GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 13th May commencing at 8.10pm. The Chairman Cllr Chris Wright presided: present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (Vice Chairman) Paul Bolam, Matthew Dovey, Ian Dickinson, John Hieatt, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate with J Eden in attendance. Also present were County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie and one member of the public.

5/13/1 Apologies for Absence

5/13/2 Election of Chairman 2013/14

Cllr Anne Eastwood proposed that Cllr Chris Wright be elected as Chairman; this was seconded by Cllr John Hieatt. Cllr Wright agreed to accept the nomination.

5/13/3 Election of Vice Chairman 2013/14

Cllr John Hieatt proposed the Cllr Anne Eastwood be elected as Vice Chairman; this was seconded by Cllr Mike Patrick. Cllr Eastwood agreed to accept the nomination.

5/13/4 Declarations of Interest

None

5/13/5 Public Participation

No matters arising

5/13/6 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 8th April 2013

The Minutes as circulated were approved.

5/13/7 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the agenda

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie gave her apologies for not attending this meeting, she was away.

5/13/8 County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay- Gale reported that following the election they had been returned with a majority vote but were not in overall control following the election, the first Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday 7th May when the Conservatives would seek to come to an agreement with the 3 independent Councillors. County Cllr Lindsay-Gale said that with the changes she was now responsible for 12 parishes and would do her best to attend as many meetings as possible.

Cllr Matthew Dovey raised the issue of the speed survey which in the Oxford Road was still unsatisfactory and needed to be resolved. Cllr Lindsay-Gale agreed to look into this. Cllr John Hieatt asked the County Councillor why roundels showing “30mph” were not painted on the road; this had been discussed previously but never actioned.

Cllr Mike Patrick raised this issue of the on-going problem of the parking by Unipart entrance, Cllr Paul Bolam said the problem had reduced, although some vehicles continued to park there, in the main these were foreign plated vehicles. Now the double yellow lines were in place, County Cllr Lindsay- Gale said it was up to police to enforce, suggested that when vehicles were seen to be parked police were informed. Chairman Chris Wright said that as Cllr Bolam felt that the situation was improved, there was not much point in continuing the discussion for the time being.

Cllr Anne Eastwood raised the problem of the surface water in Southend although the County Council had put in an additional gully adjacent to Mr Rothery’s property, lower down the road the problem was just as bad and perhaps further gullies needed to be considered, the road surface was becoming badly eroded in some areas due to the constant flow of water. County Cllr Lindsay- Gale said she would take this up with the appropriate department.

County Cllr Lindsay-Gale asked for contact details for all the Garsington Parish Councillors – Clerk to action.

5/13/9 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie welcomed the new County Councillor.

The balance of Councillors had changed at SODC and with a strong labour contingent, District Cllr Gillespie said she had concerns for the Green Belt.

Big Litter Pick in Garsington, further to Cllr Matthew Dovey’s email she could confirm that SODC did not have insurance for this type of community event.

Kiln Lane, Cllr Mike Patrick raised the issue of the activity at this site, there was groundwork for drainage being carried out which suggested that something was going to be moved onto the site. District Cllr Gillespie agreed to take this matter up with the enforcement team as a matter of urgency.

5/13/10 Finance

Balances and cheques for signature

Barclays Current Account at 30th April 2013 £37,333.39

The first half year precept had been received £10,400 plus the Financial Support Grant £1,122.74

Newsletter Advertising £386.00

Council to note DD payment to Grundons in April amounting to £57.14

The following cheques need approval for payment:

John Hieatt Police Signs, ties to attach to post £4.19

Southern Electric £14.84

SODC Dog Bin emptying £61.00

Clerk’s Salary £334.62

Donation to County Cllr David Turner for his charity (Borien Education in South Africa) £75.00

Budget 2013/14

Following a discussion it was agreed to accept the budget with the following amendments being made.

Receipts: add in the £1122.74 Financial Support Grant.

Amend Sport and Social Club rent to read £250 not £1000

Insurance:

Insurance renewal for the next 12 month period had been received amounting to £1839.67 this could be reduced to £1812.12 if the tractor shed at the Sports and Social Club could now be deleted, it was agreed that this cover was no longer required. Clerk to advise insurers.

The clerk had been speaking to AON Insurers regarding a number of matters, impact damage to cover the War Memorial and Old Stone Cross, on both these issues insurers confirmed that impact only cover was available but to enable them to quote they required the full replacement value for each item. Cllr Mike Patrick pointed out that impact damage was fairly unlikely to happen to the Old Stone Cross where it was situated, valuation of this ancient monument might prove to be difficult in any event. Chairman Chris Wright suggested the Clerk asked Alan Bower if he could give an indication of the replacement costs for War Memorial. The other outstanding issue was insurance for the gates at the Memorial Playing Field, Clerk was still trying to find someone to give a replacement valuation figure for these gates.

