GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 3rd June 2013 commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman), Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, Ian Dickinson, Mike Patrick ,Judy Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie.

6/13/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr John Hieatt who was ill

6/13/2 Declarations of Interest

None

6/13/3 Public Participation

None

6/13/4 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th May 2013

The minutes as circulated were approved with the following amendments

5/13/8 Item 3 last sentence should read – Chairman Chris Wright said that as Cllr Bolam felt the situation had improved, there was not much point in continuing the discussion for the time being.

5/13/9 first sentence should read County Councillor.

5/13/13 Chairman Chris Wright asked for this to be amended to read – The Sports and Social Club are tenants and should not be included, as they cannot make a long term commitment.

5/13/15 Cllr Mike Patrick said this should read - touching the roofs of the properties in Combewell.

6/13/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the agenda

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that he had an interesting conversation with the Regional Director of BT, a hard sell had been made for their own product, they were not keen on independent providers being explored. It was suggested that the County Council might have information of the progress and development they were making on faster broadband services for the area. County Cllr Lindsay-Gale said progress was being made but at the present time the Council were not prepared to make any announcements. Cllr Dovey said that until we knew what the Council’s plans were it was very difficult to move forward.

6/13/6 County Councillors Report

Cllr Anne Eastwood asked County Cllr Lindsay-Gale if there was any progress on Southend. County Cllr Lindsay- Gale said she wanted to set up a site meeting with Keith Stenning to view the problem.

Cllr Judith Westgate raised the problem of the path adjacent to the School which was very overgrown and asked if there was a list of the areas the County Council were responsible for cutting. Following a discussion it was agreed that Cllr Westgate would forward to County Cllr Lindsay-Gale the footpath number to make sure this area was included. County Cllr Lindsay-Gale would see if it was possible to obtain a full list of the areas in Garsington which were cut by the County Council and how often.

Cllr Matthew Dovey asked if the Speed Monitoring on the Oxford Road had been actioned. County Cllr Lindsay- Gale said the monitoring device should have been installed today. Cllrs Anne Eastwood and Matthew Dovey said they would check.

County Cllr Lindsay-Gale had received a petition from Kings Copse regarding the bus changes. Cllr Matthew Dovey said this was a real problem for the residents and suggested there were possible options

a) Go Ride if funding available

b) Thames Travel extend the T3 from the Science Park with perhaps one bus morning and night diverted to include Kings Copse.

County Cllr Lindsay- Gale asked if the Dial a Ride service was used, Cllr Matthew Dovery said it was used and asked if there were any statistics on the use of this service. It might be possible to obtain statistics from John Hammond. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie asked if the residents of Kings Copse were particularly vunerable. Chairman Chris Wright said why not purchase a van/minibus, County Cllr Lindsay-Gale said there were grants available. Chairman Chris Wright asked what the costs were likely to be. County Cllr Lindsay-Gale said she would look at the possible options and report back.

County Cllr Lindsay-Gale left the meeting at 8.55pm .

6/13/7 District Councillors Report

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie gave her apologies for only being able to attend this meeting for a short time.

Kiln Lane – District Cllr Gillespie said problems with this site had been ongoing since the1950’s she was very aware of the views of all the Councillors and was doing everything in her power to get the enforcement team to deal with the current issue as speedily as possible, She had been very surprised to learn that this site had been looked at by the Consultants tasked with looking at potential traveller sites and would continue to fight this vigorously. Members of the Council felt this whole issue had not been handled well by SODC.

Cllr Judy Westgate said according to the Land Registry this site was owned by Albert and Gordon Henry Baker of Baker Motors, Eastern Bypass, Headington. Cllr Westgate had visited the site and also telephoned but had not been successful in making contact. Details would be passed to Clerk who would write a letter.

Chairman Chris Wright suggested that the Parish Council should seek some independent advice on this matter, this was agreed. The Chairman would investigate finding a suitable person, an amount of £500 was agreed for the initial consultation. The Council’s view was that Planning Regulations were blatantly being ignored and wished this view to be noted.

Cllr Paul Bolam asked District Cllr Gillespie if any action had been taken with regard to the bonfires at the premises in Oxford Road , this had been raised at the last meeting. Also the double decker bus that was still parked in the field nothing appears to have happened regarding its removal. Chairman Chris Wright pointed out that previous correspondence has said the bus would be there for a few days whilst a battery was obtained . District Cllr Gillespie said she did not have an update on either of the matters and would look into these issues an report back.

District Cllr Gillespie left the meeting at 8.15pm

6/13/8 Finance

Barclays Current Account at 30th April £37,333.39 Bank Statement for May not yet received.

Council to note DD Payment to Grundons in April amounting to £60.95

The following cheques were approved for payment

Colourplus June/July Newsletter £872.77

Village Hall Hire (Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch Mtg) £63.00

Insurance £1812.12

Clerk’s Salary £344.62

Administration Costs £34.27

Newletter Editor (payment for February-May) £417.63

CPRE Membership Renewal £29.00

Clerk reported that she had spoken to Emma Pennington as the Parish Council had not received any fees for the Burial Ground since December 2012.

Cllr Ian Dickinson said that John Hieatt had contacted him regarding an invoice for printing for Neighbourhood Watch, an invoice had not been received, the Council had not approved any costs for printing. Chairman Chris Wright said he would speak to Marlies James.

Budget

This had been amended

Financial Support Grant £1.122 had been added in and the Sports and Social Club Rent had been decreased to £250.

Insurance

The Tractor Shed had been deleted reducing the premium .

Roger Ovenden had looked at the Memorial Gates, they are very intricate and he is not able to give a replacement valuation, each gate would be worth hundreds of pounds.

War Memorial, Alan Bower was not able to give a replacement figure, he has given the Clerk the name of a Stonemason who might be able to help.

Clerk will continue to try and sort out valuations for both these items.

6/13/9 Planning

a) P13/S1309/FUL Former Oxford Equestrian Centre,

Change of use of Store to one bedroom dwelling.

This was approved, provided there was no extra building.

P13/S1442/HH 69 Southend

Proposed ground and first floor extention.

No objections were raised

P13/S1478/LB 2 The Green

Replace external doors, create internal door opening, replace floor finishes, create cloakroom, utility area and en-suite including roof light to rear elevation.

This was approved providing that any conservation criteria was adhered to.

P13/S1371/HH Lanesra Cottage, 21 Pettiwell

Conversion of existing double garage/workshop to Granny Flat (resubmission of withdrawn application P13/SO269/HH)

It was agreed that there was not sufficient material changes from the previous application and therefore permission was refused on the same basis as previously.

b) Planning Enforcements and Appeals

P11/SO101 Land to rear of Farthings 91 Southend

The decision was noted by the Council.

c) Community Led Plan

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that unfortunately the May Day celebrations at the School had not taken place due to the weather and the Committee had therefore not been able to promote the plan and talk to parents.

There were approximately 2 dozen volunteers signed up for the Litter Pick Day.

6/13/10 Correspondence for Chairman and Clerk

Clerk had been asked by a resident why current Minutes no longer appeared to be on the website. Cllr Westgate said they were not totally up to date and she would deal with this, but Minutes could not be put on the site until they had been approved at the meeting.

A suggestion was made that a notice was put on the website asking residents if they wished to receive the Minutes via email, Cllr Ian Dickinson said he would be happy to assist with creating the files if this proved to be a popular means of communicating with residents

Chairman Chris Wright had received an email from new residents in Fox Close, who had found it very difficult to integrate into the village through the lack of amenities available, they had not found the village pub very friendly.

6/13/11 Fields in Trust

Memorial Playing Field – this would not be pursued..

6/13/12 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam said that there were still stones appearing in the safety bark.

One of the picnic tables needed some attention to anchor it to the ground. Clerk will ask Malcolm Hill to carry out this repair.

Date for Inspection – Clerk to arrange for August.

6/13/13 Village Maintenance

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay – Gale to get someone from County Council to advise on the footpath by the Village Hall

Damage to kerb stones on corner of Elm Drive, need attention – County Cllr Lindsay-Gale to action.

Conifers in Old School Garden need to be cut back, Clerk tosend letter to the owner.

6/13/14 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey said there are still problems, drivers are finding it difficult to stick to the timetable.

Cllr Mike Patrick said that on one occasion, that he had been made aware of, the 5.25pm from Oxford, had not arrived and people were left stranded.

6/13/15 Community Assets

Chairman Chris Wright put forward the Old School Garden, it was agreed that before any action was taken the Owner should be consulted.

Elm Drive Shops were also considered, there were mixed views from the Council, these shops are in private ownership and it would be polite to advise the owners before any action was taken.

6/13/16 Register of Members Interests (Amendments)

Clerk had now dealt with this and spoken to those Councillors whose information was incomplete.

6/13/17 Policiing/Speeding

Speed Monitoring Device should have been installed today as previously mentioned by County Councillor.

6/13/18 Any Other Business

Cllr Mike Patrick raised the following,

A van had been stolen in the Oxford Road in the last week.

Vehicles were still parking on yellow lines at the Unipart Junction.

Leader were including Garsington Village Hall in there visit of sites that had received funding.

Chairman Chris Wright raised the problem of the lack of attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting, it was agreed that a different approach was needed to encourage residents to come and participate in this meeting. Cllr Matthew Dovey suggested that as well as the report from Parish, District and County Councils we could include other organisations in the Village to give an update on their year. Another suggestion was to make sure that residents realised that this meeting gave them the opportunity to speak to both the District and County Councillors who represented this area. It was also suggested that for the future the Council needs to set the date well in advance and make sure that it is put on the website, included in the Newsletter and put on the notice boards earlier, to try and encourage residents to attend.

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm