protection of the Green Belt was still a priority. District Cllr Gillespie said that she would continue her fight to protect the areas at every opportunity.

LEADER Group – New funds, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie urged anyone who might feel that they had a genuine request for a fund grant to contact her as soon as possible. She also said that there would be a Leadership Action Group on Friday 6th at 9.30pm they were looking for new people to join the group if anyone was interested.

6/14/8 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 30th April £41,164.66 (May statement not received)

Council to note the DD payment to Grundon in April amounting to £65.78

Council to note two cheques signed at the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May 2014

Zurich Insurance £1247.61

M&M Waste Solutions (skip to clear pallets from footpath) £222

The following cheques were approved and signed.

Rob Jeffrey (repainting of EIIR climbing frame) £350

Village Hall Hire £68

Clerks Salary £275.62

HMRC/PAYE £69

6/14/9 Planning

P14/S1258/HH The Plough, 1 Oxford Road

Removal of existing shed and replace with new wooden shed

This was approved subject to no objection from neighbours and the new shed was only used for domestic purposes.

P14/S1501/PDH 151 Oxford Road

Single storey extension – information only as this is permitted development.

P14/S1396/HH 77 Oxford Road

Demolition of existing garage. Erection of two storey side/rear extension

No objections were raised to this application.

P14/S1559/LDP 39 Southend

Certificate of Lawfulness. For proposed one and a half storey front and rear extension and erection of a detached outbuilding. Information only, Council cannot comment.

6/14/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Solar Farm, councillors were shown the latest email and Chairman Chris Wright’s response, it was agreed to carry this item forward to next meeting.

Southend, referred to in 6/14/6, carried forward to next meeting.

The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Tipping regarding his rate of pay, Cllr Mike Patrick said this had always been linked to the basic rate of pay and this was due to rise in October 2014, the Clerk pointed out that Mr Tipping was not a council employee he was termed as self- employed, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Tipping explaining the situation regarding his employment, it was also agreed that he might like to advise the council what he considers would be fair payment for the work currently carried out. He would also be invited to put in a quote for the work in the future.

6/14/11 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that he had checked the area and once again cleared stones from the bark under the aerial runway, he had also fitted the new baby swing seats. He noticed that someone appeared to be using weed killer under the picnic benches and the moles were still active on the far side of the site.

The Clerk asked if he wanted to be present at the Annual Safety Inspection that needed to be booked for July/August. Cllr Bolam said he did not wish to attend this year. Clerk will arrange for the inspection to be carried out.

6/14/12 Village Maintenance

Burial Ground – carried forward to next meeting

Badgers – Natural England had visited the site that morning, the officer advised that badgers could not be moved or culled, she suggested that the site be monitored for at least 21 days and see what activity levels are. After walking the site she felt that only two or three of the holes in the burial grave were active, more activity appeared to be in the bank adjacent beside the Gizzle. Suggestions were to sink a chain link fence to 1.5m into the ground to deter the badgers from the burial ground. Carry out a live dig of all the holes to check if they are active and if not close them off. Install badger gates against what appear to be live holes allowing the badgers to exit but not return. The officer said she would issue a licence in July for a live dig and badger gates to be installed. This would only apply to the current activity, for any new activity a new licence would need to be applied for. It was agreed that some expert help was needed to survey the activity, Cllr Paul Bolam said he would speak to his daughter, she had previously had a job with a wildlife organisation and might possibly know of somebody. It was also suggested that the Clerk ask BBONT if they have anyone in the area interested or working with badgers. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that the steps opposite the Church entrance on the high footpath were damaged and needed attention. Cllr Mike Patrick agreed to add this to the list of items being sent to the County Council. He had also noted the large crack in the wall at the Southend junction of the Old School properties. Clerk would send letter to owner asking him about this problem. He also reported that the bollards by Parsler’s Piece needed replacing, Cllr Mike Patrick said he would add this to the list for the County Council.

6/14/13 Community Plan

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the information was now being collated, most people wanted to stay in the Green Belt, a lot of people had put down a request for a swimming pool.

A full report would be circulated in due course.

The results from the additional sheets had now been collated and the information had been passed to the individual village organisations for them to follow up.

6/14/14 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey said the service was still variable, some of the problems were connected with the road works on the A34 and the ring road, they also had a number of new drivers on the route and this was not helping. An amended timetable would be introduced in June.

6/14/15 Police/Speed Monitoring

Following the Annual Parish Meeting, Chairman Chris Wright had asked Cllr Matthew Dovey to look at how effective these signs were. Discussions would be deferred until the next meeting.

6/14/16 Any Other Business

None

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm