**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 4th November 2013, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, John Hieatt, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie and County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and one member of the public.

11/13/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ian Dickinson (away on business)

11/13/2 Declarations of Interest

None

11/13/3 Public Participation

Mr Inch reported to the Council that he had seen a member of the public arrive at the Memorial Playing Field and unload from a vehicle children and dogs. Cllr Mike Patrick said this is a problem, there are notices stating that dogs are not allowed, however, unless someone is there at the time, it is very difficult to police.

11/13/4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2013

10/13/4

Item 1 paragraph 1 - Cllr Matthew Dovey pointed out that it was 85 percentile not the average speed.

Item 1 paragraph 1 – Although Cllr Ian Dickinson had pointed out that the introduction of speed humps had done little to change the speed of vehicles through the village, Cllr Paul Bolam had also said that this was not entirely true, when they were first installed it did reduce vehicle speeds.

Item 1 paragraph 2 – After SODC- add Keith Stenning Area Steward also agreed to put white lines at the bottom of the hill in Oxford Road, this was agreed by County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale who also agreed to fund this work from her allocation of funds.

10/13/12 – Playground – amend to read – Cllr Paul Bolam was given the report and will create an action plan for any remedial work that is required.

11/13/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

10/3/13 - District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie reported that there were no conditions attached to planning application regarding the upkeep of Kiln Lane.

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie that the sign on the Wheatley Road was not the responsibility of SODC it was the County Council - Clerk to write to County Council

Parsler Piece – Ian Young had reported back to the Council that the ground was too wet for long grass to be cut as he did not give a cost, the Clerk will contact him again and ask for a quote for this additional work. Cllr John Hieatt said that he might know someone with a strimmer who would do the work he would contact them and report back.

Insurance- it was agreed that the War Memorial and the Gates at the Memorial Playing field should be added to the insurance cost for the remainder of the year price quoted £132.65 inc IPT. The gates would only be covered for impact damage. Clerk to action.

Shop sign in Oxford Road, Cllr Matthew Dovey had reached an agreement with the shop keeper that the sign would be removed, if this did not happen Cllr Dovey would make contact again.

Chairman Chris Wright suggested that it would be a good idea to introduce a rolling list of jobs for action so that items do not get missed. The other Councillors agreed. Clerk to action.

11/13/6 County Councillors Report

A copy of the County Councillors report had been received and circulated.

Home to School Transport - County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale highlighted the series of meetings that were due to take place. Cllr Matthew Dovey will draft a response for discussion at the next Parish Council Meeting.

 One of the meeting venues is Wheatley Park School 7.30pm on December 4th 2013

Cllr Mike Patrick asked the County Councillor what was happening about the trees in Combewell that had still not been cut back, he had received another complaint regarding the problems of the overhanging branches hitting the roofs. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said it might be a good idea if a member of the Parish Council was to liaise direct with the Area Steward. Cllr Mike Patrick agreed to do this, he will email all the outstanding items to David Clack. Contact details for Mr Clack to be given to Cllr Patrick.

City Deal – County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay – Gale said that she was concerned that she had not received more communications from the residents either in support or against the possible housing on Grenoble Road. Chairman Chris Wright said this was not unusual, however, when the issue became a real problem she would find that residents would respond. He also pointed out that whilst the City and Magdalen College were in favour of the Grenoble Road site, the University wanted to use land at Begbroke. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale said that the MP John Howell had stated that he was not against building on green land sites, so she was not sure that his support against houses on Grenoble Road could be relied on. It was agreed that this needed to be carefully monitored so that the Parish could be kept informed, but at the present time there was little that could be done.

Transport Meeting – Cllr Matthew Dovey confirmed to the County Councillor that he would be attending this meeting.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale left the meeting at 8.10pm

11/13/7 District Councillors Report

City Deal - District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie stated that Anne Ducker as leader of the Council was fighting very hard on everyone’s behalf to make sure that the Green Belt was not built on. The better option was to extend Country Towns. It was a messy situation that needed to be constantly monitored. Government is insisting that SODC should be building more houses. At the present time no policy had been agreed.

LEPS continue to gain momentum, in my LEADER role I will be sitting on the steering group of SEPS. I remain concerned LEPS a volunteer group of interested bodies should have been given powers to make all of the crucial decisions about the future of our County.

Traveller Site Policy - District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie agreed to get a current status report on where SODC are with this and report back to the Parish Council. Parish Council can then respond to John Brearley - planning consultant.

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie left the meeting at 8.25pm

11/13/8 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 31st October 2013 - £43,752.37

Monies received in October

£10,400 2nd part of precept

£1,484 Burial Ground Fees

Council to note DD Payment to Grundon in October amounting to £73.14

The following cheques were approved for payment

M J Hill erection of bollards at Wheatley Road/North Manor Junction £1,200

Clerks Salary £344.60

Newsletter Editor October/November £119.29

Administration costs (stamps and stationery) £27.33

Mr Tipping – Grasscutting in Burial Ground and Playground £821.39

Audit

Following the observations made by the auditors, the following items were amended or adopted the Parish Council

Standing Orders - these were adopted with the following changes being made

Item 26 to read

Financial Management “the council will conduct its financial affairs in accordance to the financial regulations as outlined in Annex A”

(This replaces items 26 and 27 and means that all following items will be renumbered)

Financial Regulations – these were adopted with one change

Contract – Quotes

Item 2 to read “where the supply of goods, material, equipment or services is required and the total expenditure is likely to exceed £1,500, the RFO shall seek a minimum of 3 quotes.”

Risk Assessment and Management – these have been reviewed and the latest version was adopted by the Council.

Insurance – see item 11/13/5

11/13/9 Planning

P13/S2995/FUL Rookery House, Denton Lane

Demolition of block of 8 bedsits and 7 flats and erection of 6 two bedroom and 4 one bedroom flats with associated parking and landscaping.

The Clerk reported that some residents had come to view the plans. Chairman Chris Wright said had heard from Mr Shuker who was seeking confirmation that the height of the new building would not exceed the height/footprint of the existing building.

It was agreed to approve the plans subject to the point raised by Mr Shuker.

P13/S3123/HH 29 Poplar Close

Proposed extension to provide additional living accommodation to the existing family dwelling.

There were no objections to this application.

11/13/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Wheatley Park School – Thank you letter received for the donation.

Solicitors letter from Whetter Duckworth and Fowler ref 18 Pettiwell regarding the grass area known as Pettiwell Green and who it belongs too. After discussion it was agreed that the response would be in line with the County Council map which denotes this area as Common Land and Rural Grass. Clerk to respond to Solicitors.

Southend Speeding. Chairman and Clerk had both received correspondence regarding the speeding problems in Southend from separate residents. At an earlier meeting in the year County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay- Gail had agreed to organise a speed survey in Southend and pay for it from her budget. Clerk to chase County Councillor.

Cllr Matthew Dovey suggested that the Council look at possibly purchasing a portable speed sign. He agreed to look into the possibilities and report back on costs etc.

Citizens Advice Bureau – Clerk had received a letter asking for a donation, £100 had been given last year. It was agreed that a donation of this amount should be given again. Clerk will raise cheque for next meeting.

Clerk had received an email from Secretary to School Governors at Garsington School, they have a vacancy for a Community Governor. Parish Council felt that as they already have Mrs Janet Bolam as Community Governor they did think it would be in order to nominate someone else. Clerk to reply.

11/13/11 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam would arrange working party to carry out remedial work as soon as possible. Clerk to obtain a quote to get the EIIR climbing frame repainted in the Spring.

11/13/12 Village Maintenance

The Clerk reported that the new salt bin had been installed in Combewell and also the Litter Bin requested for Kiln Lane.

The Parish Council thanked Mr Hill for weeding and cleaning the War Memorial in preparation for Remembrance Day.

Burial Ground – The Clerk had written to the two monumental masons regarding the problems with the alignment of headstones. Response awaited to be carried over to next meeting.

Parslers Piece – see comments in 11/13/5

Bus Shelter Cleaning – Oxford Road. Cllr Paul Bolam confirmed that he would be organising a working party as soon as possible.

Cllr Hieatt raised the issue of the Bus Shelter at Kings Copse, this needed some attention, the area was very overgrown. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a quote to have paving slabs put down at the entrance to the bus shelter and report back.

11/13/13 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that Thames Transit was running reasonable well.

