Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 3rd November 2003 commencing at 7.30pm

1. The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, Cliff Moss, Gurdip Saini and Ann Tomline with Judy Eden, Acting Clerk , in attendance. Also present were The TVP and five residents of the parish.
2. Apologies were received from Councillor John Goodey and County Councillor David Turner.
3. Declaration of Interests: None.
4. Public Participation
   1. Mr Willbery requested the latest information on flooding in Larch End, the Chairman indicated that the item was on the agenda and would be discussed later.
   2. The progress of the new Community Hall was raised. Councillor Tomline indicated that a meeting with Peter Rodger, the consultant and the planners would take place shortly and was hopeful that it would be dealt with by Christmas.
   3. Mr Tipping requested information on hedge cutting at the Memorial Playing Field, the Chairman indicated this item could be discussed under Village Maintenance. He was also concerned about the chippings and the sign on the aerial runway. The Chairman stated that PlayDale had been asked to provide the maximum weight specifications and would use the opportunity to enquire on surface material.
   4. The Clinkard’s’ Hill footpath was in poor condition particularly by the manhole. The County Council would be advised urgently.
5. Minutes of the Meeting of 6th October

The Minutes of the meeting was approved after the amendment to the District Councillors’

report ‘ and a campaign against the idea is gaining widespread support’ was struck out and

replaced by ’this being Green Belt land and the houses should be spread around larger

villages, and signed as a correct record.

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes
2. Councillor Tomline stated that a parishioner had been distressed by the lack of response from Thames Valley police and asked that a letter be sent to regarding the poor telephone response service. The Chairman asked that details be provided
3. It was suggested that Mr Tipping could liase with Mr Grace regarding the Memorial Playing Field hedge. Mr Tipping agreed but the Chairman indicated that the arrangement would need to be formalised for the future.
4. Mr Perry had been contacted by Jenny Hart, SODC Conservation Officer with the specification and it was anticipated that the repairs would at last be put in hand.
5. It was not believed that PlayDale had yet carried out the repairs..
6. The litterbin by the War Memorial had been removed, and Councillor Tomline proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor and Mrs Moss for tidying the War Memorial and surround. It was further suggested that householders near the Memorial be requested not to leave their refuse nearby.
7. The Chairman was advised that certain shops were refraining from selling eggs and flour to young people on Halloween. It was indicated that Mr Tipping was again targeted.
8. The Parish council vacancies would be followed up
   1. County Councillor’s Report

The County Councillor David Turner had sent his apologies due to other commitments.

* 1. District Councillor’s Report

The Campaign for saving the Green Belt was well under way with approximately 5000 objections. A task group had been set up to look at harassment by landlords in Mobile Home parks. A motion proposing the abolition of council tax had been overturned. No regulations were yet available regarding licensing. A request had been made for a shorter cycle than the current 13 weeks for road sweeping during winter months due to the problem of falling leaves etc.

Councillor Moss asked for clarification on the structure plan. Councillor Tomline stated that if the land ( green belt) was included it would open the floodgates to other applications.

* 1. Finance and Cheques for signature

The Bank balances were as follows

Bank of Ireland (at 6/10/03) £108,575.69 (interest for the month £275.93)

Barclays Community Account (at 30/10/03) not available but would be included in the Minutes when available.

Burial ground fees received in October were £483.00

Cheques received at the meeting were £210

Cheques for approval

Colourplus £541.27

Southern electric plc £14.08

Clerk’s salary and expenses £164.91

Cllr Moss – Paint £14.98

* 1. Planning Applications

1. P03/W0916 – 78 Southend

Demolition of existing extension and construction of replacement extension

Approved by all councillors

1. P03/W0917/LB – 78 Southend

Demolition of existing extension and construction of replacement extension

Approved by all councillors

1. P03/W0955 – 9 Popular Close

Conversion of garage to bedroom with ensuite

Approved 3 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

Other planning

P03/W0890/DA Appeal by J Goodey against enforcement notice.-re 155/7 Oxford Road.

Councillors felt that access, parking and visibility were the main considerations and a letter would be sent citing these as grounds for objection.

P03/W0770/DA and P03/W0769/DA – Appeal by Mr and Mrs S Khuja- re:26 Wheatley Road

Councillor Moss agreed to attend public enquiry on 25/11/03 at the Village Hall

P03/N0371 – 18 The Green

Application withdrawn

Two new properties in Southend numbering confirmed 55 and 57 Southend

Planning Enforcement

Councillors to note that a new form has been introduced for the purpose of requesting an investigation.

* + 1. Thames Valley Police –

Since Inspector Sutherland’s visit the Speed enforcement division were making live visibility checks. These had resulted in three speeding fines and two cautions being issued. PC Pribble was likely to be leaving the area due to possible promotion, PC Russell would continue in Garsington with the assistance of other officers. In reply to Councillor Tomline’s concern regarding response to telephone calls, the officer indicated that the civilian manning at call centres could be a problem but they had strict guidelines, if the caller considered the incident to be serious they should insist on attendance.

1. Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk
2. Larch End Flooding

Letter had been received from T Gwynne, SODC Engineer, the County Council would not meet the cost of £5000,and the parish council were asked to consider a contribution.

Councillor Tomline that the parish should offer some financial support and a letter to be sent to SODC requesting assistance from the Emergency Fund. It was further suggested that the neighbouring parishioners may wish to make a donation. The Chairman asked for a proposal, Councillor Tomline proposed £2000.00, seconded by Councillor Moss, this was unanimously agreed and letters would be sent to Messrs Gwynne (SODC) and Hunt (OCC)

1. Sports Club Car Park

The Chairman had received a request from the Sports Club requesting a contribution to the repair cost of the car park being £1950.00.The Chairman suggested that Councillors might like to consider paying the total cost in view of the New Community Centre proposal. Councillor Tomline suggested that the Club might benefit from a grant from SODC. After some debate it was agreed that the Parish Council would be willing to contribute when it was know if a grant was available.

1. Parish Clerk

The Chairman had received a letter from Mr Russell indicating his wish to stand down due to pressure of work. Councillors were dismayed at this decision and agreed with the Chairman that every effort should be made to retain his services if possible.

1. Allocation of responsibilities to Councillors

Councillor Bolam volunteered to prepare a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

1. Village Maintenance

Councillor Eastwood raised the question of graffiti , this had not yet been dealt with. The Chairman indicated that vandalism continued both at the school and at the Church. He suggested that the Parish Council should extend the reward scheme offered on the memorial playing field to cover the parish. Councillors agreed to this proposal and suggested that it be included in the next newsletter.

Urgent action was required on a bin for the play area. The Chairman was authorised to act independently to resolve this issue.

Conifers at rear of shops needed urgent attention. The chairman counselled that ownership must be sought prior to any action.

An incident of fly tipping had been reported and would be cleared. The number of the public amenities would be published in the newsletter.

Footpaths throughout the village were in need of repair particularly Clinkard’s’ hill and this would be reported to the County Council

1. Street lighting

Areas behind the School and shops were raised. It was agreed to email the clerk with suggestions for additional lighting.

1. Purchase of land off the Oxford road.

The solicitor had obtained answers to a number of enquiries raised as a result of the proposed purchase. The chairman suggested that the papers should be circulated to councillors prior to any discussion.

1. Parish council vacancies

As this issue had not been progressed the chairman would liase with the Clerk to seek a resolution

1. Oxfordshire County Council Structure Plan

The Clerk had confirmed that responses by letter as well as on the approved form were acceptable. and that the Parish Councils’ response on opposition to land south of Grenoble road had been sent

1. Traffic calming

Nothing further to report.

1. Code of Conduct

Every councillor had now seen the video and whilst a discussion was not felt necessary Councillor Moss felt that adherence to the planning application procedure was not always evident. The Chairman stated that whenever a problem was foreseen counsellors had a duty to report the issue.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 1st December 2003.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm