**Please see end of this document for the county councillor’s December Report**

**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 1st December 2014, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Matthew Dovey, Paul Bolam, Ian Dickinson, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale and three members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie

2. Declarations of Interest

Chairman, Chris Wright and Cllr Paul Bolam declared an interest in planning application

P14/S3603/FUL

3. Public Participation

Resident from Kiln Lane expressed his concerns regarding the sewage problems that regularly cause problems at the Elm Drive/ Kiln Lane/Poplar Close junctions. Some of the properties in Kiln Lane that have cellars are constantly at risk of flooding from this recurring problem and although Thames Water does respond it does not appear to be able to reach a conclusion on what remedial action is required to prevent this happening for the future. Resident has asked if Parish Council will write to Thames Water expressing the concerns of the residents. This was agreed, Clerk to action.

He also was concerned about the ditches and gullies in Kiln Lane, right hand ditches going down the lane had been cleared by a resident although the banking up of soil did mean the surface water could not easily run away and this may cause flooding problems, the ditch on the left hand side needed attention. Robert Surman who farms the land offered to look at this and clear the ditch if it was possible.

Resident asked what action was being taken with Greenwoods and the parking problems, the ditch adjacent to the property was full of rubbish, this would only cause problems and increase the risk of flooding particularly at the junction with Pettiwell and B480, this was not the first time this problem had been raised and although some remedial work had been carried out by County Council to clear the drains and gullies at the junction, problems still existed. Clerk would request removal of the rubbish as this appears to be fly – tipping. Chairman Chris Wright said that the Police were monitoring the situation regarding the parked vehicles and the Parish Council is aware of the problems that the parked vehicles cause to residents and other road users.

4. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 3rd November 2014

11/14/6 County Councillor’s Report, delete sentence beginning “She briefly referred”

11/14/14 Village Bus Service – change from at Bus Company to with Bus Company

5. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

None

6. County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor’s report had been circulated.

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale briefly highlighted some of the items mentioned in the report, particularly Grenoble Road, Unitary Authority? “Hardly a day goes by without someone from the City Council taking up pages of newsprint to tell us why they need to develop 4,000 houses over the Oxford Green Belt at Grenoble Road” at the present time all the County Council can do is sit and watch until a decision is made.

School Crossing, County Cllr confirmed that a traffic survey outside the School had been requested, she had also requested the repainting of the white lines, funding for both these items would come out of her budget.

The County Council regrettably did not have funds available for the changes to the footpath at the junction of Wheatley Road/The Green, as previously discussed. If the Parish Council wished to have this work implemented they would have to find funding.

A feasibility study would be carried out regarding a possible zebra crossing outside the School, but the County Council would not be carrying out a feasibility study on the suggested drop off point in front of the School which had also been discussed at the site meeting.

The Parish Council agreed in principle to fund the footpath changes, cost approximately £4,500 if a bell type bollard was not installed. Clerk will write to Highways Safety Officer asking for a full quote for the work minus the bell bollard and request costings for an alternative bollard more in keeping with the area.

Chairman, Chris Wright had been copied in on an email sent to the County Council from a resident in Southend, which expressed concerns about the road surface and possible flooding in Southend, County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale said she had not seen this, she took away a copy of the email and agreed to investigate this further and make sure it was actioned.

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale left the meeting at 7.50pm

7. District Councillor’s Report

Although not present at the meeting, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie had spoken to Chairman, Chris Wright and updated him on current issues under discussion at SODC, particularly the SHMA proposed housing needs.

The District Council were going to fight the numbers quoted. They would be pointing out to the City Council how they could in fact fill the housing needs from other sites within the City and using brown field land, rather than using the Green Belt areas.

As a member of the LEADER group, Cllr Gillespie said there were still grants available, and if the Parish Council had any possible projects that required funding they should apply as soon as possible.