11/13/14 Community Plan

 Cllr Matthew Dovey and Steve Inch said there was little to report currently, they were putting together a questionnaire that would be ready in the New Year for distribution to and collection from every household in the Village. SODC would be doing the analysis. It was essential that the questions were in an order that would get the best benefit results from the analysis. Cllr Matthew Dovey was drafting a timetable.

There were also two other groups that were in the process of being established.

Setting up a Volunteer Drivers Scheme, this was well under way.

Dementia Awareness in the Community, first meeting, to take place on November 28th at 6pm in the Village Hall.

11/13/15 Community Assets

Old School Gardens – Clerk had not yet completed the paperwork – carry over to next meeting.

11/13/16 School Transport

Cllr Matthew Dovey would prepare a response for discussion at the next meeting, he would also use FOGS and Sue Leahy who is a Governor at Wheatley Park School to update Parents

11/13/17 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Cllr John Hieatt had spoken with PCSO Ken Cooney about the possibility of Police visiting Garsington with the Speed Monitoring Vehicle.

11/13/18 Any Other Business

Cllr Mike Patrick had attended a meeting at Crowmarsh in October regarding Community Charges, he did not think the meeting had been very helpful, with very little information available and many variations in Precepts. Cllr Judith Westgate said that when we set the precept we need to make it as clear as possible how the figure has been set and what it is based on.

Cllr Mike Patrick had been contacted by Mr Clark a resident in Kiln Lane who was willing to repair the damaged stile. The Council had no objection. Cllr Patrick to speak to the resident.

Cllr John Hieatt reported that there was still no movement regarding the Planning Application for the Fast Food Outlet in Elm Drive. He would continue to phone the Planning Department at SODC on a regular basis to make sure the Parish Council is fully aware of any developments regarding this application.

Cllr Paul Bolam raised the problem the School are having finding a School Crossing Officer, this is a paid post, but to date the School has been unsuccessful in recruiting anyone. If anyone knows anyone that might be interested can they ask them to contact the School. He also raised the problem of crossing the road by the War Memorial when Parents park in the Three Horseshoes, because of parked cars and the restricted view of oncoming traffic this is very dangerous. It was agreed that Parish Council would support the School in any representations they made to the County Council on this issue.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

**November 2013**

**THE BUDGET**

Since 2010, we have saved £127 million, with plans set to save another £74 million over the next few years. Despite this, further cuts to our budget by Central Government mean we must find **another £64 million** bringing the total reduction to **£265 million**. The exact figure will not be known until the Local Government Settlement that is due on 19th December.

We have held 6 public meetings across the County called Talking Oxfordshire. They were attended by over 1,000 residents with over 400 responses to the online consultation. The draft proposals will be published 6th December ahead of the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 16th December. There will then be a period of consultation with Cabinet agreeing its budget on 28th January 2014. The proposals will then be debated by all councillors on 18th February 2014 when a Budget is set by the full Council.

**BUDGET LETTER TO MINISTERS**

During the public meetings, there were calls to challenge Central Government over the amount of funding that had been removed from Oxfordshire. The Council’s Cabinet is always in close contact with the six Oxfordshire MPs, and even more so during the Budget process.

However, Councillors of all parties agreed on 5th November to write to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The letter to Eric Pickles is outlined below.

“Mindful of the fact that Oxfordshire has already cut £127m and has in place plans to cut a further £74m from its budget, Council has asked me to write to you, to the Prime Minister and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking you to:

* Consider the impact on services of a further cut of £60m given that the additional cut will have to be made on services which are not statutory and will hit the rising number of vulnerable elderly people and children in all communities.
* Mitigate the damage which these further reductions in expenditure will have on communities across Oxfordshire through the Autumn Statement and the Local Government Finance Settlement by a combination of giving greater local determination to elected councillors in relation to the Council Tax and providing a less onerous settlement to local government.
* Consider in the longer term a new approach to securing the financial stability and sustainability of local government.”

Part of the Minister’s reply states, ‘We have consulted on the local government settlement for 2014-15 and 2015-16 and exactly how Revenue Support should be distributed, in the usual way. We are grateful for Oxfordshire’s response to this consultation and we are considering this at present.’

**OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS & WASTE PLAN – LOCAL AGGREGATE ASSESSMENT 2013**

On 26th November the OCC Cabinet ratified new, lower figures for minerals extraction up to 2030. Most important for this Division was the revised figure for sharp sand and gravel down from 1.26mtpa to 0.96mtpa (million tonnes per annum). It was also agreed to adopt a 10 year rolling average of production figures as the foundation for the Local Area Assessment and for calculating the Oxfordshire landbank, key elements of new requirements under the new National Planning Policy Framework.

The next challenge will be to set the criteria for deciding on which spatial areas will be considered should the need arise to find new extraction sites, some of which will have to be in the South of the county. However, if the revised Plan is accepted at the public consultation due to take place in February/March 2014, and is ratified by the Inspector at the Public Inquiry due in July 2015, it is unlikely that there will be any need to come looking for gravel in this Division during the lifetime of the Plan. This would represent a tremendous victory for all those residents who have campaigned since 2007 to protect this area from the threat of large scale gravel extraction. Let’s hope that no more changes in legislation or circumstances cause any more delays. So many communities across the county need and deserve the certainty that a new Minerals & Waste Plan will provide.

**NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK**

The County Council is encouraging more people to consider whether they could change a child’s life by becoming an adopter. Following National Adoption Week (4th to 10th November), the Council’s Adoption Team wants to hear from anyone interested in finding out more – especially those willing to adopt older children, children with disabilities and siblings who need to stay together.

To find out more visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/adoption or call 0800 783 5724

**HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

As reported in November, public meetings are being held across the County. The Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Hudspeth will be available at each meeting to answer your questions, alongside senior council officers Roy Leach (School Organisation & Planning Manager) and Neil Darlington (Admissions and Transport Services Manager). The remaining meetings are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Venue** | **Date** | **Time** |
| Icknield Community College | 2nd of December 2013 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm |
| Wheatley Park School | 4th of December 2013 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm |
| Burford School | 9th of December 2013 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm |
| Larkmead School | 10th of December 2013 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm |
| Farringdon School | 11th of December 2013 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm |
| The Warriner School | 12th of December 2013 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm |

**THRIVING FAMILIES PROGRESS**

With the support of the Government, Oxfordshire has been running a project called ‘Thriving Families’. This aims to identify the most troubled families in society and directly tackle problems such as crime and antisocial behaviour, poor school attendance and unemployment. It is also aimed at making long-term savings by reducing the financial burden these issues place on society.

Families are assigned a dedicated worker from the county council’s Thriving Families team who acts as the single point of contact. The worker liaises with other agencies to deliver an agreed plan of action geared towards achieving specific results. Families’ progress is measured through real-terms improvements in school attendance, behaviour, and reductions in levels of offending over a sustained period of time.

So far 55% of the 558 families the Council has worked with have turned their lives around. This makes Oxfordshire the tenth best nationally, and fourth when the number of families making progress is taking into account.

The council has invested £1.6million in the scheme and is on course to secure a further £3million through the Government’s ‘payment by results’ model for work to continue in future years.

**READY FOR WINTER**

We have enjoyed the best summer since 2006 but the weather is changing, with a noticeable drop in the temperature. The County Council has been planning the winter maintenance programme throughout the summer to be ready for the frosts that will occur. All grit bins should be full, please contact us if any in your area have not been filled. We work with Town & Parish Councils so that they have plans in place to assist in clearing the snow during the bad weather. There will be a series of road shows during October to explain what is available. If you require further information, please contact Paul Wilson, the Adverse Weather Manager.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

There are a number of funds available to local organisations in the Division.

* **Councillors Community Budgets**

We have continued to fund these popular local funds to support local organisations. If you know of any organisations that might be interested, please contact me or seek further information at *http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/councillor-community-budgets*

* **Area Stewardship Funding**

These are continuing but are now organised differently. I will attend meetings with other councillors in my locality to pool our funds together for greater effect where possible. It is used to fund highway issues in particular. I meet with the Bicester & Kidlington Councillors in my locality meetings on a regular basis to consider potential projects. I am always happy to receive requests.

* **Chillout Fund**

We have continued a £100,000 fund to support projects for children and young people. More at [*http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/chill-out-fund-youth-activities-and-projects*](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/chill-out-fund-youth-activities-and-projects)

**CONTACT DETAILS** Address: Councillor Lorraine Lindsay- Gale, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1NDEmail: Lorraine.Lindsay-Gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk