The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 6th October 2003 commencing at 7.30 pm

1. The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors Paul Bolam, Anne Eastwood, Cliff Moss, Gurdip Saini and Ann Tomline with G Russell in attendance. Also present were Inspector Sutherland from Thame and 9 residents of the Parish

2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. John Goodey and County Councillor David Turner

###### 3. Declarations of Interest:

The Chairman declared an interest in Planning Application P03/W0753 Garsington Opera concerning the variation of condition 8 of planning permission no PO1/N0620

###### 4 Public Participation

(i) Inspector Graham Sutherland introduced himself as the new Thame Sector Inspector. He explained that there have been some changes to staffing in the Wheatley area but the most significant recent change has been to the way in which incoming telephone calls are handled. The number to use for non-emergency contact is now 01865 846000 which connects with a Police Enquiry Centre (PEC). These centres are using new technology to facilitate communication between the public, the police command centres and individual officers on the ground.

Inspector Sutherland stressed that he was aware of the high importance that should be placed upon maintaining good levels of police visibility. He explained that the priorities for his staff are set on weekly basis having regard to the latest data coming from crime intelligence reports.

Traffic matters are now dealt with by a special unit and Inspector Sutherland said that he would pass to this unit the concerns of Garsington residents, especially with regard to the speed of traffic in the village.

(ii) Mr Ernie Tipping again raised the question of the state of signs in Denton Lane and the Chairman said that he would look into this matter.

(iii) In reference to the play area, Ernie Tipping said that adults and larger children should be discouraged from using the aerial runway and that the perimeter hedges need cutting.

(iv) Mr Basil Townsend commented that the special meeting of the Parish Council that had taken place on 16th September, mainly to discuss traffic calming issues, had also discussed some planning applications; he said that he thought that the public should have been given notice that these applications were going to be discussed and the Chairman said that he agreed with this point.

###### 5 Minutes of the Meetings of 1st and 16th September

The Minutes of both of these meetings were approved and signed as a correct record.

###### 6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) The Clerk said that out of the three local firms of Lime Craftsmen supplied to him by Jenny Hart, SODC Conservation Officer, only Colin Perry of Watlington had expressed any interest in the repairs to the Village Cross. He had quoted £600. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Ms Hart to contact Mr Perry and supply him details of what is required.

b) Following an inspection of the Play Area, Playdale have agreed to replace some of the timbers free of charge and the work will be done within a week. The letter from Playdale is to be circulated.

c) Cllr Moss asked what progress had been made with regard to a new scheme to prevent flooding in Larch End. Cllr Mrs Tomline said that she understood that the survey had been completed and that the scheme is now being costed.

d) Mr Brian Short had been asked about the possibility of providing parking for the disabled and their carers in the vicinity of the Playground and Mrs Tomline is having discussions about this with colleagues at the District Council.

e) A working party is needed to tidy the war memorial and the area around it. The litterbin has still not been removed.

###### 7 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr David Turner had sent his apologies due to another commitment that he was attending on behalf of the County Council.

###### 8 District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that the District Council is setting up a task force to specialise with mobile homes. There was much discussion at District Council about what should be done to bring the accommodation at Crowmarsh up to standard.

Cllr Mrs Tomline had attended a meeting of the rural housing trust. This had been very informative and she will use the magazine to pass on the knowledge that she has gained.

There is tremendous opposition to the proposals contained in the County's Structure Plan for housing south of Grenoble Road and a campaign against the idea is gaining widespread support.

###### 9 Finance and cheques for signature

Bank balances were as follows

Bank of Ireland (at 5th Sept) £108,299.76 (interest in the month £275.23)

Barclays Community A/c (at 30th Sept) £11,798.84

Tracker A/c 10th September £8160.35 (interest earned. £23.96)

Newsletter advertising receipts in September were £867.27; the annual contribution towards grass cutting from Oxon CC had been received in the sum of £190.00

The following cheques were approved for payment:

ORCC annual subscription £20.00

Household Pest Services - quarterly charge £164.50

Clerk's salary and expenses £340.22

10 Planning Applications

Cllr Mrs Tomline said that, as a member of the SODC Northern Area Planning Committee, she would not vote on these matters when they were decided by the Parish Council. She could not disclose to the Parish Council how she intended to vote on these matters when they were decided by the Planning Committee, as further information may be available at the planning meeting. During the Parish Council’s discussions prior to a vote, however, she was available to give advice and answer questions on factual matters if invited.

i) P03/W0753 Garsington Opera

The Chairman declared an interest in this application and left the room. In his absence Cllr Paul Bolam, Vice-Chairman, presided.

