**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday, 4th March 2013 commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Cllr Chris Wright presided; present were Cllrs Matthew Dovey, Mike Patrick, and Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present was District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie and 7 members of the public.

3/13/1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Cllr Paul Bolam (Away on Business), Cllr John Hieatt (ill), Cllr Ian Dickenson(delayed due to traffic problems),

County Cllr David Turner.

3/13/2 Declaration of Interest

None

3/13/3 Public Interest

Robert Surman, resident, asked if anything could be done about the flooding at the junction of Pettiwell and Watlington Road (B480) to allow the water to drain away, the ditches and gullies needed clearing, currently the road floods when excess water collects and drains into his fields on the opposite side of the B480. Another problem was the ditch under the conifers at Greenwoods, this was full of rubbish and instead of the rain water going down the ditch it flooded onto Pettiwell. The resident also asked if there was any likelihood of the footpath being extended at the top end of Pettiwell by the high bank, to make it safer for Pedestrians using this road. The Chairman said he would take up all these points with County Cllr David Turner.

Two other residents Eddy McDowell and Marlies James reported on the problems with the burglaries that were happening and had been happening since December, in the Village. The Chairman said this was a police matter. Ms James explained that something had to be done as residents were scared to go to bed for fear of their property being broken into. She stated that they were in contact with the Police and were trying to arrange an urgent meeting where the Police would be in attendance, to which all village residents would be invited, they were hoping to get this organised for Thursday 7th March. Ms James said that if the meeting could be arranged in the Village Hall, would the Parish Council be prepared to pay for the cost of hiring the hall. It was agreed by the Councillors present that payment for the hire of the hall would be made by Parish Council for this meeting.

3/13/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 4th February 2013

The minutes had been circulated and were approved and signed as a true record with one amendment.

2/13/8 should read Cllr Mike Patrick not Cllr Ann Eastwood.

3/13/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

Planning Application decisions, Cllr Judy Westgate asked if this could be reinstated since the previous Clerk had left, the notifications had stopped.

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said that she received the notifications and would make sure the Clerk was informed in future.

3/13/6 County Councillors Report

County Cllr David Turner had sent his apologies he was at a County Council related meeting which he expected to go on until late in the evening.

He had advised the Chairman and the Clerk of his intention not to stand for re-election in May 2013.

3/13/7 District Councillors Report

Permitted Development – 3 year trial, this would allow Barns to be converted into Businesses and Businesses into Houses without planning permission, there were many concerns about this and how it would work. Councils have been consulted over a four week period by Central Government to apply for exemptions, Henley is one of the areas where an exemption has been requested, along with several other areas like Kensington and Chelsea. It was likely that exemptions would only be granted on highways or financial grounds.

City Deal, there is still so much that isn’t known about this. An elected body had been formed, which would be led by the County Council, because of the imbalance of votes it will be very necessary that pressure is applied to all aspects connected with development in the Green Belt. This will need to be monitored very closely.

Clerk to write letter to SODC regarding planning concerns for City Deal.

3/13/8 Balances and cheques for signature

Barclays Current Account at 28th February 2013 £24,196.80

Cheques paid in for newsletter advertising £348.00

The Council noted the direct debit payment to Grundons in February amounting to £68.64

The following cheques were approved for payment;

Earth Anchors Ltd (supply of dog bin) £ 263.94

Colourplus Feb/March Newsletter £ 872.77

Oxford Greenbelt Network (Subscription) £ 15.00

Oxfordshire County Council £1000.00

(Parish Council Contribution to School Flashing Lights)

Bryans Lock Services (Fitting of Dog Bin) £ 120.00

J Eden (Salary Jan/Feb) £ 387.97

J Eden (Admin costs stationery/stamps) £ 34.71

3/13/9 Planning

a). Applications

P13/SO269/HH – Lanesra Cottage, Pettiwell

Conversion of existing double garage/workshop into Granny Flat.

The Council agreed that this should be recommended for refusal

Intrusion into the Greenbelt

Single access with restricted vision both in and out of the property

Within the conservation area and could be considered as overdevelopment of the site.

P12/S2787/FUL – Greenwoods, Pettiwell

Withdrawn Application – proposed construction of a dismantling shed, retention of portakabin office, caravan rest room, small parts storeroom (retrospective)

This was noted by the Council however, now that responsibility for this site has passed to the County Council and the Planning Department at SODC are no longer involved, the Council would like to be assured that they will be notified of any future applications or changes at this site.

b) Planning enforcements and Appeals

No matters arising.

c) Community Led Plan

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that a steering group had now been formed.

He also asked about the funds that he understood had been set aside in the budget for this project. The Chairman said that no specific funds had been allocated.

Cllr Dovey asked if a separate bank account should be opened, the Council members agreed this was unnecessary the Council bank account could be used with any expenditure or receipts being separately logged by the Clerk. It was agreed that a budget should be prepared for discussion.

d) City Deal Plan

See 3/13/7 Letter to be sent to SODC

3/13/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

The Chairman had received an email from Denise Whittington regarding the water leak and damage to the road surface in Southend. As County Cllr David Turner was not present, The Chairman said he would respond to the email.

3/13/11 Fields in Trust Agreement

The Chairman had received confirmation for receipt of the documents relating to Parslers Piece. Also further correspondence in relation to Memorial Playing Fields, this matter was ongoing.

3/13/12 Playground Safety Report

The Chairman voiced concerns about this item as it had appeared on the agenda for several months, unfortunately Cllr Paul Bolam was away and although the Clerk had received an email requesting that he would like to be present when the inspection took place this year, the report was not attached and Cllr Paul Bolam appeared to have the only copy.

The Clerk would contact Geoff Russell to see if he had a copy and if available would forward it to the Chairman.

3/13/13 Village Maintenance

Cllr Mike Patrick had printed a new copy of the agreement for Mr Tippings signature with the correct hourly rate shown. He would be making arrangements with Mr Tipping to get this signed.

Salt Bin - request from resident for salt bin at North Manor Estate, the Clerk had corresponded with County Council the cost would be £250. However, the Clerk had noted that there was already a salt bin opposite the School in the area by the telephone exchange and it was full of salt. It was agreed that no further action would be taken at this time and the Clerk would write to the resident.

Grass Verges – North Manor/Wheatley Road Junction.

Thank you to Mrs Kay for arranging for the repairs to this area.

The Clerk had consulted with the County Council regarding possible problems or liability if stones were installed to prevent parking, reply was awaited. In the meantime it was agreed that the residents adjacent to this area would be asked for their views.

Clerk to write to them.

3/13/14 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported on the route change, the bus would now run between Garsington and Oxford and would not go on to Reading. Cllr Dovey reported that the time keeping in the mornings had improved although there was overcrowding on the 8am service due to a single decker vehicle being used. The evening service had not proved to be so reliable. Cllr Dovey had hoped to have feedback from County Cllr David Turner regarding the next meeting with Thames Travel. Cllr Dovey would contact County Cllr Turner direct regarding this.

3/13/15 HGV nuisance parking outside Unipart

Due to the absence of both Cllr Paul Bolam and County Cllr David Turner this would be pended until the next meeting.

3/13/16 Grass Cutting Contracts 2013

It was agreed that the contract for cutting the top end of the Memorial Playing field would be given to the Sports and Social Club for this season, at the quoted price of £1000.

The Chairman stated that as so many Councillors had given their apologies for this meeting, he would circulate the details of the two other quotes received for all other areas of the village for comment before a decision could be taken.

3/13/17 Community Assets

Following the letter agreed with the Chairman detailing the councils request to add the Three Horseshoes Public House to the Community Assets List, the Clerk had received a form which required completion and signature. This was actioned and will now be returned to SODC.

3/13/18 Register of Members Interests (amendments)

Forms were completed by those Councillors present where additional information had been requested and handed back to the Clerk for action.

3/13/19 Policing/Burglaries/Speed Monitoring

Burglaries see item under 2/13/3 Public Interest

Speed Monitoring to be discussed at the next meeting.

3/13/20 Any other Business

Cllr Matthew Dovey asked if a hard copy of the Village Maps could be obtained. The Clerk has the maps on a memory stick received from Geoff Russell and will arrange to get them printed.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm