Garsington Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 2nd October 2006 commencing at 7.30 pm

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors David Baker, Anne Eastwood, John Hieatt and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present were District Cllr Ann Tomline, five residents and, for part of the meeting Alix Michaelis from ORCC, PC Brian Price and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Zoe Hill from Thames Valley Police.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Paul Bolam who is away and Cllr Gurdip Saini who is unwell. County Cllr David Turner hoped to attend depending on other commitments.

2 Public Participation

Ernie Tipping mentioned flooding and District Cllr Ann Tomline said that she had reported the matter that morning. He said that there are several recent graves in the burial ground which need to be levelled to ease mowing. Mr Tipping also complained about inappropriate parking; this topic will be covered by the Police later in the meeting as will concerns about poor behaviour by some residents outside the shops in Elm Drive which were raised by Cliff Moss.

Mr Moss also said that roads and pavements throughout the village are being encroached upon by trees and hedges growing on neighbouring properties. He said that if householders/landowners did not keep their boundaries in good order they should be told that the Council will carry out the work and send them the bill.

3 Thames Valley Police

The Police representatives said that, despite all the issues raised by residents in this meeting, the Police had received no official calls to the 0845 8 505 505 non-emergency crime reporting office. Police resources are managed according to reports logged by that office and it is vital for residents to make the calls if they wish more police time and priority to be given to Garsington.

The Parish Council is entitled to send a representative to the Wheatley area Community Safety Group which meets every six weeks and it was agreed that Cllr Hieatt will attend future meetings.

PCSO Zoe Hill confirmed that she is aware of the problems in Elm Drive and visits are being made. She also emphasised that whenever she sees a parking offence being committed she does issue a ticket. The PSCOs cover several villages at the moment but Thames Valley Police intends to recruit up to 600 more over the next few years.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

5 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2006

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Mrs Osborne has confirmed to the Clerk that the trees on her land adjacent to Pettiwell will receive attention.

b. The Primary Care Trust speakers had been unable to attend this evening’s meeting and will now attend the November Parish Council meeting instead.

7 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Turner reported in writing on several matters that are being dealt with by County Highways.

a. The footpath on B480 from Kings Copse to Grenoble Road; the Highways Inspector will arrange for the weeds to be treated and the footpath cleaned.

b. The sign at Kings Copse has been ordered and will be re-erected by the end of October.

c. The matter of the safety barrier at the end of Kiln Lane is being investigated by Mark Francis and he will report as soon as possible.

d. The flooding of the ditch between Kings Copse and Pettiwell – the landowner is being traced so that the matter can be dealt with.

e. The subsidence opposite Combewell on Oxford Road and the hole outside Library Farm have both been repaired.

f. The Southend high path barrier poles need replacement and will be replaced during November.

g. The broken pushbutton for the pedestrian crossing by the Cowley works has been referred to the Traffic Signal Team in Oxford.

h. The request for SLOW markings on the high end of Oxford Road is being investigated by Mark Francis and he will report back.

i. The brambles at 52 Southend will be included in the flailing programme.

j. 29 South End; the contractors to BT were contacted. They replied that surplus materials from works were deposited on a verge area for collection; when collected the hard standing was revealed but to their knowledge was not damaged. As a gesture the access was cleared and some stone replaced in open areas. The contractors are in the process of obtaining quotes for the complete restoration and will proceed as soon as clearance received from their insurers.

k. The wooden bollard outside Gate 1 of The Manor in Southend will be re-instated by end October 2006.

8 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Mrs Tomline is to attend a meeting to discuss the future of the Green Belt and the threats to it from new planning proposals. She will report back.

She asked if the Parish Council would oppose the proposed changes to the District Council’s policy about planning enforcement.

She reported that several of the District Council’s senior managers have recently left.

9 Finance

Balances

Barclays Current Account at 30th September £16,830.65

Barclays Community Account at 8th September £50.33

Bank of Ireland at 5th September £121,807.95 (interest earned £409.92)

Second half Precept received £9,185.00 Advertising receipts this month £330.

The following cheques were approved for payment:

Garsington Parochial Church Council (Fabric appeal) £5,000.00

G Russell (Clerk’s salary) £315.90

G Russell (Admin) £87.60

E Tipping (fuel) £41.00

Citizens Advice Bureau £250.00

South & Vale Carers £50.00

Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust £150.00

10 Planning

a. Applications:

P06/W0949; 69, Southend. Demolition of existing dwelling and garage, construction of new dwelling.

The Council agreed that it had no strong views about this application but the letter from Mrs Royal at 67 Southend was noted and asked the planners to note Mrs Royal’s concerns about the drainage and the need to protect Mrs Royal’s boundary hedge during the construction work which, it was felt, should not take place during anti-social hours especially on Sundays. It was noted that there is no replacement garage and it was felt important that there should be enough space left for car parking on site.

P06/W0979/RET; The Plough Inn, 1 Oxford Road; Retention of wooden decking area over existing patio area.

The Council agreed to recommend that this application should be approved.

b. Decisions

P06/W0728; Morgans View, 3 Oxford Road Garsington

Erection of a two storey front extension and conservatory to the rear.

Refused

P06/W0779; 15 Elm Drive, Garsington; Proposed single storey rear extension.

Granted

P06/W0749; Garsington Opera, Garsington

Granted

P06/W0764; 3 Combewell, Garsington; Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new conservatory

Granted

P06/W0820; 106 Oxford Road, Garsington; Erection of a two storey front extension.

Granted

Consultation on Planning Enforcement

The Clerk will resend the URL where the document can be read. Any councillor with comments should send these to SODC by 9th October.

11 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

a. The consultation document on the provision for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan sites will be circulated.

b. The Council noted the publication of the South Oxfordshire Site Allocations Development Plan Document and that there will be exhibitions around the area where the plans will be displayed. The next Council meeting will provide an opportunity to prepare the Council’s response.

c. The Council noted that the ORCC AGM is at Tackley on Wednesday 18th October at 7.30 pm (copy of annual report received) and the OPFA AGM is on Tuesday 31st October at Standlake Village Hall starting 7.30 pm.

12 Sports Club Extension

John Waters has advised the Clerk that the approved plans are estimated to cost £250k - £300k. However it has been decided that an extra 10’ needs adding to the building to provide more space for storage and staging. SODC has indicated that this will mean a new planning application. In order to obtain accurate costings before applications for grant aid are prepared a report will be needed from a quantity surveyor. The Parish Council agreed in principle to pay both the fee for the new planning application and the fee, estimated at £1,500, for the surveyor’s report.

Mr Waters said that it is probable that funding of £125k can be obtained from the Football Association if this is matched from other sources.

It was agreed that all residents must be consulted before substantial amounts of the Parish Council’s funds are committed to this project. The Council will pay the costs of this consultation which will include preparing and circulating the consultation document, holding a viewing of the plans, arranging and hosting a public meeting, collecting and collating public responses. These documents, plans and survey forms are to be prepared by a sub committee of the joint working party.

Mr Waters has also said that the information should include details of annual running costs and funding and that a new constitution must be written to protect the interests of the Sports Club, the Parish Council and all user groups

The Council noted that the next closing date for applications to the SODC Community Investment Fund is March 2007.

13 Village Maintenance

The Clerk is to follow up the idea of planting a hedge round the electricity sub –station in Southend. Cllr Shuker said that he is in touch with both Wicksteed and Playdale about repairs and improvements to equipment and surfaces in the Play Area.

14 Transport Needs Survey

Alix Michaelis, the Rural Community Transport Adviser, she explained although the County Council does carry out surveys when reviewing policy about subsidy for individual routes these are simple head counts rather than qualitative information about the purposes for making the journeys and what alternatives might be available, if any. It is important to obtain the views of non bus users as well as passengers.

She has prepared a local transport survey for Garsington and asked if the Council would give its comments on the document and then arrange for its distribution when printed. Responses could come by a Freepost service, which is funded by the County Council, and through a central point where completed forms could be returned. Compiling and analysing the results would be her responsibility.

It was agreed to support this initiative. Comments on the questionnaire would be sent via the Clerk and councillors said that they would help to distribute the survey. The target response rate will be 20 – 25% including replies from non bus users.

15 Establishing a new bus stop – a proposal from the County Council.

The Chairman reported his site meeting with Mr Lewis Ward from the County Council. The Council does not believe that the proposed site is suitable and would prefer that this project does not go ahead.

As an alternative the Council will offer space for the display of the time table information on the notice board opposite The Plough.

16. Burial Ground

The Chairman said that the Council should discuss the matter of graves that needed levelling, which had been raised during Public Participation. Cllr Shuker said that he will mention this to Rev. Cowles and that he would also discuss the matter of inappropriate memorials.

The Clerk will ask Cllr Bolam about his project to prepare a bereaved family version of the Council’s rules and regulations for the Burial Ground.

17. Review of Traffic Calming scheme.

It was agreed that discussion of this matter would be postponed.

18. Land off Oxford Road

The grant application to the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment is being prepared by the Clerk for submission by 10th October and he will contact Cllr Shuker for photographs, maps and original contractor’s quotes as required.

The Clerk mentioned that there are at least two new residents who have moved into the immediate area of the land and who will need the information packs that their neighbours have already seen.

The Meeting closed at 10.02 pm