**Garsington Parish Council**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 11th June 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman, Cllr Chris Wright presided; present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice-Chairman), Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, John Hieatt, Mike Patrick and Judith Westgate with G Russell in attendance. Also present for part of the meeting were County Cllr David Turner, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie, PC Paul Gregory, Chris Hodgkinson from Oxfordshire County Council and eight members of the public.

6/12/1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ian Dickinson who was away on business.

6/12/2. Declarations of Interest

None.

6/12/3. Public Participation

Mrs Clarke from Kiln Lane said that in many areas the roadside grass is in urgent need of cutting. The Clerk said that in most cases this is the responsibility of the County Council and the recent wet weather had caused delays in the County’s maintenance programme.

6/12/4. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 2nd April

The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed as a correct record.

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held 14th May 2012

The decisions of the Council on the following planning applications were confirmed as follows:

P11/S0101 Land to the rear of Farthings 91 South End

Erection of one detached dwelling and garage

The Council thought that the plans represented an overdevelopment of the site and recommended that the application should be refused.

P12/S0411 2 Wheatley Road

Single storey rear extension.

The Council thought that the plans represented an overdevelopment of the site and recommended that the application should be refused.

6/12/5. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a. Greenwoods Enforcement: Chris Hodgkinson, the Planning Enforcement Officer of Oxfordshire County Council had been asked to attend the meeting by County Cllr David Turner. He explained that four different agencies have an interest in one or more aspects of the activities taking place at the Greenwoods site. These are: the County Council (waste use and disposal); the District Council (car body repairs, taxi hire business); the Environment Agency (scrapping of vehicles etc) and the Police (obstruction of public carriageway).

When Mr Hodgkinson has visited the site he found various unlicensed activities: car engine repairs, paint spraying and the recycling of refrigerators – none of which were licensed at the time. However subsequent applications have led to a ‘Certificate of Lawfulness’.

Mr Hodgkinson said that he had ben told by Mr Yasi, the site manager, that because Greenwoods is well-known as a ‘scrap yard’ the premises do attract some vehicles being abandoned there and this is not something that they can easily control.

Mr Hodgkinson said that he may have misled councillors into believing that the agencies have more control over the activities complained of than is actually true and he was sorry if that was the case. He said that the County Council has no power to limit the hours or the exact location of work; County Highways would be most unlikely to agree to double yellow lines in the roadway; and because it is not a bus route the Police do not feel that the cars parked on the roadside can be considered an obstruction. Carrying out business on the roadside is not a planning issue. PC Gregory said that there is in fact no evidence that cars are being repaired on the road.

The Council noted that the embankment on the side of Pettiwell is being damaged by the very large vehicles that deliver refrigerators for recycling and will investigate whether the landowner opposite Greenwoods might be able to erect a barrier to protect his boundary and to prevent the road itself being covered by dislodged earth.

b. Kiln Lane; P12/S0421 Land at Kiln Lane

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie confirmed that the Kiln Lane Appeal will be heard on the morning of 31st July. The closing date for representations to the Inspector is 6th July. It is understood that some comments for and on behalf of local residents have already been received by the Inspector. Cllr Gillespie encouraged councillors and other interested parties to attend the appeal, which will be held in SODC’s offices at Crowmarsh Gifford. She herself intends to be present.

c. Levelling of graves in Burial Ground; the Clerk will contact Mr Andy Slade, the gravedigger, to arrange an on-site meeting.

6/12/6. County Councillor’s Report

In the matter of the planters on the pavement outside The Plough, County Cllr David Turner will arrange for a Highways Officer to make a site visit and recommendations about the safety of the residents and other road users.

Cllr Mike Patrick said that he has still not been contacted by anyone in the County Council regarding work needed at Kiln Lane. Cllr Turner said that he would check on this again at the end of the week.

Cllr Turner said that he has put in a request for the road markings towards Cowley to be repainted – it had been said at the Annual Parish Meeting that this would be especially helpful in misty weather - and asked if the Council had any preference for the wording on the proposed roundels in Pettiwell: ‘Slow’ or ’30 mph’.

Cllr Bolam reported continued problems caused by vehicles parking overnight outside Unipart. Cllr Turner asked the Clerk to keep him informed about this.

6/12/7. District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said that the District Council has received reports that at least one of units at Greenwoods was being used as a residence. The Enforcement Team at Crowmarsh is dealing with this matter.

The SODC Core Strategy is still being considered by the Inspector and a final response is anticipated in the near future.

6/12/8. Finance:

Balances:

Barclays Current Account at 31st May £29,499.78

Bank of Ireland 14th May £6.31

The Council noted the May direct debit payment to Grundons of £68.28

The following cheques were approved for payment:

CPRE (annual subscription) £29.00

OPFA (annual subscription) £45.00

NALC (magazine subscription) £25.00

Benhamlaw (Sports & Social Club lease) £3,168.00

Kevin S Wright (Jubilee Mugs) £790.00

SODC Dog waste bin service (Jan – March) £36.60

Colourplus (April/May Newsletter) £831.21

Colourplus (June/July Newsletter) £831.21

G Russell (Administration May) £106.24

G Russell (Salary) £406.97

J J Bark (mower repairs) £111.36

Anne Eastwood (new cover for Millenium Map) £42.77

The Council agreed a donation of £150 to Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance. The cheque will be signed at the July meeting.

6/12/9. Planning

a). Applications

P12/S0793/FUL The Plough 1 Oxford Road

Retention of outbuildings used for cattery and change of use of land to be used for cattery business

The Council agreed that it had no objection to this application

P12/S0702/FUL College Farm Garsington OX44 9DD

Proposed conversion of stone barn to include alterations & lean to extension The Council agreed that it had no objection to this application which was a resubmission of P11/W1141 that had been recommended for approval in August 2011.

b). Community-led Planning

Before moving forward with this project the Council is waiting for the response to the Garsington Newsletter invitation to residents to help set the PC’s agenda for the coming years.

6/12/10. Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

The Clerk has been asked for the Council’s assistance in tracking down former members of Wheatley Guides who will shortly be celebrating their anniversary.

6/12/11. Sports & Social Club Lease

The Club has rejected the latest version of the lease. According to the solicitors the Club wants a lease for 20 years with no rent reviews. This is different to what the Council thought had been agreed when the negotiations were still between members of the Club’s Committee and representatives of the Parish Council and which Godfrey Eden had set out in his email to Councillors of 29th August, re-sent on 3rd October. This talked of a ten year lease and rent to be reviewed after four years.

Amanda Benham will be asked to contact the Club’s solicitors again.

The Council was sad to learn of the recent passing away of Cliff Moss.

6/12/12 Fields in Trust Agreement

A copy of the proposed agreement has been circulated and the matter will be discussed at the July Council meeting.

6/12/13 Village Hall Project

Cllr Mike Patrick reported that the disabled access to the Hall is not yet complete. The builder has a ‘snagging list’ of defects to work through and progress is satisfactory.

The Management Committee is to meet later in the week and will order the new notice board, the cost of which is to be shared with the Parish Council. The Clerk will provide Cllr Patrick with the specification and the details of the supplier.

6/1214. Village Maintenance, including dog waste bins

The Council has already agreed that a green dog waste bin should be installed in Southend near the post box by the public footpath. Approval was this evening given to a red dog waste bin for the area of grass within Poplar Close.

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that the footpath along Oxford Road between Kiln Lane and Parslers Piece is in need of attention. Trees and bushes are beginning to grow over the path. Cllr Mike Patrick said he would try to organise this work in the near future.

6/12/15 Jubilee Celebrations Report on 4th June activities

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that a large number of volunteers had helped; he wished to thank them and all the people who had attended. He said that all costs had been covered. In fact there was a surplus of £120 and the organising group would shortly hold a debriefing meeting at which a decision about distributing the money would be made. He would like to propose that the money is spent upon purchasing a gazebo for use by village groups when organising outdoor events. Cllr Dovey recognised that if this purchase went ahead there would need to be clearly defined arrangements for the storage and use of the gazebo.

Cllr Mike Patrick proposed a vote of thanks to Matthew for all his hard work and this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Anne Eastwood proposed a vote of thanks to Wynn Jones who had also performed an important role. This was also agreed unanimously.

The whole Council felt that it had been a very good day out and was delighted that so many residents had attended both the outdoor events – including the spectacular beacon – and also the displays inside the Village Hall. It was agreed that it should be placed on record that it had taken the village children as long as twelve minutes to consume the Jubilee Celebration Tea!

6/12/16. White lines in Wheatley Road

County Cllr David Turner reported on a recent site meeting which had concluded that the white lines in Wheatley Road needed alteration. After much discussion it was agreed that some of lines on the non-school side would be blacked out. It was recognised that doing this would create more parking spaces and that in principle there would be less reason and less pressure to park on the school side of the road.

The Council also agreed to contribute £1,000 towards the cost of providing the flashing signs, the remainder of which is to come from County Cllr David Turner’s Localities Budget. A review of what impact these measures have had on road safety will be carried out before deciding to do anything else.

For the County Council, Mark Francis has asked the Parish Council to ensure that every measure taken is fully discussed in advance with those residents who will be directly affected.

6/12/17 Bus stop locations: B480 Garsington, Lower Farm

Cllr Mike Patrick will attend the meeting at this pair of stops on Thursday 14th June.

6/12/18 New Code of Conduct

The Council agreed unanimously that the code of conduct adopted by South Oxfordshire District Council be adopted as the code for members and co-opted members of Garsington Parish Council with effect from 1st July 2012 to replace the current code of conduct which had been in force since 2nd July 2007.

The Clerk was requested to notify the monitoring officer of the South Oxfordshire District Council of the passing of this resolution.

6/12/19 Proposed Reservoir at Shotover

County Cllr David Turner said that this application is not yet on the District Council’s website. The site is actually within the Parish of Wheatley and at this stage there is nothing further to report.

6/12/20 Village website

All matters concerning the new website have been dealt with and there is no need for this to remain as an item for discussion every month.

6/12//21. Any Other Business

a. Cllr John Hieatt gave notice that he is leading a campaign to raise funds for a defibrillator to be located at the Sports Club and for there to be a team trained in its use. In due course the Parish Council will be asked for a contribution.

b. The Council again reviewed the list of those who are to receive the Council’s ‘Community Award’. Cllr Mike Patrick will circulate the latest list to all.

c. Cllr Matthew Dovey informed the Council that there have been some examples of irregular time-keeping by the bus company. It was agreed that Cllr Dovey could write to the Company about this matter on behalf of the Parish Council.

d. Cllr Mike Patrick, on behalf of Rob Jeffrey, asked if the Parish Council would approve use of the recreation ground for car parking during Sports Day on 15th July. This was agreed.

e. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie told councillors that in the last 24 hours there had been three burglaries in the Baldons area. These had involved attempts to gain entry while properties were actually occupied and she asked that all residents be warned about what would undoubtedly be a very frightening experience.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.