Garsington Parish Council

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Garsington Sports & Social Club on Monday 14th May 2007 commencing at 7.30 pm. The Chairman, Cllr Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Cllrs David Baker, Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, John Hieatt, Judith Westgate and Chris Wright with G Russell in attendance. Also present was District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie and six residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from County Cllr David Turner.

2. Declarations of Acceptance of Office

This being the first meeting of the Parish Council since the Parish Council Election on Thursday 3rd May each Councillor signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed and counter-signed by the Clerk.

3. Election of Parish Council Chairman 2007/8

(During the following item the meeting was chaired by the Clerk)

Cllr Godfrey Eden was proposed by Cllr John Hieatt and seconded by Cllr Paul Bolam. There were no other nominations and Cllr Eden was declared elected unopposed. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed and countersigned by the Clerk. Cllr Eden resumed the chair.

He welcomed the newly elected Parish Councillors, Judith Westgate and Chris Wright, and the newly elected District Councillor, Elizabeth Gillespie.

4. Election of Parish Council Vice-Chairman 2007/8

Cllr Paul Bolam was proposed by Cllr David Baker and seconded by Cllr John Hieatt. There were no other nominations and Cllr Bolam was declared elected unopposed. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed and countersigned by the Clerk.

5 Public Participation

Mr Ernie Tipping asked about the start date for the new Police Community Support Officer. It was understood that the officer is still waiting for certain items of his uniform and equipment. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said that she would find out more from Sgt. Jubb.

Mr Tipping said that he had previously raised several highways matters that have not yet been resolved. The Chairman said that he would review these items with County Cllr Turner.

Mr Tipping asked for the final cost of the Parsler’s Piece project and also for news about the management of the gate giving access to the Sports Club car park. The Chairman replied that the final project cost is not yet known and that no-one had so far agreed to take on the responsibility for the gate.

Mr Mike Patrick reported on the meeting of the Sports Club which had rejected the proposed joint venture for a new Community Hall. He was unable to give a rational reason for the change of heart of so many members but pointed out that as the village vote took place some two weeks before the Sports Club vote this gave the opportunity for opponents of the scheme to lobby other members. The vote was 58 against, 36 for with two spoilt papers. It was thought that the majority of those opposed to the scheme were not Garsington residents.There will be a Village Hall Committee meeting on Tuesday 22nd May to discuss this matter further.

Mr Peter Rodger said that the hedge opposite the Village Hall is a serious danger to road safety and asked the Clerk to contact County Highways to have it cut back.

6 Declarations of Interest

None

7 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd April 2007

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

8 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. A red dog waste bin has been installed at the entrance to Parsler’s Piece as part of the contract with Nicholsons. Two green dog waste bins are on order.

b. Cllr Hieatt reported that the Council’s ‘Thank you’ pins will be delivered soon.

c. In connection with the appointment of the new PCSO Cllr Mrs Eastwood said that a police presence to supervise traffic and parking around the area of the village school is most urgently required. A child had recently receiving a glancing blow from a car and the driver had not stopped.

d. The Chairman and Clerk signed the revised County Council’s grass cutting contract which confirms that the Parish Council has public liability cover of £5 million.

9 Planning

a. Applications

P07/W0448/LD The Well House 15 Southend Garsington

Demolition of existing side extensions and construction of new single storey extension under permitted development.

The Council had no observations to make on this application for a lawful development certificate.

PO7/W3042 69 South End Garsington

Demolition of existing dwelling and garage. Construction of new dwelling.

The Council had no strong views about this application.

PO7/W0420 25 The Hill

Single storey dwarf wall conservatory to rear of property

The Council had no strong views about this application.

PO7/W0351 31, Oxford Road

Demolition of lean-to garden store, garage and flat roofed lean-to rear extension and the erection of a two-storey side/rear extension and conservatory.

The Council had no strong views about this application.

PO7/W0413 15 Southend

Erection of a single storey glazed extension to rear of property.

The Council had no strong views about this application.

b. Decisions and other planning matters

P06/W0920 78 Southend

Erection of detached structure form garage, carport, storage & office/study.

The Council noted that an Appeal has been lodged against the SODC refusal of this application. The deadline for further comment is 31st May. The Council had had no strong views about this application and no further comment to make.

P06/W1321/O Farmer’s End 115 South End; erection of replacement chalet bungalow. Outline planning permission was granted on 17th April.

P07/W0042 Home Farm Cottages, Southend Erection of new garage and garden room

Planning Permission was granted on 30th March.

10 Finance and cheques for signature

Barclays Base Rate Tracker at 9th March £50.45

Barclays Current Account at 30th April £15,286.08

Bank of Ireland at 10th April £125,123.01 (interest earned £583.45)

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Multiflow – Community Hall consultation leaflet £307.85

Total Pest Control – quarterly mole contract £164.50

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (annual sub) £20.00

Southern Electricity (The Green) £51.74

Colourplus (April/May Newsletter) £812.03

Malcolm Hill £850.00

G Russell (Clerk’s salary) £315.90

G Russell (Admin) £109.50

Cyril Tomline Honorarium (honorarium) £1,000.00

Cllr Mrs Anne Eastwood (prizes for school children) £35.86

Cliff Moss (reimbursement for mower repairs) £60.32

It was agreed that following Cliff Shuker’s retirement from the Council it would be a good idea to find another person to be mandated to sign cheques. Cllr Chris Wright agreed to be this person and the Clerk will obtain the necessary documents.

11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. Oxford City Council wish to consult with the Council over its proposed policy for mobile phone masts with comments required by 8th June. The Chairman will look at these papers and comment if necessary.

b. The Council noted an invitation to send representatives to the AGM of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils to be held on Monday 11th June at Exeter Hall, Kidlington commencing at 7.30.

c. Information about the new Code of Conduct for members has been received and will be circulated including a pro-forma Declaration of Interests. Parish Councils have until 1st October 2007 to adopt the revised Code.

d. Council noted that the review of bus services in this area is now complete. There will be some changes to route 104 and the Clerk will pass the information to Cyril Tomline for the Newsletter.

e. Council noted that the proposal to simplify bus fares will not be introduced following a negative reaction during the consultation period.

f. The Clerk has received a letter from Mr Tariq Khuja of 26 Wheatley Road. Mr Khuja explained that the embankment along Tadpole Lane had become blocked which had caused water to course over the drive, washing away the soil and clippings. He had removed the blockage and applied what he called a more appropriate infrastructure.

Mr Khuja also said that the gated entrance to the property, save for renewing the gate, has remained unchanged and the stile allowing access over the property remains intact, therefore the access has not been closed. The fact that the gates are closed does not affect people enjoying the right of way.

Cllrs Anne Eastwood and Chris Wright confirmed that there is no problem with the right of way but the barking of dogs can be a nuisance. Unless any neighbour is prepared to keep a diary recording the precise timings of the noise SODC’s Environmental Officers will not take any action.

The Chairman commented that in his view the width of the lane had been increased by almost 1.5m and this was mainly due to damage by the wheels of contractors’ vehicles.

The Council noted these points and agreed that no further action would be taken.

g. A request by an outside hirer to use the Sports Club and surrounding area for a private party was approved.

12 Appointments to sub-committees;

Village Hall project; It was agreed to hold this matter over until June.

Affordable Housing; It was agreed that Janet Bolam will be invited to join this committee which District Cllr Gillespie said she would also like to help.

Green Belt threat; the result of the Examination in Public is expected in July. Cllr Chris Wright will join this committee

12 Burial Ground Regulations

The Council has received the comments of Rev. Richard Cowles with regard to those graves which are not being maintained according to the regulations, with suggestions of which families should receive letters about this. The Clerk will supply the new councillors with a copy of the regulations.

The Chairman asked councillors to have a look at the area which is reserved for the burial of ashes so that this matter could be discussed in June.

13 Village Maintenance

The gutter and down pipe of the bus shelter outside The Plough is to be repaired and the surplus rubbish bin removed.

Highways has still not carried out repairs to the pavement on Clinkards Hill or corrected the occasional flooding at the junction of Denton Lane and Wheatley Road.

14 Playground repairs

The Chairman said that he would take over the responsibility for supervising the Play Area.

The Rocking Horse, which for some time has been out of service as being dangerous, is to be removed by Malcolm Hill. It is thought that the head may have some re-sale value.

The new roundabout, for which Cllr Shuker obtained a quotation last November, is to be ordered provided that there is no significant change to its cost (approximately £6,400 including the necessary safety surface). The existing metal frame will remain and be repainted.

15 Parsler’s Piece

The Chairman confirmed that Cliff Shuker will continue to manage this project until it is completed.

The Council noted a letter dated 16th April from Mr and Mrs Marriott of 4 Combewell. The Marriotts said that the Council’s contractors had mistakenly removed a hedge between their property and the path owned by the Parish Council. They had agreed that the Parish Council would, at its own expense, repair the damage to the boundary and erect a 5ft mesh security fence on the Council’s side of the boundary, with berberis planted between the fence and the boundary itself in order to restore security and privacy to the Marriotts’ property. The Marriotts had stated in their letter that they would hold the Council responsible for any thefts from their garden before the fence is installed.

It was reported that this fence has now been installed and the Chairman will make an inspection. As far as the Council was aware there had been no thefts from the Marriotts’ property in the period before the fence was installed. Cllr Wright asked the Chairman if he was satisfied that the Council had acted properly in this matter and he received that assurance. The Chairman will comment again at the next meeting.

The next meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Monday 4th June