Chairman, Chris Wright would speak to District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie and ascertain if grants would be made available towards the cost of the pavement extension or purchasing defibrillators.

8. Finance

Barclays Bank Current Account at 31st October 2014 £48362.41

Receipts for Newsletter Advertising £600

Notification had been received from HMRC of VAT refund for period April2014 – March 2014 £1288.74

Burial Fees July to September 2014 £540

Council to note the DD payment to Grundons for October amounting to £66.18

The following cheques were approved for payment

South and Vale Carers – donation £50.00

Westcotec (SID device) £3450.00

Grass cutting Play Area and Burial Ground – Mr Tipping £1044.07

HMRC/PAYE £68.80

Clerks Salary £275.82

SODC Dog Bin Emptying July – September £75.35

Village Hall Hire £51.00

Budget

A first draft of the budget for 2015/16 had been circulated. In principle it was agreed, the biggest expenditure was for grass cutting it was agreed that a full quote should be obtained for all areas of grass cutting that the Parish Council are responsible for looking after. Clerk to action.

Precept

The Clerk advised the Council that the CTRS grant for 2015/16 was reduced to £776, the amount received in the current year was £958.

Cllr Matthew Dovey proposed that in view of this the precept should be increased by a nominal amount of £200

Cllr Paul Bolam and Cllr Judith Westgate felt the precept should not be increased.

A vote was taken, three councillors were in favour of the increase and three felt the precept should remain the same. Chairman, Chris Wright was in favour of the increase, and used his casting vote. The precept request would be raised to £21,000.00 an increase of £200 on last year. The Council has not made any increases in the precept for a number of years, but the additional CTRS grant was decreasing year on year. Clerk will return the Precept Form to SODC.

9. Planning

P14/S3431/FUL The Plough, 1 Oxford Road

Retrospective change of use from 0.7 acre agricultural use to small pony paddock.

Concerns were raised regarding this application. Both the applicant and a neighbour who has an agricultural tenancy on the land were present and were given the opportunity to speak to the Councillors. After a lengthy discussion surrounding the tenancy and the request for a change of use the council agreed that a letter would be sent to the Planning Department at SODC, stating that the Parish Council who have an uninformed view of planning law, after detailed consideration of all the points raised, fails to see how this can happen.

P14/S3603/FUL Great Leys Farm, Lower Road.

Proposed alterations and extension to existing outbuildings to provide a separate dwelling. New access from existing driveway.

Chairman Chris Wright and Cllr Paul Bolam had declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussions.

The Parish Council were divided over this application. Cllr Judy Westgate had concerns that this might be overdevelopment of the site. Cllr Anne Eastwood said it was conversion of part of an existing dwelling. Cllr Matthew Dovey said that he was concerned about overdevelopment of the site but was prepared to accept the wisdom of the planning department. By a majority vote this application was recommended for approval.

P14/S3682/HH 193 Oxford Road

Demolition of existing garage. Erection of single and two storey rear extension and loft conversion.

No objections were raised and the application was recommended for approval.

10. Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Donation request received from Garsington Voluntary Drivers for £100

This was approved cheque will be raised at January meeting

Donation request received from Citizens Advice Bureau, a sum of £100 was approved cheque will be raised at the January meeting.

Planters at The Plough

The owner of the Plough had responded to the letter from the Parish Council asking for removal of the planters, stating that at the present time he would not be removing them.

Cllr Matthew Dovey had provided details to the Council of past discussions regarding this issue back in 2012. The issue of the possible high risk to pedestrians crossing the road was discussed Chairman Chris Wright queried why this particular area was of any greater risk to pedestrians than other areas in the village. It was understood that earlier recommendations had been to grass over the tarmac area or to install bollards instead of the current planters, which had only been put there as a temporary measure. Funding for either option by the County Council had been a problem and the previous clerk had written to the owner stating that the Parish Council would not be funding the work. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Highways Department to establish the current situation and seek advice.

11. Playground Safety

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that on a recent visit the Playground was tidy.

Not all the recommendations outlined in the safety report had been completed, it was possible that new or additional bark for the aerial slide might be required, there were alternatives to the bark currently used, some of them cheaper alternatives, these needed to be explored more fully before any decision could be made.

The question of additional equipment for other areas in the village was discussed. The Clerk undertook to write to the Housing Association who it was understood still owned the green area in Poplar Close, asking for permission to site play equipment on this green space, this would be discussed further when a response has been received.

12. Village Maintenance

Burial Ground - following a meeting with Emma Pennington at which, John Hall, Chris Wright and Judy Eden were present the following guidelines for the Burial Ground were agreed and circulated to members of the Parish Council.

**Future Guidelines for the Burial Ground**

1. Only village residents will have automatic right for burial or internment of ashes in the Burial Ground.

2. This will include former residents who have:

a) Moved into a Nursing Home

b) Relocated to gain easier access to essential needs

c) Moved in with relatives for additional care needs

3. Death of a child whose parent(s) still live in the village

4. Reopening of an existing grave or ashes memorial

All other requests from non- residents even if they at one time lived in the Village will need to be referred to the Parish Council.

These guidelines are to take place with immediate effect.

Defibrillators

Information from British Red Cross and British Heart Foundation had been circulated plus cost details from an independent supplier.

Three possible locations had been suggested

The Village Hall (The management committee did not have a problem providing it was not attached to the village hall)

The Memorial Playing Field

Elm Drive Shops

Further research into how the system works needs to be investigated, Chairman Chris Wright agreed to look at this.

St John’s Ambulance had previously given a talk to Village Hall Management Committee on defibrillators. It was agreed they should be contacted and invited to a future Parish Council Meeting. Clerk to action.

Kissing Gates

Tina Everett had now reached agreement with the landowners regarding installation of the four new kissing gates, unfortunately funding was now a problem, she was currently seeking funding from other sources of about £1000 and the County Council will then top it up.

13. Community Plan

The final version of the Plan was now with the County and District Councils and their views would probably not be received until after Christmas, it was hoped that the Plan would receive a positive rather than a negative response.

Details would be circulated to all residents in the New Year.

14. Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported on a meeting between David Turner and Go Ride, the company have expanded too quickly, causing funding issues, for the time being the 101 Saturday/Sunday evening service would continue with further discussions taking place. Go Ride were currently looking at what could be done, there was little room to cut services, particularly on Sunday, unless they dispensed with the Sunday service altogether.

Thames Travel continues to have problems with overcrowding on some services unfortunately this often gives Garsington residents a problem due to the bus being full by the time it reaches the village.

15. Policing/Speed Monitoring

Police report had been circulated.

PCSO Ken Cooney was being moved to another area at the beginning of December, at the present time details of his replacement were not available.

Cllr Matthew Dovey told the Council that at the present time the Speed Indicator Device had not been activated although it was proposed to place it in Oxford Road as soon as possible. PCSO Ken Cooney had agreed to be present when it was first installed and at the same time carry out a Risk Assessment, because he was no longer available everything would have to be put on hold until details of his replacement could be obtained. Clerk would contact the police and request the details.

16. Any Other Business

The Clerk requested permission to buy some new lights for the Village Christmas Tree if they were needed. This was agreed.

Cllr Mike Patrick spoke about access to footpaths in Kiln Lane. Robert Surman who farms the land said that he would open a gate which should resolve any problems.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

**JANUARY 2015**

**TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT WORKS**

**Kennington Scheme completed**

Ahead of Christmas work was completed on the £7m A423 Southern Bypass Scheme at Hinksey and Kennington Roundabouts. Work began in June to introduce a “hamburger” layout to the Kennington roundabout, which will increase capacity by up to 30% to cope with current and future traffic demand, as well as completing refurbishment of four bridges and the carriageway surface between Hinksey and Heyford Interchanges. The works have also included a new subway to take foot and cycle paths beneath the new lane on Kennington roundabout. Improvements have also been made to Hinksey Hill interchange with a ‘free flow’ lane added to the A34 southbound on slip road.

**Future Schemes**

Work on a series of multi-million pound transport improvement projects is to start in January 2015.

Schemes on London Road, the Plain in Oxford City and Milton Interchange will all get underway, marking the latest phase of investment in the county’s transport infrastructure and future economic success.

Investment in the county’s transport system

**Project Start Date End Date**

London Road Improvements 13 October 2014 May 2015

Milton Interchange January 2015 January 2016

Cycle City: The Plain January2015 July 2015

Featherbed Lane and Steventon Lights January 2015 November 2015

Harwell Phase 2 (Hagbourne Hill) January 2015 November 2015

Chilton A34 Junction – North facing slips February 2015 December 2015

Frideswide Square (Phase 2 -Main Square) February 2015 December 2015

Wolvercote Roundabout June 2015 January 2016

Cutteslowe Roundabout June 2015 January 2016

Harwell Oxford Entrance July 2015 July 2016

Harwell Phase 1 August 2015 February 2017

The work is designed to be phased but some of the funds are dependent on spending within a certain time frame. If a project were to be deferred, it would mean some residents would not benefit from improvements.It was welcome news that we were given 6 year road maintenance funding as it will enable us to plan over a longer period with certainty of funds. *Please information on future schemes:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/major-transport-improvement-work-begin-january-2015*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/major-transport-improvement-work-begin-january-2015)

**BUDGET PROPOSALS**

In line with the Government’s plans to reduce public spending to cut the national deficit, the County Council has made savings totalling £265 million. With £20 million of additional pressures coming from Adult and Children’s Services the **level of savings from 2010 to 2018 totals £285 million**.

As with previous budgets, there will be some very difficult decisions to be taken to deliver a balanced budget in February. If Central Government funding is to be further reduced the County Council is exploring how we can achieve more devolved powers to determine what is best for Oxfordshire.

The Government has announced that the referendum limit will be at 2% for the coming year. We had been preparing the budget on a 1% limit to obtain the top-up ‘freeze’ grant, however that adds a pressure of £3.1 million to the medium term plan. If we decide to increase council tax by 1.99% we may decide to add the funds to the reserves to try and protect the council from future cuts from Central Government funding.

**Your comments on the proposals**

You can make comments on the budget proposals **until 9th January 2015**. Following this the [Performance Scrutiny Committee](http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=895), chaired by the Leader of the Opposition, will consider the proposals.  Comments will then be fed back to [Cabinet](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/cabinet)  for them to take into consideration in advance of proposing their budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18 (MTFP) in January 2015. The MTFP will then be debated by a meeting of all 63 county councillors in February, when the Council will meet to agree a budget and set a Council Tax level.

*Please see:* [*https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/2015\_16\_budgetproposals/consultationHome*](https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/2015_16_budgetproposals/consultationHome)

**NEW TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL ALLIANCE TO BOLSTER GROWTH**

The County Council is exploring ways in which further powers can be devolved to local authorities. On 16th December, the Leaders of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, Ian Hudspeth, Martin Tett and Jim Harker OBE, jointly signed a bold offer to Government to unlock further economic growth and significantly build on the £45 billion value of goods and services that the area already generates.

In the offer, called 'A shared approach to driving prosperity', the three councils call on the Government to work with them to develop a brand new 'combined authority' alliance focused on their common economies of innovation, science, technology and creative industries.  Please note that it is NOT about a super Unitary authority, as each council will have its own sovereignty and will make the final decision regarding any proposals. There is no intention of merging councils, however if this is successful then we may look at other common areas to work together to be more efficient.

*For more information please see:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/new-tri-county-council-alliance-rev-local-prosperity*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/new-tri-county-council-alliance-rev-local-prosperity)

**CONSULTATION ON OXFORDSHIRE’S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAN**

We would like your views to find out if the Childrens Trust is on the right track, so it concentrates on the areas that are most important to you and the young people of Oxfordshire. The Children and Young People’s Plan drives the work of the Children’s Trust and is jointly authored by all of the Trust’s members. It is based on evidence from the Oxfordshire Children’s Needs Analysis 2014. The Children’s Trust wants Oxfordshire to be the best place in England for children and young people to grow up in, by working with every child and young person to develop the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential.

**Consultation closes on 20th February 2015**

*Please see:* https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/CYPplan\_Adults/consultationHome

**CONSULTATION ON CARE HOME FEES FOR APRIL 2015**

As in previous years, Oxfordshire County Council is undertaking a consultation regarding the fees paid to care homes. The Council recognises the need to ensure that good quality care is sustainable and properly funded, and we are mindful of our obligations to consult with providers regarding this matter. We would therefore like to invite you to participate in this consultation and share with us your views on care home fees for 2015-16. Your views will then be shared with and considered by Cabinet in making decisions about future care home funding.

**Consultation closes on 8th February 2015**

https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/carehomefee2014/consultationHome

**OXFORDSHIRE LEADS THE WAY FOR RECYCLING**

Oxfordshire County Council has maintained its position as one of the best counties for recycling of waste in the country, coming top in 3 of the 7 categories. Figures compiled by the Department for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs (Defra) show that Oxfordshire had the lowest amount of residual waste per household in the country. The county was also top of the tables for recycling & composting percentage and dry recycling percentage and where the best performing county council for household waste per head.

*Please see:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/oxfordshire-leads-way-recycling*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/oxfordshire-leads-way-recycling)

**MOVE-ON HOME WILL KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE**

Plans for a ‘move-on’ home for older teenagers preparing to leave care and make the transition to adulthood are set to be unveiled in Witney. The council is proposing to build accommodation for up to four 16-19-year-olds as they develop independence skills, attend college or enter employment. The move-on home, at the former Moorlands Centre on Dark Lane, would help keep vulnerable young people safe, enabling them to live closer to home as they prepare to leave the council’s care. It is one of four new residential developments planned across the county for children in care or at risk of coming into the care system.

*For more information please see:* [*https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/move-home-will-help-keep-vulnerable-young-people-safe*](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/dec/move-home-will-help-keep-vulnerable-young-people-safe)

**COUNCIL STAFF NAMED IN QUEEN’S NEW YEAR’S HONOURS LIST**

Oxfordshire’s Chief Fire Officer and the person responsible for managing the Olympic Torch route through the County have been named in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours list. David Etheridge, who joined Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service 28 years ago, has been made an OBE while County Network Co-ordinator Katherine Powley has been awarded the MBE. Congratulations to all those who have received Honours from the Queen.

**BE PREPARED FOR WINTER**

The county council website provides a considerable amount of advice on how to mitigate problems from the winter weather, including guidance from the Highways Agency and Central Government. There is a particular focus on travel and what residents can do to help us before and during emergencies.

*Please see: http://winter.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/node/21 and https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/fireandpublicsafety/emergency/AreYouReadyBooklet.pdf*

We are committed to keeping a network of major roads free from ice to minimise the risk of accidents and ensure the smooth flow of traffic. Precautionary salting (sometimes called 'gritting') helps achieve this aim. Gritting teams have already been out in November due to falls in overnight temperatures. The County Council’s website displays a considerable amount of information including up to date information on road surface temperatures that indicate when and where gritting will take place. It also shows the roads that are routinely salted during the winter. The page also links to general advice on dealing with snow and ice, and school closures. Daily updates on the roads are also sent out via twitter for those following @oxfordshirecc.

*All the information can obtained from: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/salting-gritting-and-snow-clearance*