GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council, held in the Village Hall on Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7.30pm.

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| **Members of the Parish Council:** | Cllr Matthew Dovey (Chair), Cllrs Anne Eastwood, Richard Betteridge, Claire Green, Ian Ashley |
| **In attendance:** | District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie, County Councillor Robin Bennett (arrived around 20:15) |
| **Public attendance:** | 3 members of the public were present. |
| **Minutes:** | Elaine Small (Parish Clerk) |

# 4/23/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Chris Wright
Cllr Judy Westgate
County Councillor Robin Bennet advised he would arrive around 20:15

# 4/23/2 Declarations of Interest

None.

# 4/23/3 Public Participation

None.

# 4/23/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 3rd March 2023

Agreed and signed.

# 4/23/5 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Cllr Dovey had investigated solar alternatives for the Christmas Tree lights. At £600 these would cost about 3-4 times the annual cost of electricity. It was agreed to keep the existing Christmas tree lights and to renew the SSE contract.

Cllr Betteridge had costed water connections for the new trees and decided that these was too expensive.

# 4/23/6 District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Gillespie stated her intention not to re-stand in the upcoming elections, and mentioned the candidates standing for Labour, Liberal Democrats, Green, Conservative and Independent. The Parish Council thanked her for her contributions to Parish matters,

The lack of planning enforcement over the windows of the pub was raised, and Cllr Gillespie agreed to raise this with planning in writing.

As regards concerns over the lack of enforcement on Kiln Lane, Cllr Gillespie agreed to write to Planning Enforcement to insist that the illegal units are removed from the site and all other conditions from the legal case are satisfied.

# 4/23/7 County Councillor’s Report

In light of potential Spring flooding, Cllr Bennett reminded the PC that that advice on flooding can be found both from the Environment Agency and the County Council.

Cllr Bennett reported that Oxfordshire County Council are currently conducting a study to investigate the feasibility of area-based weight restrictions. Cllr Dovey mentioned that until about 15 years ago, Garsington had had a 3 Tonne limit, but this had been raised to 7.5T without a clear explanation

Cllr Bennett reported that he had been engaging with a recent working group looking at school transport issues. This has resulted in recommendations to cabinet to improve the policy, and also to help parents who are currently at risk of losing their spare seats bus places. As well as spare seats, the review is looking at over-16 school travel, safe walking/cycling routes, and better support for community travel solutions. The decisions on the recommendations will come to a Cabinet meeting in the next few months.

# 4/23/8 Parish Elections 4th May

Clerk had circulated training slides and information from SODC and a timetable from OALC.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the date for the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and monthly Parish Council Meeting. The Parish Council agreed to hold these meetings on 15th May. Clerk has booked the Village Hall

# 4/23/9 Finance.

The Parish Council were informed that the date for the internal audit had been set for the 7th June. This would be a remote meeting and Cllr Ashley would provide support the Clerk.

Cllr Ashley gave an update on the overall current balances:

£8,430.00 – in account for unreserved income & expenditure;
£ 314.92 – in account reserved for grants - 2 grants underspent and 1 grant overspent;
£3,587.00 – in account reserved for CIL – expenditure in 22/23 was £2,691 for infrastructure and development. Decisions on CIL projects will be made following confirmation that road narrowing near school will be fully funded by OCC.

Overall balance, £43,832.00.

The following invoices were approved for payment online:

£520.00 – Parchments Print of Oxford Newsletter April/May 2023;
£ 41.06 – Grundon Waste;
£ 40.00 – Litter Pick lunch;
£120.90 – S Hill salary;
£742.65 – L Stevenson Clerk salary;
£543.23 – E Small Clerk salary;
£897.27 – laptop and mobile phone

All payments signed and agreed by Cllrs Paul Bolam and Anne Eastwood. Cllr Judy Westgate will set up payments and Cllr Paul Bolam will authorise.

# 4/23/10 Planning

P23/SO950/HH – The Barn, Guydens Hamlet – construction of new garage and outbuilding.
No objections.

P23/SO977/HH –1 Fox Close – Demolition of garage, one and half story side extension and two storey extensions.
The planning portal indicated comments had been received from the forestry officer, and also local residents; however, the comments themselves were not yet available to view. The Parish Council had no objections subject to the unseen comments. Post meeting – the comments submitted do not object to the development but do list a number of considerations to be taken into account.

P23/SO906/HH – 34 Pettiwell - extension to basement garage ground floor extension, 1st Floor extension over existing areas, new external skin treatment, construction of new garden room.
There were no objections.

REF/20230188 GPC versus OX1 LTD land on the Green.
An objection had been raised to the PC’s claim of ownership of the registered Village Green. This would go to tribunal with the deadline of the 21st April to serve a statement of case. The PC would be liable for costs if the tribunal found against the PC.

P23/S1097/N4d – 113 Wheatley Road – change of use to flexible commercial underclass R. Part 3 schedule of the Town and Country planning (general Permitted Development) (England) Order2015 (as amended) for use of side building and decorating supplies.
Whilst there was strong local opposition, it was noted that this was not a planning application but a notification under permitted rights. As such any response would be unlikely to have any weight under current planning law. Nevertheless, given the strong feelings, the Parish Council agreed to respond expressing concern over the loss of amenity for the local residents, and the impact on the highway, especially given the blind bend.

4/23/11 Northfield

The PPA had still not been agreed. Cllr Wright had been in correspondence with Chelgate who were proposing a meeting with the PC in either late April or May.

# 4/23/12 Neighbourhood Development Plan

SODC is planning to launch the Regulation 16 consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan on April 19th. They intend to place one copy of the documentation in the Village Hall. It was agreed to also promote this on the website and Facebook.

# 4/23/13 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

The PC had received notice of expiry of asset of community value list (pub) on 6/8/2023. It had previous been agreed that the PC would renew the application. Cllr Ashley agreed to lead on this.

Emergency planning. On going it was agreed that the Church and Village Hall would be places for residents to go if the need arises. Vicar has not signed form Clerk is chasing.

School Transport – the PC had sent a letter supporting the campaign objecting to the removal of the free seats scheme, also use of seats for over 16.

The PC had received a letter from a resident of Kings Copse concerning the difficulties in emerging onto the B480 due to speeding vehicles. Cllr Dovey agreed to include this in a list of signage issues to send to Cllr Bennett to raise with Highways. It was also agreed to add this to “Fix my Street”.

Invitation to Didcot Town Council Annual Mayor Making 15th May 2023. This conflicts with the Parish Annual and Parish Council Annual meetings, so no-one would be available to attend. Clerk has sent apologies.

Garsington School asked money to support for help with “Well Being” (plants and staff welfare, seating storage, sessions for wellbeing yoga, etc). After discussion it was decided after a vote £150 was agreed.

# 4/23/14 Playground Sports & Social Club

The second part of the payment to repair the runway would continue to be withheld due to dissatisfaction with the quality of the repair, and the Parish Council would wait for the contractor to respond to the complaint. It was agreed that upon no response from the contractor, they will need to be contacted again.

# 4/23/15 Village Maintenance

Cllr Matthew Dovey had ordered 20MPH bin stickers for residents.

Cllr Matthew Dovey had registered Garsington as Community Speed Watch site with Thames Valley Police. TVP’s policy for the Automatic Speed Watch Camera (ASWC) is that it requires a minimum of two operators; the cheaper handheld device requires a minimum of three operators. TVP can provide a handheld device on permanent loan. It was agreed to proceed initially with the hand-held device, and review the desirability of the ASWC at a later date. The PC would ask for volunteers on the website and Facebook.

Cllr Betteridge reported that a bill for the work on stiles would be submitted to the PC.

Cllr Betteridge reported that the application for a grant for more tree planting had been submitted.

# 4/23/16 Village Bus Service

The PC had received a complaint that buses were travelling too fast down Southend. Cllr Bennett had raised this with the officer at the County Council who in charge of public transport and bus subsidies.

Cllr Eastwood noted that the new bus stops had notice boards for timetables but no timetables. Cllr Dovey agreed to raise this with the bus company.

# 4/23/17 Burial Ground

The consecration of the new burial ground would take place on Thursday at 4pm.

# 4/23/18 Oxford-Cambridge Arc/SODC Local Plan/2050 Local Plan for Oxfordshire/Joint Local Plan 2041/ City Local Plan 2040 (City)

As agreed, Cllr Ian Ashley had responded to the Oxford City Local Plan 2040 on behalf of the PC.

There is a series of workshops organised by OxLEP to give input to the current refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan. Cllr Ashley would attend, representing the PC.

# 4/23/19 Any Other Business

Cllr Ashley raised a concern from a resident concerning the Manor Pub sign which had been placed adjacent to the War Memorial. Cllr Betteridge said they had been advised a moveable board would be more appropriate. Cllr Bennett agreed to raise this with planning/highways.

Cllr Bolam reported that the defibrillator pads at Willow Close and the Village Hall will expire in May. The Clerk agreed to order replacements. Since meeting pads received.

Cllr Green asked if the Parish Council would consider ownership of the Bi-annual Village Fete (for example to look after finances and charity donations, etc.). The PC agreed that it is was generally supportive of this, and Cllr Ashley mentioned the option of using the currently dormant Community Benefit Society for this purpose. However, the PC was keen that it would only do so after consultation with other parties, and that this item needed to be explicitly included in a future agenda. Cllr Green agreed to discuss with the current fete committee and if required to table a proposal at a future meeting.

# Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

## Date of forthcoming meeting:

15th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.