#### Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 1st March 2004 commencing at 7.30 pm

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 County Cllr David Turner and 5 residents of the Parish. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Shuker to his first meeting of the Council. Cllr Shuker signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was also signed by the Clerk.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Paul Bolam. The Chairman asked if Councillors who knew that they would be away for any significant period of time would inform the Clerk of the dates upon which they would be unable to deal with Council correspondence etc.

3. Public Participation

i). Mr Baker thanked the Council for supporting the views of the residents of King's Copse during the recent planning enquiry.

ii). Ms Waud said that she was against the planning application concerning the Well House. She said that the application amounted to a change of use for the land and, if approved, would lead to the loss of an area with great landscape value.

iii). County Cllr David Turner responded to questions about the use of the B480 by heavy vehicles. He said there was a request from the Five Parishes Group to have restrictions imposed upon the A4329/B480 but while this is being progressed some successes have been achieved by residents taken the names of the companies owning the vehicles and writing to them pointing out the environmentally unfriendly impact that resulted from allowing heavy vehicles on these roads.

iv). Mr Tipping asked about repairs to the Sports Club, the cutting of the hedges around the playing field, the need for more safety bark and repairs, possibly under warranty, to the gate near the play area. He said that one side of Pettiwell is a mess and complained about the damaged pavement outside Rookery House. Cllr Turner said that he had raised this with Highways but the repair was unlikely to receive any priority at this time. The Chairman said that Mr Tipping's other comments would be discussed later in the meeting.

v). Ms Waud asked the Council to recommend that the application to renew the Theatre Licence at Garsington Manor be rejected. She said that noise levels at many performances exceeded the limits permitted under the planning conditions and that the number of seats has been significantly increased over recent years.

vi). Mrs Butters of Pine Close raised the issue of 'un-neighbourly' parking. It was explained that without parking restrictions being in force there was little that could be done.

vii). Mrs Butters said that youngsters are congregating in part of Pine Close late at night, playing loud music which disturbs the residents and leaving behind a large quantity of litter, including broken glass lying in the road. The Clerk was asked to bring this matter to the attention of the Police.

4 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman said that the nature of any declared interest must in future be explained and minuted. He said that he had a personal and prejudicial interest in the application to renew the Theatre Licence at Garsington Manor due to his employment by the artist in residence in 2001.

Cllr Eastwood said that she had an interest in the planning application for 81 Oxford Road as she lives next door to this property.

5 Minutes of the Meeting of 2nd February 2004

A correction was made to the minute at the bottom of page 51 explaining that Cllr Tomline is a member of the Planning Committee but she will not take part in the consideration of the Garsington Community Hall application. She would try to have this application dealt with by the Committee. After this correction had been made the minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i). Following the break-in at the Sports Club some repairs have been completed. The question of the responsibility for payment of repairs to the building would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Mrs Lesley Nesbitt from the Police Crime Reduction section has confirmed to the Clerk that they have been in touch with the Sports Club asking for a meeting to discuss measures to improve security. The Clerk has been in contact with Inspector Graham Sutherland about policing arrangements for the area.

ii) The gulleys in Oxford Road have been cleared.

iii). Trevor Gwynne has replied about the responsibility for the flooding in Larch End saying that if the flooding is entirely due to natural causes there is no liability.

iv) The Council noted that a number of Garsington residents had taken part in the programme on BBC Radio Oxford and spoken well about the village.

v). Cllr John Goodey said that his barrister had the missing Council Minute Books. He was asked to arrange for their prompt return.

vi). The Clerk has asked Highways to state what category of road is Sadler's Croft.

vii) The Clerk confirmed that he had written as requested to the SODC Planning Department about the proposals for Horspath Bridge.

vii) New litter bins have been ordered; the Clerk is finding out about the provision and costs, if any, of acquiring more salt bins

7 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Turner explained the status of the County's budgets for 2004/5. He said that there would be more money for highways maintenance and more for subsidising rural bus routes. He said that the proposed change to the boundaries for County Council elections would remove Stadhampton from his division and he regretted that this was happening. The County Structure plan team will be reporting soon about the proposals for more housing south of Grenoble Road and the new location for sand and gravel extraction.

Cllr Turner noted that roadside gulleys in Southend have not been done and said he would follow up on this. He would also contact Brian Short about his promise to produce a traffic-calming scheme. He explained that if the Village wishes to have more streetlights, the Parish must pay the capital costs but the County pays the running costs. He urged the Parish to support the Chippinghurst Bridge project.

8 District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Mrs Tomline said the average increase in Parish precepts across the whole SODC area had been 7.2%. She said that Band D Council Tax in Garsington in 2004/5 would be £1,183.

Cllr Tomline said that the Police will be making a presentation to the District Council in the near future and would be closely questioned about the level of services provided. She said that the Council is not replacing some staff and making extra use of outside consultants. Area Forums will be better advertised in the coming year.

9 Finance and cheques for signature

The Council's bank balances were as follows:

 Bank of Ireland 13th February £109,735.94 (Interest in month £302.06)

 Barclays Community Account 27th February £3,062.23

 Barclays Base Rate Tracker Account 10th February £182.48

Newsletter advertising receipts during the month came to £220.

The following cheques were approved for payment

SEC Lighting Services (Elm Drive connection) £198.25

Information Commissioner (annual fee) £35.00

OALC (training) £11.75

OALC (spreadsheet programme) £5.87

Clerk Salary & Expenses £308.92

Colourplus £585.54

An appeal has been received from Oxfordshire Education Business Partnership to support its residential week in May. The details have not yet been circulated to the whole Council. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

The Council noted that the Clerk's hourly rate of pay, in line with the 2002/3 settlement between the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks will now be £7.701 per hour.

The Council confirmed that it wishes to continue to pay the Clerk according to the regular settlement between the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Some adjustments to the Annual Report as requested by auditor were made and initialled by the Clerk.

A Financial Risk Assessment prepared by Warborough Parish Council will be circulated. It will require amendment to suit the circumstances and needs of Garsington.

10 Planning Applications

Cllr Mrs Tomline took no part in any of the discussions about planning

i) P04/W0088 81, Oxford Road

(Cllr Mrs Eastwood left the room while this application was discussed)

Demolition of bungalow, erection of two-storey dwelling.

The Council recommended that this application be approved

ii) P04/W0112 The Well House, Southend

Re-location of existing stable building to adjacent field

The Council recommended that this application be refused as it represented an encroachment into the scenic landscape.

iii) P04/W0122/RET The Well House, Southend

Extension of swimming pool and construction of new plant room

The Council recommended that this application be approved

iv) P04/W0157 171, Oxford Road

Loft conversion

The Council recommended that this application be approved

v) P04/W0916 & PO4/W0917/LB 78, South End

Demolition of existing extension and construction of replacement (amended)

The Council recommended that this application be approved

Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters

i). Application PO3/W1101 27 Oxford Road for a side extension has been withdrawn

ii). Application PO3/W0749/RET; 39 Southend, change of use of land

It was agreed that Cllr Moss would attend the Planning Committee on 3rd March and will speak against this application in line with the Parish Council's original recommendation.

iii). 155-157 Oxford Road

The public inquiry will be held at Crowmarsh commencing on 23rd March and is expected to last for three days. Cllr Moss will attend on the Council's behalf and seek the approval of the Council in advance for what he intends to say.

iv). Application for renewal of Theatre Restricted Licence Miss N Creed for Garsington Manor. Cllr Eden left the room and the chair was taken by Cllr Moss.

It was agreed that the Council had no objection to the renewal of this licence.

11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

i). The council noted the transfer of licence for Garsington Stores to Harris Ponen which will take place on 6th April.

ii). Kings Copse Park Residents Association has asked for help with the purchase of a salt bin. The Clerk will make further enquiries of the District Council.

iii). The District Council has confirmed that there will no rural village'skip' provision this year. The nearest point of collection will be Wheatley.

iv) It was agreed that the Council would assist in the distribution of the Council's educational waste recycle packs

12 Village Maintenance

Following consideration of estimates received from Scion Estates and Berinsfield Community Business it was agreed to award the grass-cutting contract to Young Brothers for the year at the estimated cost of £1,854 for the year.

The Clerk was asked to confirm this in writing and also to ask Ian Young to quote for cutting back the overhanging branches in Southend.

It was agreed that outside contractors should be asked to tidy up Pettiwell. A specification for the work is required.

It was agreed that dogs fouling pavements is a becoming a serious problem. The Council will support any resident reporting such cases of irresponsible owner behaviour.

Cllr Mrs Tomline will contact the County Council about a tree near 78 Southend that needs attention and raise again with Mr Dickinson, the Highways Inspector, the need for urgent work on the trees on the hill.

13. Street Lighting

Carry forward to next meeting

14. Purchase of land off Oxford Road

The Clerk reported that the contracts are due to be exchanged on Friday, 5th March. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that it was important to communicate with the local residents. It was agreed that there should be a site visit followed by a special Council meeting once the deal was done.

15 Parish Council Vacancy

The Chairman said that he had tried to contact Mr Wheeler but without success. He suggested that a decision should be taken at the April meeting about whether the remaining vacancy should be filled by one of the two candidates available or left vacant for the time being.

16 Footpaths - provision of handrails

Cllr Mrs Tomline made available a map of the Village. It was agreed the appearance of any railings would be important if they are located within the conservation area. The Chairman said that he would consider this matter and discuss it again at the next meeting.

17 Traffic Calming

No report has yet been received from Brian Short of County Highways. The Clerk was asked to contact the Kassam Stadium and ask if something could be done to request more careful driving through the village.

18 Report from Parish Remuneration Panel

It was resolved that the levels of travelling and subsistence allowances set out in the Parish Remuneration Panel’s report be adopted as recommended and introduced with immediate effect. These allowances have been advertised on the Village notice board since 27th January. It was noted that due to a parliamentary drafting error, for the time being expenses may not be paid to co-opted councillors

19. Code of Conduct

The Monitoring Officer has said that all past declarations of interest must have the nature of that interest noted in the Minutes. The Council went through the records of meetings held since the Code came into force in April 2002 and, in each case, the Clerk made the necessary addition to the Minutes.

20 Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on 24th May, the May Council meeting being due on 10th May since the first Monday of May is a bank holiday.

Meeting closed at 9.42 pm