

A bi-monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Friends Meeting House Children's Room on Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Present: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) - Chairman, Chris Tonge (CT), Sue Tulloch (ST), Liam Robson (LR) and Alan Breadmore – Clerk; Apologies: - Deana Carpenter (DC), Jane Haddock (JH); Parishioners: - David Bell.
2. Minutes of the bi-monthly meeting held 11th January 2017 – were read and signed as correct.
3. Matters Arising: -
 - a. c/f. Awaiting action from WBC re re-profiling and drainage on Back St outside PJS, WBC have indicated there is still no funding.
 - b. Update re VAS on Newbury Road from "Smart Meter" planner stated there are delays but will still go ahead.
 - c. Commemorative Tree by Middle Bridge has been planted.
 - d. R Gibbard appointed to repair bench by Middle Bridge
 - e. Awaiting response from BT re payphone adoption
4. The Outcomes of Planning Considerations held 11th, 18th, 20th, 27th January and 15th February 2017 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	CQ number or on line banking approvers
East Garston PCC	Churchyard Maintenance	£200	DC LR
East Garston Quakers	Room Hire	£72	DC LR
A Breadmore	Clerk's Expenses	£39	DC LR
Village Hall & Social Club	Broadband Grant	£200	DC LR
Fowler Architect and Planning	Planning Consultant	£706	LR DC

- b. To be paid by next meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT
WBC	Dog Waste Removal	£210
T & M Cooper	Hedge Cutting	£160
R Gibbard	Bench Refurbishment	£200
Wilkins Kennedy (ex Griffins)	Payroll	£320
Realise Futures	Millennium Field Benches	£571

- c. Received since last meeting: -

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT
HMRC	VAT refund	£1734

- d. To be received by next meeting: - None
 - e. The January(Unity), and Closing (Santander) Current Account and Santander (Closing) Deposit Account bank statements were reconciled to the cash book and signed by the Chairman and LR.
 - f. Clerk highlighted his administrative error whereby a duplicate payment of a grant to East Garston Quakers had been made. This has been refunded and acknowledged in the cash book.
 - g. Clerk confirmed that the Unity Trust Bank deposit account was now open. The transition from Santander is now complete. Five Councillors are fully set up for internet banking. The procedures appear to be working well and have been documented in the Clerk's procedure document.
 - h. The Clerk presented the new Financial Regulations (previously distributed) for adoption. These are based upon the January 2016 NALC guidelines. The key differences are the inclusion of on line banking procedures, additional requirements for verification of bank reconciliations each quarter and the inclusion of EU regulations regarding large contract tenders. The document was adopted by Councillors. Proposed CT, Seconded ST. and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
 - i. Grant funding for FY17/18 was reviewed and request for funds from WBC (Libraries – up to £525) and Wantage Community Bus (up to £400) were agreed in principle but are subject to additional information being provided by the requestors.
 - j. Councillors agreed immediate expenditure on two benches for the Millennium Field, up to £500.
 - k. Budget for 2017/18: - The previously agreed budget statement was reviewed and modified slightly in line with grant plans for the next FY and end of year expenditure. There were no significant changes.
7. Flood Management Status: - CT advised that a Lambourn Valley Flood Forum meeting had been held and there were no significant new matters that affected East Garston. WBC reaffirmed their policy that sand bags would no longer be provided and that householders and Parish Councils are encouraged to make their own provision. Floodsax and similar products are recommended. An exhibition is being arranged for householders to see flood protection/prevention products.
 8. Annual Parish Meeting: - The APM will be held this year on 18th April. Village Hall is booked. Suggested speakers include, Police, WBC Councillors, David Ruse re Speeding, a Parishioner re flora of the Lambourn Valley (JR to invite).

9. Neighbourhood Plan: - Councillors discussed the invitation by Lambourn Parish Council to join forces with them and Great Shefford in producing a Lambourn Valley Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors liked the principle but had concerns that the different vision of a small community may be swamped by the different needs of a larger community. This could be countered with focussed resources from East Garston but there were doubts that such resources could be rallied. More information is required before any commitment could be made. It was suggested that this is aired at the APM, if an authoritative speaker can be found. Councillors were also interested in the opinion of Great Shefford PC. Clerk to investigate.
10. Planning Status: - The WBC status of East Garston Planning Applications is as follows: -
 - a. Rear of Shieling - refused
 - b. College House - approved
 - c. Greensleeves - approved
 - d. Rogers Lane - withdrawn
 - e. Manor Farm - pending
 - f. Oakfield House - approved
 - g. Ivy Cottage - approved
 - h. 12 College Way (trees) - pending
 - i. Melvaig - pending
11. Volunteer Programme: - No new projects although Clerk suggested that the PC try to find a volunteer to do the regular checks on the Community Defibrillator to reduce his workload. Councillors agreed.
12. Correspondence: -
 - a. Letter of thank from David Knight on behalf of residents for the PC's action and support re Rogers Lane development.
 - b. Notification of Wickham Motorway Bridge roadworks which will be closed overnight until early April
 - c. District Parish Conference agenda published. CT to attend
 - d. WBC Boundary Commission consultation process started. No real impact on Parish Council until next stage in June 2017.
13. Any Other Business
 - a. Further complaints about dog fouling. Clerk to assess the current control processes and publicise.
 - b. Toddler Playground upgrade and refurbishment. Clerk and ST to liaise re responsibilities and risk and take appropriate action together with East Garston Amenities.

Meeting ended – 8.25 p.m. Next meeting – Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at 7pm