Litter Pick Event – Sunday 9th June

This was being organised under the auspices of the Parish Council, the Clerk had obtained confirmation from insurers that the Council’s public liability insurance would cover this event, providing that all the guidelines were adhered too. Cllr Matthew Dovey confirmed that guidelines for holding such an event had been obtained from Biffa.

5/13/11 Planning

a) P13/S0975/FUL Guydens Farm, Oxford Road

Change of use of office annexes and workshop to Residential Use

Cllr Matthew Dovey expressed concerns about the piece-meal way in which planning permission for this site was being sort, he also raised the problem of pedestrian safety on an unlit road without any footpath. Cllr Anne Eastwood said that it was a change of use, the buildings were already in existence. Cllr Mike Patrick said that his view remained the same as for the previous application, site was in the Green Belt and the possibility of increased traffic to and from the site. It was agreed by a majority decision to approve the plan with the provision that planners consider putting in a footpath between the site and the new bus stop opposite the Unipart entrance, this was a very busy unlit piece of road and it could not be assumed that all the occupants would travel by car.

P13/S1164/HH 10 Elm Drive

Extensions and Alterations.

This was approved.

P13/S0748/HH The Plough, 1 Oxford Road

Replacement of fence and wall at front of the house, new gateposts in brickwork with steel support to support the gates. Repair fencing and walls and insertion of wooden gate in gap of rear wall for access to paddock. A pedestrian wooden gate, at the end of the garden wall.

This was approved providing it met all the requirements of the Conservation Officer.

b) Community Led Plan

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the steering committee had met several times and the plan was progressing. The next big event was the Village Litter Pick which he hoped everyone would participate in.

c) The Hill

Cllr Judy Westgate reported that the triangle of grass was not recorded at the Land Registry. This area was also not designated on Rights of Way maps. Chairman Chris Wright suggested that it might at one time have been part of the Village Green and asked Cllr Westgate to investigate if this piece of land could be registered as Village Green. For the time being no further action would be taken regarding the footpath.

5/13/12 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Chairman Chris Wright had received a request from Marlies James the new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator asking if the Parish Council would pay for the Village Hall for the first meeting with Carol Rudd and volunteers. This was approved.

Clerk had received a telephone call about the stile in Tadpole lane, Cllr Anne Eastwood said the stile had been mended on a number of occasions by Garsington Society, but within a week it had been vandalised. Chairman Chris Wright said he would look at the site.

Clerk had also received a telephone call from a resident in Elm Drive, she was very upset when gardening to find that a number of dog waste bags with contents had been pushed through her hedge into the garden. It was agreed that the Council provided adequate disposal bins throughout the village and the onus was on dog owners to behave responsibly. It was suggested that this be mentioned in the next Newsletter.

Footpath on the hill in Oxford Road by the field entrance, a resident reported that the footpath was all broken up causing pedestrians to move into the road, particularly Mum’s going to the School with pushchairs. None of the Councillors had seen any activity in this area. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she would investigate.

5/13/13 Fields in Trust

Memorial Playing Field – Deed of Dedication

Fields in Trust had suggested that the Deed of Dedication should be three ways between Parish Council/National Playing Fields/Trustees of Sports and Social Club.

The Sports and Social Club are tenants and should not be included. Chairman Chris Wright would write to Fields in Trust.

5/13/14 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that he had inspected the playground, there were still some stones appearing in the bark under the zip wire, it was difficult to decide if these were being placed there or coming up from beneath the bark. He had removed them.

Baby swings Cllr Bolam felt the seats needed to be replaced and wondered if there were grants available. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said there were grants and gave Cllr Bolam a contact.

Cllr Bolam said he would give the Clerk some dates when he was available so that the annual inspection of the site could be arranged.

5/13/15 Village Maintenance

Damaged Verges, awaiting quote from Malcolm Hill.

Cllr Mike Patrick reported that the trees along the footpath at Combewell are overhanging resident’s roofs. County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she would get this looked at.

Cllr Paul Bolam reported on the bonfire nuisance from the Garden Centre in Oxford Road, where commercial waste appeared to be being burned. District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie said she would get the Environment Dept. to investigate and report back.

Cllr Mike Patrick reported that the minimum wage was increasing to £ 6.31 from October 2013

5/13/16 Village Bus Service

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that the new timetable for the T1 started today, there was still the problem of the gaps in service in the rush hour at both ends of the day.

Kings Copse had lost out in these changes and their service was now only three times a week.

Discussions had taken place with Stage Coach because of the problems of 52 people on bus designed for 49 resulting in passengers having to stand for entire journey.

All the Parishes serviced by the new timetable had expressed concerns regarding the gaps in service. Discussions were still on-going.

5/13/17 Community Assets

Confirmation had been received that the Three Horseshoes was now registered on the Community Assets List.

Other possible sites to be discussed at the next meeting.

5/13/18 Policing

Copy of the latest report was included in folder for circulation

5/13/19 Any Other Business

Cllr Matthew Dovey reported that he had been contacted by Regional Director of BT regarding broadband services.

Permission was given for parking on field to Sports and Social Club for the Cricket Match.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm