

A Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Friends Meeting House, Children's Room on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at 7 p.m.

### MINUTES

1. Present: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) - Chairman, Chris Tonge (CT), Sue Tulloch (ST), Deana Carpenter (DC), Liam Robson (LR) and Alan Breadmore, Clerk. – Apologies: Jane Haddock (JH). Parishioners: - David Bell, Galvin Mould.
2. Minutes of Bi-Monthly Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were read and signed as correct.
3. Matters Arising:-
  - a. c/f. WBC have confirmed that the repainting of foot and road bridges is still scheduled and that the repairs to the eastern bridge would be performed first.
  - b. c/f. JH had confirmed to Clerk that the tree replacement in College Way is progressing.
  - c. Community Speedwatch. Clerk confirmed that given the cost, other priorities and the proposed "Smart Meter" vehicle activated sign; the purchase of a second VAS had been removed from 2016/17 budget.
  - d. Village Hall Broadband now installed and active.
  - e. Cllr Liam Robson co-option, registration and appointment complete.
4. Minutes of Planning Meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were read and signed as correct.
5. Matters Arising: - None
6. Finance and Compliance:-
  - a. Paid since last meeting: Clerk noted that most items due to be paid since last meeting had been c/f since invoices had not been received. These have been rescheduled for March payment

| Name    | Goods or service | Amount inc VAT |       |
|---------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| Glasdon | Dog Waste Bin    | £124           | CQ808 |

- b. To be paid by next meeting:

| Name                  | Goods or service     | Amount inc VAT |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| WBC                   | Dog Waste Collection | £244           |
| WBC                   | Wantage Bus Subsidy  | £201           |
| Griffins              | Payroll              | £310           |
| Alan Breadmore        | Clerk's Expenses     | £25            |
| T & M Cooper          | Hedge Cutting        | £170           |
| Village Hall Trustees | Village Hall SFB     | £200           |
| ??                    | College Way Tree     | £240           |
| BALC                  | Subscription         | £124           |
| C & D Contracting     | Bus Shelter Refurb.  | £1,038         |
| Scofell               | Mowing               | £231           |
| Newbury College       | Printing             | £150           |
| CAB                   | Donation             | £50            |
| Cripps                | Tree maintenance     | £420           |

- c. Received since last meeting: -

| Name | Goods or service | Amount |
|------|------------------|--------|
| HMRC | VAT Rebate       | £936   |

- d. To be received by next meeting:

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

- e. The December and January Current Account and January Deposit bank statements were reconciled to the cash book and signed by the chairman.
- f. Clerk advised that new timescales for audit may require additional council meeting for audit review.
- g. LR agreed to perform annual review of cash book with Clerk.
7. FY 16/17 budget and implications of WBC savings proposals: - Revisions to budget were discussed in light of WBC cuts and current understanding. It was agreed to maintain a flexible approach but maintain previously agreed principles.  
The key budget changes were
  - i. The community grant process using S137 powers would be reduced to £1000
  - ii. Following feedback by ST and DC from meeting of Parish Council's in the Valley it was agreed to continue contribution to Wantage Bus Service, increased to £410 for one year.
  - iii. Monitor implications of withdrawal of WBC services and consider funding accordingly
  - iv. Speeding; Remove provision for self funded VAS for the time being.
8. Annual Performance Review of Clerk: - as required, an annual review of the Clerk's performance was held. He was thanked for his hard work which is greatly appreciated and his contract reaffirmed at NJC SCP 22. There would be no change to salary due to national guidelines. Proposed CT, seconded ST.

9. Annual Parish Meeting:- Clerk advised that, thanks to Councillor CT's suggestion, they had secured a speaker for the APM. A Trading Standard's Officer would speak and answer questions regarding "Protecting yourself from doorstep crime, nuisance calls and postal scams"
10. Flood Management Status: - CT and Clerk attended the latest meeting of Lambourn Valley Flood Forum. No significant new initiatives regarding East Garston. Proposals being considered by Environment Agency for flood relief schemes on the River Lambourn and in Great Shefford. Eastbury have obtained a mini digger to aid river silt clearance, this may be available to EG with appropriate permissions.
11. Planning Status:-
  - a. Planning Applications
    - i. Manor Farm – Pending
    - ii. Smart Meter Aerial - Pending
12. Correspondence:-
  - a. EGPC had been copied on a letter from parishioner to WBC regarding library closures. He is a retired library services professional who should be consulted if PC becomes involved and requires expertise.
  - b. Renewal of mowing contract from Scofell, no increase. Accepted. Proposed CT, seconded DC.
  - c. Invitation to next District/Parish conference. CT and Clerk to attend, possibly also LR.
  - d. Advice of licence application for Garstonbury. ST declared an interest. Other councillors had no objections.
  - e. WBC Highways advise that they are looking at the re-profiling of the road surface of Back Street to assist drainage outside PJS.
  - f. Complaints received re burning of domestic rubbish on Millennium Field. Clerk to discourage via EG News. Chairman to approach alleged perpetrator.
  - g. Clerk advised that Royal Mail would be repairing post box outside Village Hall.
  - h. Request for funding from CAB. Councillors considered in the light of the £40,000 proposed reduction in funding by WBC. Agreed to make donation of £50. Proposed CT, seconded LR.
  - i. Advice that playground equipment inspection would take place in April.
13. Any Other Business:-
  - a. The PC has been advised that the Cricket Club would not be playing this year and hence their insurance has not been renewed. There is now a question regarding insurance if public use the cricket nets. Clerk to check PC insurance.
  - b. CT/JR suggested that the "Welcome to East Garston" is updated and reprinted. Clerk to revise and get limited print run.
  - c. JR proposed maintenance of Willows adjacent to "Greensleeves" due to incursion on overhead lines and river. Cost estimate £700. Councillors agreed subject to shared cost with new resident. Proposed JR, seconded CT.

Meeting ended – 8.25 p.m.  
Next meetings – APM: - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm  
AGM: - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7pm