**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 7th March 2016, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman Chris Wright presided, present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (vice chairman), Paul Bolam, Richard Betteridge, Matthew Dovey, John Hieatt, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate, with J Eden in attendance. Also present were seven members of the public, for part of the meeting District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie, County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale were also present

3/16/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ian Dickinson – work commitments

3/16/2 Declarations of Interest

Chairman Chris Wright – Item 10 on Agenda – Pettiwell Green

Cllr Paul Bolam – Item 9 on Agenda - Planning

Cllr Mike Patrick – Item 12 on Agenda – Disabled Ramp

3/16/3 Public Participation

A number of the residents were present at the meeting regarding the planning application in Kiln Lane. Chairman decided it should be discussed when it came up on the Agenda, at which time the residents would be given the opportunity to take part.

A resident raised the problem of the lack of street lighting in the large alleyway, the area was very dark and the bollards were not visible making walking at night very difficult. Cllr Matthew Dovey agreed to look at the possibility of solar powered lights being attached to the bollards to make the area safer.

A resident raised the issue of the ditch along the first part of Kiln Lane, this had been cleared some years ago, not very successfully and now needed further attention, the resident suggested that the earth needed to be banked up on the Combewell side of the ditch with culverts cut on Kiln Lane edge to allow the water to drain into the ditch away from the bridleway. Clerk will speak to Malcolm Hill to get quote. It had been noted that contractors were working in some of the fields off Kiln Lane creating ditches around the fields, the Parish Council had not received any information regarding this work.

3/16/4 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1st February 2016

The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed.

3/16/5 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

**Old Wall behind the Old Stone Cross**

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that he had been in further contact with the Conservation Officer, a site visit would cost £190, it was therefore agreed that Cllr Bolam will submit an application to obtain permission to remove the wall.

**Footpath on Oxford Road Hill**

Cllr Anne Eastwood reported that nothing had been done to repair the damage, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said she would request SODC to investigate further and report back.

**HopeThruHorses**

Chairman Chris Wright reported that a meeting had taken place and the person currently renting the field for the horses was prepared to discuss further the possibility of fencing off part of the field to create a protected corridor for wildlife. The Chairman and Cllr Richard Betteridge had arranged a further meeting to discuss the next step.

3/16/6 County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor’s report had been circulated

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale joined the meeting at 8.40pm she reported that there were no changes to any of the items in her report, all the cuts to budgets and the restrictions they imposed were still a priority for the County Council. They had received an additional £4.5 million from Central Government for this year and next year and whilst this would alleviate short term problems it would not stop the cuts already being proposed.

The County Council had also been very shocked by the surprise announcements made by District and City Councils on their plans for Unitary Councils. OCC welcomes debate and will shortly be putting forward its own proposals.

Sign for Garsington Village just after the Unipart Entrance had still not been replaced, the County Councillor asked the Clerk to email her the information.

The County Councillor left the meeting at 9pm

3/16/7 District Councillor’s Report

Kiln Lane Planning Application, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie apologised to everyone, she was well aware that the recommendations being put forward at the Planning meeting scheduled for Wednesday was not the outcome residents wanted, she would be speaking at the meeting, Barbara Engstrom on behalf of the Residents and Chairman Chris Wright would also be speaking at the Planning meeting. A short discussion took place to reach agreement on the areas that each person would represent, avoiding any areas that were not relevant to this particular application.

The District Councillor left the meeting at 8.20pm

3/16/8 Finance

Barclays Bank Current Account at February 2016 £34,369.34

PC to note DD Payment to Grundons for £40.79

The following cheques were approved and signed

Colourplus Feb/March Newsletter £844.48

Garsington Village Hall Hire £51.00

E S Hawes – Hedgecutting around Old School Gardens and Memorial Playing Field £369.00

Go Ride CIC – Weekend Bus Subsidy for February £67.92

HMRC/PAYE £93.60

Mrs J Eden – Clerks Salary £278.34

Mrs J Eden – Newsletter Editor £96.39

Garsington Voluntary Drivers – Donation £100

3/16/9 Planning

P16/S0599/HH 149 Oxford Road

Two storey side extension with a single storey rear extension.

It was agreed this application should be approved, Cllr Matthew Dovey expressed some reservations, however as the proposed application mirrored the house on the other side he agreed to go with the decision.

3/16/10 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Hedges – further correspondence had been received about the state of hedges in some areas of the village. Clerk will write again to residents.

Tudor Archway by Vicarage in Southend– Clerk had received email from a resident who felt this should be preserved and not allowed to fall down. Clerk has spoken with both the vicar and the church warden. This was a problem for the Oxford Diocese and they were currently working on plans to get the Archway restored. No further action.

HopethruHorses – see item under 3/16/5

Wheelie Bin Stickers – Speed Awareness – Cllr Dovey felt this was a good idea, other Councillors were not sure. Cllr Dovey will prepare article for next Newsletter to try and gauge the interest of the residents.

Wood for Steps – Footpath by Church- The village working party had decided to put in new steps on footpath just below the Church, Garsington Society were looking for a contribution from the Parish Council for this project it was agreed to make a contribution of 50% towards the costs which it was anticipated would be around a total amount of £500.

Solar Lights – Pettiwell Green – Chairman Chris Wright said he would speak to the resident and ask for them to be removed.

3/16/11 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that due to the very wet weather the plans to rake and weed the bark under the aerial runway was still outstanding, it was hoped to complete the work shortly.

It was noted that the grass in the playground was very long due to the very wet weather and no grass cutting since November.

New Equipment, Cllr Bolam reported that he was still waiting for written confirmation the grant had been awarded.

Locked gates at the Memorial Playing Field, this remained an issue, forcing visitors to the playground to park on the roadside verges. Chairman Chris Wright said he would look at the Sports and Social Club Lease, this item to be carried over until the next meeting.

3/16/12 Village Maintenance

Disabled Ramp at Elm Drive Shops – deferred until next meeting as Cllr Ian Dickinson not present.

Kissing Gates- Cllr Richard Betteridge said the work was ongoing some of the gates had now been installed.

Old Stone Cross – Clerk reported that she had now received confirmation that the Parish Council could appoint the contractors, Clerk will get date for commencement of work and advise Historic England.

Defibrillator – Cllr John Hieatt reported that work was almost complete at Willow Close, just final electrical connections to be made. Cllr Mike Patrick felt it would only be polite to write and thank Judith Ann for trying to accommodate the defibrillator outside her shop. Clerk to send letter. Clerk will record the position of this defibrillator with South Central Ambulance Service.

Burial Ground Fence- Clerk had obtained two quotes, after a discussion it was decided to give the work to Malcolm Hill. Clerk will send confirmation letter.

Waste Bin at St Mary’s Church, responsibility for putting the bin out for collection was now covered until the end of the current contract.

Trees in Combewell – Clerk had received an email from the Arboricultural Officer at the County Council that the trees were the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department and they were responsible for the maintenance. Letter to be kept on file for future reference.

Oxfordshire County Council – Oxfordshire Together – proposal presented to Parish Council at the February Meeting. Chairman Chris Wright suggested that we advise the County Council we will take over all the responsibility and then discuss further when we get a contract from them. Clerk to speak to County Council. The maps of the urban and rural areas for grass cutting had still not been received.

3/16/13 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that a new draft timetable was being prepared for the T1 route, the most likely outcome was that buses would continue to go into City Centre during peak times but off peak would terminate at Cowley Centre. There was some confusion how this would work and David Turner was trying to arrange a meeting with Thames Travel. Until the County Council had finally advised bus operators of the loss of subsidies and which routes would be affected it was difficult to draw any conclusion on future services.

3/16/14 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Monthly Police report had been circulated.

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the Speed Monitoring Device was still in Southend at the moment. It was hoped to move it shortly to the Wheatley Road, initially it would be sited in the dip where traffic speeds down the hill and then it would be moved the area by Boundary Farm/Jennings on the straight stretch of road.

3/16/15 Broadband Cabinet – The Green

Cllr Matthew Dovey said he was trying to arrange a meeting at the site with Open Reach and Cllr Richard Betteridge agreed to be present at the meeting.

3/16/15 Unipart Entrance

Cllr Paul Bolam said that he had received four responses to date and would put a follow-up article in the next Newsletter.

3/16/17 Any Other Business

Date for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council AGM

It was agreed to hold both meetings on 9th May at 7.30pm. Annual Parish Meeting first followed by AGM. Notification will be put in the next Newsletter and on the notice boards.

Clothes Bin at Elm Drive Shop – Cllr John Hieatt will contact company and ask who gave permission for it to be put there.

Elm Drive Shops – Waste Bin has been damaged. Clerk to organise replacement.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Clerk had advised him of her decision to retire, she would continue until the end of April and would also assist with the Minutes in May and June whilst a new clerk was being appointed.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm