

A Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Friends Meeting House, Children's Room on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7 p.m.

**MINUTES**

1. Present: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) - Chairman, Chris Tonge (CT), Sue Tulloch (ST), Jane Haddock (JH), Deana Carpenter (DC) and Alan Breadmore – Clerk. - Parishioners: - Liam Robson (part time), Oliver Shute (part time)
2. Minutes of Bi-Monthly Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 were read and signed as correct.
3. Matters Arising:-
  - a. Community Speedwatch. CT had performed a further campaign the results of which reinforced previous results. Clerk advised that Police have agreed to an enforcement campaign and have offered support re active speed signs. Purchase of active speed signs to be investigated Action: - Clerk and CT.
  - b. WBC has advised that contract has been placed for the repainting of foot and road bridges.
  - c. JH presented proposal for tree replacement in College Way. Councillors accepted and agreed spend of £200+VAT. JH To action. Proposed JR, seconded CT.
  - d. Tree root trip hazard in Downlands referred to Sovereign, they have not responded.
4. Minutes of Planning Meetings held 11<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were read and signed as correct.
5. Matters Arising: - None
6. Finance and Compliance:-
  - a. Paid since last meeting:

| Name               | Goods or service     | Amount inc VAT |       |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------|
| Mazars             | External Audit       | £120           | CQ796 |
| Alan Breadmore     | Clerk's Expenses     | £27            | CQ799 |
| Scofell Landscapes | Mowing               | £231           | CQ798 |
| Griffins           | Payroll              | £305           | DD    |
| British Legion     | Poppy Wreath         | £20            | CQ802 |
| emango             | Website annual fee   | £461           | CQ797 |
| PJS                | Strimmer Maintenance | £35            | CQ800 |

- b. To be paid by next meeting:

| Name               | Goods or service       | Amount inc VAT |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| CPRE               | Subscription           | £36            |
| Alan Breadmore     | Clerk's Expenses       | £50            |
| Scofell Landscapes | Mowing                 | £231           |
| Griffins           | Payroll                | £310           |
| Quakers            | Meeting Room Hire      | £72            |
| East Garston PCC   | Churchyard Maintenance | £200           |

- c. Received since last meeting: -

| Name | Goods or service | Amount |
|------|------------------|--------|
| WBC  | Precept          | £4500  |

- d. To be received by next meeting: - None
  - e. The August, September and October Current Account bank statements were reconciled to the cash book and signed by the chairman.
  - f. Clerk reported that the Annual Return for 2014/15 had been approved by the external auditor with an observation regarding the timing of the internal audit process. Councillors did not view this as an issue since it is in accordance with practice for at least 8 years. Clerk to consult with internal auditor. The report was accepted. Proposed JH, seconded DC
  - g. Councillors considered updated Financial Regulations presented by Clerk. Approved. Proposed DC, seconded JH.
  - h. Councillors considered updated Standing Orders presented by Clerk. Approved. Proposed CT, seconded ST
  - i. Councillors agreed to make grant of £200 to PCC for Churchyard Maintenance. Proposed CT, seconded JH
7. Co-option of Councillor – Councillors considered a proposal for co-option made by Chairman. Clerk to provide further information to candidate. JR to discuss further with candidate for decision at next meeting.
  8. Digital Village Status
    - a. Clerk reported that the BT Superfast Broadband (SFB) implementation was complete and many parishioners were already using it. There are some parts of the Parish where the government defined minimum service would still not be available but this would be addressed by the phase 2 contract that Superfast Berkshire had agreed with Gigaclear, a fibre to premises company. More information will be provided when available. It is expected that the service would be available by mid 2016. Councillors considered supporting the Village Hall and Social Club with the installation of a public wi fi service for parishioners. It was agreed to make a grant of £200 per annum for the next two years from the Digital Village Fund. Proposed CT, seconded JH

- b. Clerk reported that the Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal implementation in the centre of the village would be complete by the end of the week.
  - c. Mobile Infrastructure Plan (MIP). Clerk reported that planning consent has been obtained for the Coldborough Hill mast, awaiting information about implementation.
  - d. Parish Council website. Clerk reported that the new site has been launched and has been well received. Parish Council content is up to date and the Church (Bob Briant) has been an active contributor.
9. Flood Management Status: - CT reported that groundwater levels were still low but may rise with the forecast rain. He expressed concern about the build up of silt below Baggers Bridge and suggested the Environment Agency be contacted to seek solution. Action Clerk.
10. Planning Status:-
- a. Planning Applications
    - i. 5 Station Cottages – Withdrawn
    - ii. Old Mail House - Pending
11. Correspondence:-
- a. Letter from parishioner complaining about dog waste being left in pink bags beside footpaths. Councillors confirmed they had also received complaints about this. Culprit not identified but Councillors agreed to install a further dog waste bin at the eastern end of the village. Action Clerk. Proposed JH, seconded DC
  - b. The Highways winter service plan has been received. Clerk confirmed there was no change to the East Garston service for 2015/16.
  - c. Clerk had distributed information regarding WBC Speeding reports website. Councillors agreed that it may be useful but the website needed more explanation of the purpose and process. Clerk to feedback to WBC.
  - d. Letter of thanks from Church for provision of the new website.
12. Any Other Business:-
- a. Parishioner requested some time to explain changes to planning application for 5 Station Cottages prior to submission for approval. Councillors agreed that the plans were more in keeping than the original but could not submit a formal response until the planning application was submitted.
  - b. CT shared the latest Community Speedwatch data. Clerk to invite Police to next meeting to discuss further.
  - c. Councillors discussed the proposed WBC cuts to services
    - i. Transfer of salt bins and their maintenance to Parish Council. Councillors were disappointed that this service was likely to be withdrawn creating a potential safety hazard, they agreed that if necessary they would fund this service provision. Clerk to respond to consultation on behalf of Parish Council.
    - ii. Cuts in Bus Services. Although usage may be low, Councillors considered the criteria for prioritising cuts in services penalised rural communities. In particular the proposed cuts will impact those who use the service to go to work and the most vulnerable (low income, elderly and infirm). Clerk to respond to consultation on behalf of Parish Council.
    - iii. Councillors to review the other proposed cuts and share opinions with other Councillors where they believe further responses are required on behalf of the Parish Council.
  - d. Councillors agreed that the bus shelter required maintenance and refurbishment. Clerk to obtain quotes.
  - e. Councillors agreed that the Millennium Field steps required maintenance/replacement and extension. ST and Clerk to obtain quotes.
  - f. DC requested that Councillors consider a grant to the Social Club for the Over 60s Christmas Lunch. Although they support the initiative they felt that it was not an appropriate use of funds at this time, since alternative sources are available.

Meeting ended – 8.20 p.m. Next meeting – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.00pm