Section 73 Variation of condition 8 from planning permission no PO1/N0620 to identify retraction of acoustic curtains as indicated on drawing CL3980/17

The Council had received further information, at its own request, about the reasoning for this application from Jane Randle of SODC and Simon Poole of Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners Ltd, acting on behalf of the Opera.

In the light of this information the Council considered that the application should be approved.

The Chairman resumed the Chair

ii) P03/W0659 8 The Green (amended regarding roof lights)

The Council noted that this application was approval on 30th September

iii) P03/W0866 (RET) Lomond House 85a Southend

Application to change the extension ridge height from 500mm below existing to 220 mm below

The Council considered that this application should be approved.

Planning Decisions

i) P03/W0671 17 Elm Drive (loft conversion, extension etc)

The Council noted that this application was approved on 19th September

ii) P03/W0696 68 Oxford Road (erection of garden shed)

The Council noted that this application was approved on 19th September

iii) P03/W0690 57 Wheatley Road (Erection of conservatory)

The Council noted that this application was approved on 23rd September

iv) P03/W0641 116 Southend (erection of extension)

The Council noted that this application was approved on 24th September

###### 10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a) Details of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council AGM at Horspath on 30th October had been received and would be circulated.

b) At the recent SALTEX show the Clerk had obtained catalogues from two suppliers of litterbins, both of which offered a wide range of products including fire-and vandal resistant models. This will be circulated.

c) The Council had been invited to comment upon the South Oxfordshire Design Guide but it was agreed that the Council would offer no comment

d) It was agreed that the behaviour of residents on Halloween would be carefully monitored. It was hoped that the Police would have a very visible presence that night.

###### 11 Village Maintenance

The Clerk was asked to make contact with John Palmer about the gardens by the old school, there having been no progress in this matter since some members of the Council had met with him in November 2002.

It was agreed that the Council should obtain quotations for the refurbishment of the seats within the Village and tidying of hedges.

The broken manhole cover off Elm Drive has been repaired.

###### 12 Street Lighting

Cllr Mrs Tomline suggested that lighting by The Green should be improved and also by the footpath to Denton off Wheatley Road. Cllr Saini suggested more lights in Elm Drive. The Chairman asked that Councillors have a look at what might be required and that there should be site visits to the areas of most concern.

###### 13 Purchase of land off Oxford Road

The plan showing the boundary of the site would be circulated. Pre-contract enquiries were progressing and the land search had been completed. Countryside officers and tree experts have viewed the site and the Chairman said that all options for using the land should be reviewed.

It was agreed that the payment for the land should be drawn upon the Barclays Account when required.

###### 14 Oxfordshire County Council Structure Plan

The Clerk said that he would check to make sure that responses by letter are acceptable as well as those made upon the County Council's form. The Clerk was asked to send a Parish Council response against the proposals to build houses on land south of Grenoble Road.

###### 15 Traffic Calming

The Chairman reported on the meeting, which had that morning been held with Brian Short. Mr Short had undertaken to give the Parish Council the County's recommendations within 2/3 months. The Chairman commented that there were understandable concerns that action taken to reduce traffic speeds along Oxford Road might drive more cars on to Southend or Pettiwell.

###### 16 Code of Conduct – Training video

The video and training manual were passed to Cllr Saini. All other councillors have now viewed the film.

###### 17 Housing Needs Survey

Further discussion will take place at a later meeting. It was understood that Horspath Parish Council is carrying out a similar exercise and may have some useful advice.

###### 18 Village Youth Club

It was agreed to carry over discussion of this topic until a later meeting.

###### 19 Parish Council Vacancies

It was thought that there might be up to seven people interested in filling the two vacant positions on the Parish Council. It was agreed that each of these persons should be asked to submit a brief statement containing information about themselves, their interests and their experience and that this information should be discussed at an informal gathering of councillors. It was thought that this should be done before councillors were asked to vote on the matter.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 3rd November. It was agreed that the division of responsibilities between individual councillors should be discussed on that date.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 pm