# The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 12th May 2003 commencing at 7.30 pm.

# The retiring Chairman, Mike Patrick, presided: present were Cllrs Paul Bolam, Godfrey Eden, Anne Eastwood, John Goodey, Gurdip Saini, and Ann Tomline with G Russell in attendance. Also present were 13 residents of the Parish.

All Councillors signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, with the exception of Cllr Moss who had made separate arrangements with the Clerk. Councillors are required to submit their declarations of interests to Marie Ainsworth, the District Council’s Monitoring Officer, by 29th May 2003.

# Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr Cliff Moss and County Cllr David Turner.

# Cllr Eden declared an interest in the renewal of the Restricted Theatre Licence application of Garsington Opera and said that he would leave the room when this matter was discussed.

# Election of Parish Council Chairman 2003/4

Cllr Tomline proposed and Cllr Bolam seconded a proposal that Cllr Eden should be elected as Chairman. There were no other nominations. Cllr Eden was duly declared elected and took the chair from Mr Patrick.

# Election of Parish Council Vice Chairman 2003/4

Cllr Eastwood proposed and Cllr Goodey seconded a proposal that Cllr Bolam should be elected as Vice-Chairman. There were no other nominations and Cllr Bolam was duly declared elected.

Cllr Eden thanked the retiring councillors for their considerable service to the community over past years, over many years in some cases. He said that in particular he wanted to thank Mike Patrick for serving as Chairman of the Parish Council over the past four years.

Cllr Eden said that councillors should try to represent the best interests of the village as a whole. New councillors should feel free to ask the Clerk for help and advice and they would be advised of opportunities for attending training courses. Cllr Eden said that he would insist that Council business is conducted in an orderly manner. He explained that it was the Council’s practice to discuss only matters which appeared on the agenda of the meeting. This agenda is published three clear days in advance of the meeting and councillors must contact the Clerk in advance if there were matters which they wished the meeting to discuss.

# Public Participation

## A resident asked if the type of flashing lights which have been installed at Chislehampton to warn speeding motorists could be installed in Garsington. The Chairman said that this would be discussed in the context of the Council’s plans for traffic calming measures in general. Cllr Goodey said that he thought this type of warning was very effective and preferable to other measures such as speed humps.

## The same resident asked if the arrangements for the gates to the car park at the Sports Club could be reviewed and it was agreed that this should be discussed at the next Council meeting

## A question was asked about the Parish Council’s Precept for the current year and the Clerk confirmed that he had received written advice on this matter from Mr Michael Jacques, Director of Finance at the District Council. The correspondence would be circulated to all Councillors and the matter would be discussed again.

## In response to a question Cllr Mrs Tomline said that the idea of paying Council Tax over 12 months instead of 10 would increase the District Council’s costs.

## A resident said that there was still fallen timber lying dangerously close to busy roads. The County Council’s contractors had still not cleared this away.

## It was confirmed that the Council would be discussing the grass-cutting contract later in the meeting.

## Mr Charles Atkinson of Guydens Farm said that he would be interested in being co-opted to fill one of the two vacancies that remained on the Parish Council because an insufficient number of candidates had stood in the recent election.

# Minutes of the meetings held on 7th and 28th April.

The Chairman proposed and Cllr Ann Tomline seconded a proposal that these Minutes should be approved. No other councillors had been present at either meeting and the proposal was accepted.

# Matters arising from the Minutes

## The Chairman suggested that a comprehensive review of street signs should be undertaken and a report submitted to the County for action where required. He felt that this was more likely to get results than making complaints about individual signs like the ones in Denton Lane.

## The Clerk said that there had been no further news of proposals from BMW concerning the bridleway.

## Cllr Mrs Tomline confirmed that she thought planning permission would be needed for the proposed handrail outside the Village Hall. She would discuss the matter with the planning officers at SODC.

## The Clerk was asked to make suggestions about the appointment of an internal auditor.

## It was agreed that housing needs should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

## It was agreed that matters regarding gates on footpaths and improvements to street lighting would in future be included within the topic of Village Maintenance.

# County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor Turner had informed Cllr Mrs Tomline that the 104 bus service to Wheatley via Cuddesdon would be starting on 6th July and that the timetable would be co-ordinated with other services. It was agreed that the service should be publicised through the magazine, posters etc.

It was reported that Mr Khan had been off work following an accident and this had delayed further development of the various traffic calming schemes.

# District Councillor’s Report

District Councillor Mrs Tomline said there would be various changes to the District Council’s policies following the elections. The new Conservative-controlled Council would not, however, make any change to the plan for a new system of waste collection and recycling about which there would soon be posters and leaflets. She said that she thought that the system of planning committees would also change but that things would not be completely clear for a few more days.

# Finance and cheques for signature.

The Council’s bank accounts contained the following balances:

Bank of Ireland £106,894.05 (7th April)

Barclays Current a/c £10,273.78 (30th April)

Barclays Tracker a/c £8,111.11 (10th March)

Income during the month included £313.17 interest paid by the Bank of Ireland and £620 in receipts for advertising in the magazine.

Cheques approved for payment:

Chris Drewett Signs £70.50

Allianz Cornhill Insurance (annual premium) £1,139.98

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (sub) £282.50

Colourplus (magazine) £545.27

Society of Local Clients (audit requirements) £22.99

Clerk’s salary and expenses May £274.20

It was agreed that Cllr Paul Bolam should become a signatory to the account at Barclays and the necessary mandate form would be completed.

# Planning.

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that, as a member of the SODC Northern Area Planning Committee, she would not vote on these matters when they were decided by the Parish Council. She could not disclose to the Parish Council how she intended to vote on these matters when they were decided by the Planning Committee, as further information may be available at the planning meeting. During the Parish Council’s discussions prior to a vote, however, she was available to give advice and answer questions on factual matters if invited.

## Applications:

(i). PO3/N0304 Brooklyn, Pettiwell;

Demolition of single storey garage/store, office and amenity area, erection of two-storey extension, lean-to and conservatory.

It was agreed that this application should be approved.

(ii). PO3/N0340 Lomond House, 85a Southend

Addition of two fanlight windows to WC & utility room to approved application PO2/N0590

It was agreed that this application should be approved.

## Appointment of Inspector re Oxford Equestrian Centre

An informal hearing regarding an appeal concerning a planning decision and conditions laid down concerning the restaurant area will take place in the District Council’s offices at Crowmarsh on 17th June. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she would brief new members of the Parish Council on the background to this matter. The Council had been invited to send a representative to this meeting and to inspect the written statements from both sides during the period of three weeks before the hearing.

## Decisions to be noted:

### PO3/NO131; 126 Southend, Extension to side and rear

Planning permission refused 3rd April 2003

### PO3/NO139; 55 Southend, Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of two detached dwellings with garages

Planning permission granted 8th April 2003

### PO3/NO061; land adjacent to St Mary’s Church, Demolition of barns, erection of 4 bedroom dwelling

Planning permission refused 9th April

### PO3/NO150 RET, 44 Wheatley Road; Erection of detached garage amendment to roof height

Planning permission granted 14th April 2003

### PO£/No165 and PO3/NO166/LB; Garsington Opera; Insertion of roof light in east end hip roof

Planning permission refused 16th April 2003

Listed Building Consent refused 14th April 2003

### PO3/NO197; 72, Wheatley Road; erection of single storey front extension

Planning permission granted 30th April 2003

## Other Planning Matters

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that the Planning Officers at SODC would be holding training courses for new councillors later in the year. She also explained that there would be changes to the planning arrangements which would mean that fewer applications will be dealt with by the Committee and more by the officers themselves.

# Correspondence

## Information received from OALC about forthcoming training courses would be circulated. The closing date for applications for places is in June.

## Advance information about meetings of the Oxford Fringe Area Forum would be circulated.

## Appeals for funds had been received from the NSPCC and Oxfordshire Association for the Blind. These would be circulated.

## The Clerk said that he had received a letter from the County Council about recording the public footpath from Oxford Road to The Hill. This matter is still not resolved because the person who had objected to the width of the path as originally proposed had not yet responded to the suggested modification.

## A letter from the County Council regarding the future of Parish Council-nominated school governors has been received and will be held over for discussion at the next meeting.

## The Chairman said that he received complaints that several grass areas within the village had not been cut. He said that next year the arrangements for grass cutting should be finalised sooner.

## The Chairman said that he had received verbal complaints about school buses being driven through the village without proper care. Cllr Goodey said that he had had cause to complain about this himself some six months ago. The Clerk was asked to contact the school about this matter.

# Playground

The Clerk was asked to investigate the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act whose provisions would have to be complied with in 2004. Cllr Mrs Tomline suggested that a person needed to be appointed to act as an official gatekeeper or caretaker and the Chairman said that he would mention this idea to the Chairman of the Sports Club.

# Repair of Old Stone Cross

There had still been no progress and the Clerk was asked to take this matter up again with the Conservation department at the District Council. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she also would try to get some action.

# Village Maintenance

It was agreed to accept the quotation from Young Brothers to continue looking after the grass areas for which the Parish Council is responsible for a fee of £1,800 for the season. It was also agreed to pay a further sum of £150 because delay in settling this matter meant that the job would initially be more difficult.

Cllr Anne Eastwood will liase with the Garsington Society about the joint venture with the Parish Council to take on the clearing up of certain areas within the village.

Cllr Goodey said that bad housekeeping by the City Council in the area of Johnsons was having an adverse impact upon the Parish and the Clerk was asked to contact the appropriate department to complain.

Cllr Ann Tomline said that she had spoken with Mike Dickinson of County Highways and he had agreed that the County would repair the entrance of Kiln Lane and the area outside Garsington House.

# Burial Ground

There is a grave which has a memorial in the form of a spinning wheel and this makes grass cutting difficult. The memorial is against the rules of the Burial Ground (copies of which are to be supplied to all new councillors). Cllr Goodey said that he knew of Burial Authorities which were very strict in the way they applied their rules and regulations. The Clerk was asked to discuss this matter with Rev. R Cowles.

# Garsington Opera

Cllr Eden had declared an interest in the renewal of the Restricted Theatre Licence and left the room when this matter was discussed. Cllr Bolam took the chair for this item which was to discuss whether the Parish Council wished to be present at the meeting of the District Council’s Licensing and General Purposes Committee on Friday 23rd May when the Opera’s application would be discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Moss be invited to represent the Council and that, if he was able to do, the Council would want to approve a copy of what Cllr Moss might wish to say.

The Meeting closed at 9.38 pm. A copy of the Council’s Standing Orders would be supplied to each new member of the Council and they would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Council which will take place on Monday 2nd June.