Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 1st November 2004 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, John Goodey, Cliff Moss, Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. County Cllr David Turner and District Cllr Ann Tomline were present for part of the meeting. Also present were eight residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Gurdip Saini who was unwell.

2. Public Participation

a. Mr Tipping complained about the lack of a police presence both on Halloween night, when there had been several examples of egg and flour throwing, and also at all the times when dangerous and inconsiderate parking takes place outside the school. The Chairman said the Police do receive notices of Parish Council meetings but it was more than a year since a police representative had attended.

b. Several residents, or their representative, spoke in favour of the Parish Council giving its approval to their planning applications. The Chairman said that the Council would note their comments when these applications were considered.

c It was suggested by Monica Waud that the application in connection with the proposed change of use from agricultural land to paddock and relocation of existing stable building to the new paddock at The Well House, 15, Southend was, in parts, incorrect and inaccurate. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that the District Council would be within its rights to ask the applicant for clarification of these matters.

d. Speaking on behalf of a client, Mr David Hignell said that he had not been served with notice of P04/W1112 at Lomond House, Southend which, in his view, was improper. The Chairman agreed that the point would be raised with SODC.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr John Goodey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in P04/W1201; 159, Oxford Road. The applicants are near neighbours of his.

4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 4th October 2004

These were approved and signed as a correct record.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

i. The Clerk said that the 'Pavements are for people stickers' have been received.

ii. The Clerk's draft letter to the residents of Oxford Road living adjacent to the area which the Conservation Officer had regarded as containing 'inappropriate planting' is with the Chairman for amendment.

iii. The Clerk reported that the County Highways inspector had now advised him that the legal status of the trees in Birch Road behind the Elm Drive shops is not as clear as first thought. Further investigations are taking place and Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she would also make enquiries.

iv. Notification of the Parish Council vacancy has been advertised on the Village notice boards and a by-election may be called if sufficient electors inform the Returning Officer that this is their wish.

v. The County Highways inspector has told the Clerk that the condition of the road surface of Elm Drive is not sufficiently bad for it to receive priority attention.

6 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner said that he was intending to call a meeting of the Five Parishes group on 1st December. He said that one of the ideas put forward in the recent transport review study is that the B4015 road should be made into an 'access only' route from Chiselhampton to the Golden Balls roundabout and, possibly, onwards to Clifton Hampden. He asked the Parish Council to resist this proposal as soon as the consultation period commences.

Cllr Turner received clarification from Mr Tipping concerning the signs in Denton Lane and said that the fallen tree in Southend had been removed.

He asked for information about the popularity of the bus service timings. The service is not under threat until the next review in 2006 but there are concerns about lack of use. He would write a piece for the Newsletter in order to generate some feedback. There is to be an on-demand taxi-bus service to the London-bound coach stop at Lewknor. This will start in January when the necessary improvements to the street lighting in the area of the coach stop have been completed.

In conclusion, Cllr Turner said that the County is still waiting for news about the level of Government support grants next year and is worried that there may be cuts.

7 District Councillor’s Report

In response to a question from Cllr Cliff Moss, Cllr Mrs Ann Tomline said that the amount of costs awarded to the owners of the Garden Centre site at 155-157 Oxford Road would become public knowledge as soon they are agreed between the parties.

Cllr Mrs Tomline confirmed that the owners of the Kings Copse residential park will be instructed to take action to bring the facility up to the required standard. She said, however, that the District Council is finding staff recruitment difficult and that there are vacancies for both planning enforcement and environmental health officers.

8 Finance

Bank balances

Bank of Ireland £112,569.36 with October interest of £378.83

Barclays Bank balance at 29th October £10,852.78

During the month there had been receipts from Newsletter advertising amounting to £385 and a grant of £195 from the County Council towards the cost of grass cutting.

Barclays Bank mandate

It was agreed that Cllr Cliff Shuker should replace Cllr Ann Tomline as a signatory to the account. Cheques would in future require the signatures of two from Cllrs Eden, Bolam and Shuker

The following cheques were approved for payment

Colourplus October/November £450.42

Southern Electric £16.06

Cliff Shuker: course attendance fee £30.00

Clerk's Salary (October) £213.43

Admin Expenses October £69.97

ORCC Membership sub £50.00

Cliff Moss: playground repairs £204.52

E. Tipping: petrol for mowers £24.61

The minimum subscription to the ORCC is £20 but the Council decided to make a larger payment because of ORCC's recent help with the Affordable Housing project.

9 Planning Applications

P04/W1102 21 The Hill: Erection of greenhouse in garden separate from the house

The Council had no strong views on this application.

P04/W1112 Lomond House, 85a The Stable, Southend: change of use of garden room/study and garage to dwelling. Erection of detached garage.

The Council had no strong views on this application but, in view of comments made during public participation, said that it wished to receive confirmation that all neighbouring property owners/residents have been notified

P04/W1151 The Well House, 15, Southend: change of use from agricultural land to paddock and relocation of existing stable building to new paddock

The Council considered that this application should be refused. After listening to comments from Cllr Goodey regarding what constitutes 'agricultural' use and what defines a 'paddock', the council did not object to the proposed change of use but had strong objections to the site of the proposed building.

P04/W1157 97, Southend: demolition of existing garage and erection of one and a half storey traditional oak framed garage/office

The Council considered that this application should be approved and noted that the proposed work should be regarded as an improvement.

Cllr John Goodey left the room while the following matter was discussed

P04/W1201 159 Oxford Road: erection of two-storey rear extension

The Council had no strong views on this application.

P04/W1207 Guydens Farm: conversion of barns for use as B1 offices and building E as reception area

The Council had no strong views on this application.

Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters

The Council noted the following decisions

P04/W0178 Memorial Playing Fields Community Hall

Planning permission refused; the proposed building is regarded as intrusive, which would detract from the openness of the Green Belt and from the character of this Area of Great Landscape Value

P04/W0953 161 Oxford Road, extension

Planning permission refused; the extension was excessively large and, being so close to the boundary with the adjoining property, would be oppressive and unneighbourly.

P04/0972 The Well House, Southend: car port, with office etc over

Planning permission granted

P04/W1006 24 The Hill, driveway

Planning permission refused; aspects of the proposal are detrimental to road safety and the wall is regarded as an attractive feature of the street scene in this part of the Garsington Conservation Area.

10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

i As Chairman of the Sports & Social Club, Mike Patrick has asked the Parish Council to consider making a payment to Trevor Woodington, who cuts the grass on the whole of the playing field ( football pitches and cricket outfield ). It was agreed that the Club's lease should be reviewed to see what it said about the division of maintenance responsibilities between the Club and the Council. It was noted that no record had been found to confirm that the Club was up to date with paying its rent.

ii. The Council noted that the District Council is carrying out a survey into waste recycling rates and also that the District Council has a quantity of very young trees that it is prepared to donate to locations around the whole of its area.

iii ORCC Winter General Meeting will take place at Kidlington, commencing at 10. 15 a.m. on Wednesday 24th November

11 Village Maintenance

The Biffa contract to collect waste from the Burial Ground is now in place and will be activated shortly.

The Chairman has met with White Horse Contractors and an estimate for repairs to the surface of Sadlers Croft is expected shortly.

The Clerk was asked to prepare a list of the various routine maintenance tasks that have been mentioned at recent Council meetings so that a specification could be agreed at the next Council meeting.

The bin for the play area is on order, along with all the others. The gates have not yet been delivered but Cllr Cliff Moss is on stand-by to fit them as soon as available. The Christmas tree is to be presented this year by the Garsington Players in memory of Michael Royal. Cllr Bolam said that he would organise the tree for Elm Drive and Cllr Goodey said that he would help.

12 Land off Oxford Road

The public meeting planned for the next day (2nd November) is going ahead and the Council will receive a report of this meeting at the December Council meeting.

The Chairman said that he had taken the representative from White Horse Contractors to view the site and that WHC is preparing a quote for clearing the site and grassing it over.

13 Old Village Cross

The Chairman, Cllr Shuker and Mike Darnell had met representatives from IJP and it seemed likely that the work could be undertaken for a total cost of around £3,000. The contractors had agreed to revise their specification to fit this budget and to agree these revisions with English Heritage. The Council would like to know the outcome of these discussions so that a provision can be made in the 2005/6 Council budget.

14 Affordable Housing

Cllr Bolam said that the next stage is to study a map of the Village and try to identify some potential sites. These could then be visited and if, after further discussion, they seemed to be suitable the District Council's planning officers should then become involved.

Cllr Bolam said that he would write a report about the project for the next edition of the Newsletter.

15 Traffic Calming

Prior to the start of the meeting, councillors had received from Pete Ronald of the County Council, a review of the options that he believed were suitable for Garsington. Mr Ronald had indicated that the County would prepare a scheme for consultation with residents but that it must have the full support of the Parish Council. He indicated that there is insufficient money in the County's budget to produce full traffic calming schemes for both Wheatley and Oxford Roads and that the Council must therefore indicate to him which road should receive priority. \*\*\*

The Chairman stressed that at no time had he tried to influence Mr Ronald into giving Wheatley Road precedence. He also said that improving the safety of the bend outside the Village Hall had been discussed but it had been thought that the traffic calming schemes should take priority.

Cllr Moss said that he supported giving priority to Wheatley Road. The 'dip' in Wheatley Road is one of the most dangerous places in the whole village. It was agreed that the Clerk should inform Mr Ronald that the Council supported the development of a scheme for Wheatley Road and believed that traffic studies should be made both before and after the scheme is implemented so that its impact could be quantified.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 6th December 2004

\*\*\* *Subsequent to the meeting, however, County Cllr David Turner advised the Chairman that County Cllr David Robertson agreed that if the Parish would share the cost there is no requirement for a full scheme to be brought before the county council. Therefore Pete Ronald and Brian Short are working on a plan for both Wheatley Road and Oxford Road. It has been confirmed that parish consultations are still a requirement*