**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 1st September, 2014 commencing at 7.30pm The Chairman, Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present was 1 member of the public.

9/14/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ian Dickinson – Work Commitments

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale – County Council Meetings

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie – SODC Meetings

9/14/2 Declarations of Interest

None

9/14/3 Public Participation

None

9/14/4 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 4th August 2014

The Minutes as circulated were adopted and signed.

9/14/5 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

None

9/14/6 County Councillor’s Report

None

9/14/7 District Councillor’s Report

None

9/14/8 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 30th July £39,662.57 (August statement not received)

Council to note the DD payment to Grundon in July amounting to £66.18

The following cheques were approved

SODC Dog Bin Emptying April to June £75.35

Wheatley Park School – Prize Giving Donation £150

Village Hall Hire £51.00

Clerks Salary £278.34

Newsletter Editor £96.38

HMRC/PAYE £93.80

Administration Costs £37.00

9/14/9 Planning

P14/S2497/HH 20 Wheatley Road

Proposed extension and conversion of existing garage to playroom/annexe

No objections were raised.

9/14/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Tina Everett – New Kissing Gates

A response had been received from Mr Barclay who farms some of the land he did not have any objections but felt that as a matter of courtesy the Land Agent for Queens College should be advised as they were the actual landowners. Mr King whilst agreeing in principle had raised a question regarding ongoing liability. The law is clear on this, it is the Landowners responsibility, however, in the past members of the Parish Council and Garsington Society had carried out maintenance and repairs to footpaths and stiles in Garsington and this type of activity would be offered in the future. Clerk to write to Mr King.

Pettiwell – Correspondence from Mr Surman

Flooding at the B480 junction with Pettiwell. The Clerk had written to the County Council asking for the drains to be cleared.

Footpath at the top of Pettiwell, the County Council had made it clear on many occasions when this has been raised in the past that a footpath would not be installed due to cost and suitability of the area. Chairman, Chris Wright said it might be possible for the Parish Council to make a clearer defined footpath on the top of the bank. He would speak to the Kays who currently maintain this bank outside their property and get their view. To be discussed further. Clerk will respond to Mr Surman.

Hedges and Verges around the School

The Clerk had received complaints from residents regarding the hedges and verges around the School which did not appear to be regularly maintained. Cllr Anne Eastwood said that she had spoken to the School about the verges, they had now been cut but because the grass was so long and the clippings had not been removed the whole area looked very untidy. Clerk will write to Head Teacher.

Untidy Graves in the Burial Ground

Clerk had been forwarded correspondence regarding the state of Mr Nimmo’s grave which had been sent to Emma Pennington, the family had tried to speak to Mr Tipping to ask if there was a problem and why the grass had not been cut. Cllr Mike Patrick agreed to speak to Mr Tipping when he returned from holiday to try and resolve this issue. Clerk would write to family advising of the action being taken.

9/14/11 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam said he had made a start on raking the bark, some of the retaining boards may need replacing and closer inspection of the area was needed. Cllr Mike Patrick asked if additional bark was required and also if assistance was needed to rake the bark. Cllr Bolam also reported there were some loose bolts on the large climber which he would attend to, otherwise the general state of the play area was in good order.

Cllr Bolam also requested that in future when permission was given for parking on the upper part of the playing field that any notice displayed indicating parking should also make motorist aware of the need to take care and look out for children going to or using the play area.

Cllr Paul Bolam said he had not yet researched new equipment for Poplar Close. It was generally felt that before any further action was taken agreement needed to be obtained from the housing association responsible for the area. Cllr Bolam will speak to SOHA and report back.

9/14/12 Village Maintenance

Burial Ground – The Parish Council had not received any response from either John Hall or the PCC. Chairman, Chris Wright said he would speak to John Hall.

Badgers – Following the last meeting when it was agreed to install a Badger Gate, Godfrey Eden and had built a gate to the size requirement instructions on the Natural England website, this had been installed and would being monitored for the required 28 days, the smaller holes had also been filled in. Clerk reported she had been monitoring the Badgers, there had not been any activity in the Burial Ground for several weeks, it was agreed that once the 28 day period had expired if there was no further activity the largest entrance would also be filled in and the area reseeded. Clerk will organise this. It was agreed it did not seem necessary to sink a wire fence to 1.5m in the ground at this time. The situation would continue to be monitored.

Overhanging Trees and Hedges

Cllr Mike Patrick reported that due to being on holiday he had not yet obtained a quote for trimming the hedge along the path in Southend, he asked if he could go ahead with the work if the cost was £200 or below. This was agreed.

9/14/13 Community Plan

The Parish Council considered the responses raised in the Community Plan Survey Questionnaire, a large number of residents had included the following items or issues in their responses for the Parish Council.

Speeding – The Council were in the process of purchasing a mobile speed indicator device that would be moved around the village.

It was also suggested that the Parish Council looked at the costs for installing chicanes at the pinch points on certain roads within the village, this would have the benefit of slowing traffic down and also in these narrow road areas making it safer for pedestrians. The Clerk would ask the County Council about the feasibility of this and what the costs might be.

Cycle Path between Garsington and Build Base on the Oxford Road, the Parish Council would ask the County Council about the feasibility of a cycle path on this road and what the costs might be. Chairman Chris Wright said that another option to offer better access for village cyclists and pedestrians might be to consider making Kiln Lane a cycle way, this would provide better access to Grenoble Road and link up with other footpaths and cycle lanes into the City.

Potholes and Drainage, there was already a process for reporting Potholes and Drainage problems, the County Council was responsible for highway issues, many of the problems resulted from budget restrictions, the Parish Council regularly brought issues affecting Garsington to the attention of the County Councillor.

Dog Fouling, the Parish Council already provided a number of bins throughout the village it was not considered that more needed to be done, most dog owners acted in a responsible manner.

Street Lighting, Cllr Paul Bolam would investigate this. Cllr Matthew Dovey said that he would try and extract from the survey, the exact locations in the village where lighting was considered to be a problem.

Many other issues were also discussed these included the road problems in Southend, progress has been made on this recently and it is currently being dealt with by the County Council. The County Council are also in the process of carrying out a traffic speed survey on this road. Greenwoods and the traffic problems in Pettiwell, this is an ongoing problem which the Parish Council regularly discusses with both the District and theCounty Council.

9/14/14 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey said there was nothing to report this month the service had been reasonable.

He also reported that he had been unable to attend the Public Transport Meeting due to other commitments.

9/14/15 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Latest Police report had been circulated.

Chairman, Chris Wright asked what progress had been made with purchasing the Speed Indicator Device. Cllr Matthew Dovey said the police had no problems and PCSO Ken Cooney had agreed be present when the device was installed for the first time. He was just waiting for confirmation that existing street furniture could be used. It was agreed that the device should be ordered immediately.

9/14/16 Any Other Business

Cllr Anne Eastwood reported that the long grass had now been cut in Parslers Piece and needed to be raked off. Chairman Chris Wright asked if she would organise a working party for the following Saturday.

Disabled Ramp at the Elm Drive Shops, Chairman Chris Wright asked what the latest information was on this site, unfortunately due to the resignation of John Hieatt no further progress had been made. Cllr Matthew Dovey agreed to speak to Judith Ann to enlist her help in trying to ascertain what actual need there was for this work to be carried out, the original request had only been raised by one resident. To be discussed further.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm