**GARSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 9th May 2016, commencing at 7.30pm. The Chairman Chris Wright presided, present were Cllrs Anne Eastwood (vice chairman), Paul Bolam, Richard Betteridge, Matthew Dovey, Ian Dickinson, John Hieatt, Mike Patrick, Judith Westgate, with J Eden in attendance. Also present were nine members of the public, with District Councillor Elizabeth Gillespie joining the meeting at 8.05pm

5/16/1 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale attending other Annual Parish Meetings

5/16/2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mike Patrick – Village Maintenance- Disabled Ramp

Cllr Paul Bolam – Planning Application P16/S0989/HH

5/16/3 Election of Chairman 2016/17

Cllr Paul Bolam proposed that Cllr Chris Wright be elected as Chairman this was seconded by Cllr Mike Patrick. In the absence of any other nominees Cllr Chris Wright agreed to accept the nomination.

5/16/4 Election of Vice Chairman 2016/17

Cllr Paul Bolam proposed that Cllr Anne Eastwood be elected as Vice Chairman this was seconded by Cllr Richard Betteridge. In the absence of any other nominees Cllr Anne Eastwood agreed to accept the nomination.

5/16/5 Public Participation

A resident asked if the parish council would consider including the grass bank below Library Farm Cottages on Oxford Road in the grass cutting contract, until recently one of the residents had cut the grass bank but could no longer do this. Chairman Chris Wright advised that the parish council were currently in discussion with regard to grass cutting in the village and this would be noted.

5/16/6 Garsington School

Mr McDowell, Chair of Governors at Garsington Church of England Primary School advised the parish councillors of the decision taken by the full governing body on the 23rd April 2016 for the school to become an Academy. They were currently in a consultation period with a number of parties this included the County Council, Oxford Diocese, Teachers Unions and staff. Over the years the school had experienced considerable reductions in revenue from the County and with the County Council outsourcing the financial administration to Hampshire County Council the situation had become even more difficult.

There were two Academy Trusts that were being considered

1. The Riverside Trust which included Cherwell School, this was also the trust that Wheatley Park were joining later in the year

2. Oxford Diocese Trust which already included a number of similar primary schools to Garsington.

It was hoped that the formal consultation would be completed by 15th June with a final decision being made by the full governing body on 6th July.

One of the questions asked was who owns the Asset if the school moves to academy status. Mr McDowell said all assets would move to the trust.

Cllr Anne Eastwood asked if both trusts had similar support systems, Mr McDowell responded that they did.

A question was raised about the Church of England School status; Councillors were assured this would not change.

Education of the school children is at the centre of this decision and both trusts have an emphasis on education, other trusts had been looked at but the governing body felt these two trusts provided the best options.

Chairman Chris Wright thanked Mr McDowall for outlining the proposal to the Council.

5/16/7 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 4th April 2016

The Minutes were approved and signed

5/16/8 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

Clerk reported that the Waste Team at SODC would replace the damaged bin by the shops in Elm Drive.

Grant for Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebration

Chairman Chris Wright reported that he had been in contact with both the Church and the School. It would appear that no particular event was planned. Mr McDowell asked about the grant and said he would give this further consideration he understood the School were considering an event. It was pointed out that we have until 4pm on 3rd June 2016 to claim this grant.

5/16/9 County Councillor’s Report

Report had been circulated.

5/16/10 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie reported that two inspectors have just ruled that they do not recognise the ring fencing of Didcot and that therefore SODC no longer have a five year land supply. This signifies that the Local Plan has no current weight. This is an appalling position to be in and most unfair as the Core Strategy Inspector recognised the disaggregation of Didcot and with our plans for Didcot and all the developers who are land banking there, it is incredibly unjust. SODC are doing all they can now to obtain a five year land supply as soon as possible. Realistically, this is predicted to take 12-18 months.

The District Cllr pointed out that grant money is still available, most projects would be considered for funding. Chairman Chris Wright said he would advise the Church Warden that funds were available.

Kiln Lane – The District Cllr advised residents that the Enforcement Officer, Emma Turner had visit the site and taken photos, she was aware that some of the activity taking place was not part of the agreed temporary planning permission and would be writing a report.

With regard to the new planning application that had been submitted for 9 Kiln Lane, the applicant had been asked to provide further evidence of the special circumstances.

Cllr Mike Patrick asked why there had been no information circulated for the candidates at the recent election. District Cllr Gillespie advised that SODC were only responsible for organising polling stations and polling cards, they were not responsible for circulating any information on the candidates who were standing for election

.

5/16/11 Finance

Barclays current account at April 2016 £41,461.03

First part of the Precept had been received £11,000

Grant from TOE for £1,500 towards the installation of the Kissing Gates

PC to note DD payment to Grundons for £40.79

Clerk had received the new Waste Collection Contract for signature

It was agreed that two collections per month would be sufficient.

The following cheques were approved and signed

Mr Hopkins (Annual Contribution towards Defibrillator Electricity Supply £30.00

Oxford Green Belt Network Subscription renewal £15

Colourplus April/May Newsletter £844.48

M J Hill (Burial Ground Fencing) £950

BGG Grass Cutting April £471.22

Zurich Insurance 2016/17 £1,375.51

HMRC/PAYE £128.40

Mrs J Eden – Clerks Salary £393.89

Mrs J Eden- Newsletter Editor April/May edition £120.10

5/16/12 Planning

P16/S0998/HH The Red Lion, 35 Oxford Road

Proposed two storey extension and alterations to existing dwelling, excavation work to reduce land level to rear of property and creation of a raised deck.

After much discussion and listening to views put forward by both the applicant and neighbours the Parish Council with the exception of Cllr Paul Bolam who had declared an interest decided to approve the application providing that the Tree Officer confirmed that the planned extension would not interfere with the roots or damage the very old Yew Tree on the boundary of the adjoining property and that all building materials and finishes used were approved with both the Conservation and Planning Officers and were totally in keeping with surrounding properties.

P16/S1219/HH 1 Birch Road

Single Storey front extension with two storey rear extension.

The Parish Council did not have any objections to this application.

P16/S1126/FUL Home Farm Cottage – Enlargement of Garden

Enlargement of garden by addition of open uncultivated land to the rear. Removal of trees and scrub. Installation of fencing and native hedging along boundary.

The Parish Council did not have any objections to this application.

P16/S1293/AG Upper Farm Wheatley Road (Information only)

Agricultural Building – Grain Store

P15/S1890/FUL The Green

This Council had been notified that this application had gone to Appeal, any additional comments or removal of previous comments to this application should be sent to the Planning Inspectorate before 3rd June 2016. Clerk was asked to circulate the previous comments made to the original application, following this, further discussion would take place to decide if additional representation should be made to the Planning Inspectorate. This decision would need to be made and actioned before the next Parish Council Meeting on 9th June 2016.

SODC Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion

Application reference: P16/S1196/SCO - Land to the south of Grenoble Road and B480 Watlington Road.

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie advised that a formal response from the Parish Council was not required at the moment to the application, the process will take several months and this was just the initial notification.

5/16/13 Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

Chairman had received an email from a resident on The Hill regarding the massacre of the cowslips by the grass cutting contractor. The Clerk had spoken to the Contractor who had apologised and said he would make sure his work force were aware that these wild flowers should not have been cut down until they had died off.

5/16/14 Playground

Cllr Paul Bolam reported that the contract for the new playground equipment had been signed, work should start in mid-June and be finished in time for the school summer holidays.

The playground was tidy and in good order.

5/16/15 Village Maintenance

**Disabled Ramp** – Cllr Betteridge and Dovey had surveyed the site and agreed where the ramp would go, the Post Box needed to be moved and Cllr Dovey was in talks with the appropriate authority to get this actioned. Cllr Betteridge would draw up the plans and liaise with SODC to get the necessary permission to proceed with the installation.

**Old Stone Cross**- Clerk was waiting for start date for renovations and had chased the contractor.

**HopethruHorses**- Chairman Chris Wright had agreed a small contribution for the loss of land usage of around £30 per month, HopethruHorses will invoice the Parish Council.

**Wall behind the Old Stone Cross**- Cllr Bolam said this was still to be dealt with.

**OCC Oxfordshire Together –** It was agreed that a separate meeting should be arranged to discuss the grass-cutting the following week.

5/16/16 Village Bus Service

Cllr Dovey said there was nothing to report, currently waiting for the new proposals on services to be published.

5/16/17 Policing/Speed Monitoring

Cllr Dovey reported that it had been decided to keep the speed indicator device in Southend, whilst the diversion for the road closure of Pettiwell was ongoing.

Stickers on Wheelie Bins, this had not received a great response from the article in the latest Newsletter.

5/16/18 Broadband Cabinet – The Green

Meeting was schedule with Open Reach on 18th May 2016 to discuss the issues, Cllrs Dovey, Westgate, Betteridge and Bolam would be present.

5/16/19 Unipart Entrance

Cllr Bolam reported that he had received two more responses to incidents at this junction, he would forward the information to the County Council.

5/16/20 Land adjacent to St Mary’s Church Yard

Mr Young had sent a brief response to the request for clarification on the next step in transferring the additional burial ground to Parish Council. Chairman Chris Wright said he would talk to Mr Young.

5/16/21 Neighbourhood Plan

Five members of the Council attended a meeting with Charlotte Colver the Neighbourhood Planning Officer. She advised them what the village would achieve with a neighbour plan and that a plan gives communities additional material weight. Concerns were raised about the length of time it would take to prepare a plan. Cllr Eastwood said surely we have some protection as we are already in the green belt. Cllr Dovey said what criteria would be used to decide on the issues that should go in the plan. Chairman Chris Wright suggested that just one issue could be focused on, i.e. Affordable Housing and then the plan could be revised. It had been many years since the Parish Council had looked at affordable housing.

District Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie reported that the Baldons were preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and hoped to have it completed and produced in 18 months, Cllr Gillespie said she was of the opinion that Parishes were very vulnerable without a neighbourhood plan.

It was agreed that further investigation and discussion needed to take place it was a lot of work to create a plan and would require a good deal of support and action from members of the community.

5/16/22 Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 9.10pm