

**The Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.00pm**

**MINUTES**

1. **Present:** Councillors – Stephen Reschwamm (Chair/SR), Deana Carpenter (Vice-chair/DC), Sue Tulloch (ST), Jonathan Rabbits (JR), Annabelle Eyre (AE)  
Liz James (Clerk), Parishioners: Pat Glover, Stuart Arnold

**Apologies:** Liam Robson (LR), Cllr Clive Hooker

2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Bi-monthly Meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were unanimously confirmed and adopted.

4. **Questions/comments from members of the public:**

**Pat Glover (PG)** of East Garston Eco Group (EGEG) reported that the WBC Climate Forum on 3rd December included a presentation on how their countryside team were helping to address the climate and ecological emergencies. At their next meeting on 28th Jan, WBC will present the latest news on EV charge points and solar panels. East Garston Eco Group has been busy planting bulbs (kindly donated by North Wessex Downs National Landscape) and tree saplings (kindly donated by Asgar Trees). The Parish Council agreed that information about the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster Hall in November could go on their website. All 10 talks can be seen here: <https://www.nebriefing.org/>, and there is a summary of the talks on this [YouTube video](#). PG asked the PC to consider writing a flood adaptation plan for the expected increases in heavy rainfall due to climate change. PG will find out if other villages have already done this.

**Action: Clerk to ask HW to add the National Emergency Briefing links to the website.**

**Mark Rogers (MR)** submitted points to be raised in the meeting. The PC confirmed that there had been no update on the PJS application. The PC discussed the proposed tree work in Jubilee Meadow; MR has received a quotation of £2000. The PC agreed to contribute £500 from the Open Space Dev. Fund towards the cost of this work. The PC questioned whether removal of branches etc was included in the quotation. The issue of the truck parked in the social club carpark is not a PC issue, but the PC agreed to raise this with Ed James.

**Action: SR to contact Cllr Hooker to request an update on the status of the PJS application.**

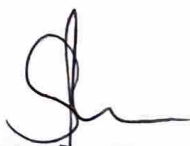
**Action: Clerk to email MR regarding the Jubilee Meadow tree works.**

**Action: Clerk to email Ed James regarding the vehicle in the carpark.**

5. Planning Information since the last meeting:

<b>NEW:</b>	
25/02765/FULMAJ	<b>Manor Farm, Station Road, East Garston, Hungerford RG17 7HF</b> Conversion of an agricultural barn to equestrian use, replacement stable building and formation of horse walker and menage together with associated works and landscaping. <b>Consultation deadline 20/01/2026</b>
<b>PENDING:</b>	

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25/02412/FUL	<b>P J S Agricultural Services Ltd Back Street East Garston Hungerford</b> Full planning permission for the demolition of the existing industrial buildings and replacement with four new residential dwellings, together with parking, landscaping and any other associated works and infrastructure. <b>Awaiting decision</b>
<b>DECISIONS:</b>	
25/01854/HOUSE	<b>East Garston House Front Street East Garston Hungerford</b> External alterations to existing house; including 2 no. dormer windows, 1 no. roof light and new portico. <b>Approved with conditions</b>
25/02651/FULMAJ	<b>Manor Farm Station Road East Garston Hungerford RG17 7HF</b> Section 73 application to vary conditions 2 (Approved Plans) 3 (Materials) 4 (Soft and Hard Landscaping) and 5 (Lighting Assessment) of approved Application Reference Number: 25/01152/FULMAJ <b>Approved with conditions</b>

**25/02765/FULMAJ** The PC discussed this application and received comments from those members of the public present. There is some concern from residents of Burfords over potential noise disruption and they would welcome some clarification on the timescale of the project. The PC would like to clarify the exact details of the horse walker and menage plans and will conduct a site visit to this effect.

**Action: AE to arrange a site visit to Manor Farm**

**Action: SR to contact Cllr Hooker to discuss PJS**

**Action: Clerk to contact WBC Plan Apps to request an extension due to proposed site visit**

**\*25/02651/FULMAJ** Decision notice received shortly after the meeting. Approved with conditions.

## 6. Receive reports:

**District Cllr Clive Hooker** was not able to attend the meeting, when it is published his most recent report will be available here: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/downloadsparishcouncilreport>

**Chairman's Report:** SR reported that LR has announced his intention to step down as Parish Councillor, LR has volunteered to continue with certain jobs around the village, and the PC thanked him in his absence for this. SR raised concerns about the increased occurrence of fly-tipping in the village (particularly at top of School Lane). SR will mention this at the annual meeting and offered to clear some of the rubbish. SR reminded those present of the WBCS work on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Action: Clerk to advertise Parish Councillor vacancy.**

**Action: SR to mention fly-tipping at Annual Parish Meeting.**

## Clerk's Report:

- a) The junior play equipment service has been carried out by Nick Olaf of FWRP. A few minor repairs were needed but he felt that generally the equipment is in a good condition considering its age. Most pressing is that it needs to be cleaned as it is currently very slippery, and the need for additional rubber mulch around the equipment. The cost of cleaning estimated to be £200, clerk suggested that this could be taken from CIL fund. Those present agreed unanimously that this should go

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ahead. It was also agreed that the remaining CIL fund should be put towards purchasing additional mulch.

- b) Clerk reported on recent clerk's and officer training session. Martyn's Law needs to be considered for all events or premises >200 capacity/attendance. PC agreed that there are no events/premises which meet this threshold. The PC needs an IT Policy to be compliant.
- c) The village Emergency Plan and Flood Policy both need to be updated.

**Action: Clerk to arrange for Nick Olaf to return to clean the play equipment**

**Action: ST to order additional mulch or provide clerk with details of previous order**

**Action: Clerk to write IT Policy for distribution**

**Action: Clerk to update Emergency Plan. SR to update Flood Policy**

## 7. Finance and Compliance:

- a) Payments & receipts

*Payments since the previous meeting:*

Name	Goods/Service	Amount incl VAT	Approved
Autela	Payroll charges Aug-Nov	102.00	SR/DC
East Garston PCC	Grant for churchyard maintenance	200.00	SR/DC
E James	Salary (Nov)	271.61	SR/DC
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	6.00	
Tactical Facilities	Dog bins (Nov)	88.40	SR/DC
SLCC	Annual Subscription	110.00	SR/DC
CPRE	Annual Subscription	30.00	SR/DC
E James	Phonebox supplies (new window pane)	13.44	SR/DC
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	6.00	
EG Social Club	Village Broadband contribution	200.00	SR/DC
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1027.45</b>	

*Received since the previous meeting:*

Thames Water	Millenium Field Sewer Works	1300.00
Unity Trust Bank	Interest (Deposit Account)	66.03
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1366.03</b>

*Upcoming expenses:*

Fieldwork Rest & Play	Playground service & Maintenance	400.00
Limesigns	Replacement playground sign	181.72
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£581.72</b>

*Bank balances:*

Current Account      £ 5,398.66  
 Deposit Account      £ 12,047.68  
**TOTAL**                      **£ 17,446.34**

*Funds breakdown:*

General Fund            £ 6168.30  
 Special & Emergencies £ 6,000.00      *frozen*

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CIL Fund	£	953.42
Open Space Dev.	£	3,934.36
Defib. Fund	£	390.26
Playground Equipment	£	0.00

8. **Draft Budget:** Draft budget was distributed ahead of the meeting. There was a question regarding the expected cost of printing the Parish Newsletter. ST suggested that the PC should be using the updated NJC pay scale to calculate the clerk's salary.

**Action: Clerk to ask for quotation for printing 200 copies of newsletter**

**Action: Clerk to distribute the 2025 NJC pay scale for consideration**

**Action: Draft budget to be reviewed at March meeting**

9. **Precept 2026/27:** The PC discussed the precept; it was suggested that this should be increased to £11,000 due to increased costs. This would increase the individual contribution for each Band D property from £36.50 to £38.00 for the year. The precept amount was agreed unanimously by those present.

**Action: Clerk to submit Parish Precept request form before the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan deadline**

10. **Review of annual subscriptions:** Those present agreed to continue the current annual subscriptions (BALC, SLCC, CPRE, and CCB).

11. **Proposed 20mph speed restriction:** It was generally felt that the proposed reduction in the speed limit through the village was positive. Those present agreed that signage should ideally be restricted to the three main 'entrance' points to the village and the bottom of School Lane.

**Action: SR, ST, AE to attend online meeting with representative from WSP on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. SR to raise signage as part of the discussion. Clerk to distribute Teams meeting joining instructions.**

12. **Complaint – rubbish burning:** PC discussed the complaint that has been received concerning the burning of rubbish at Maberley's. It was confirmed that as this is on private land it does not fall under PC jurisdiction and therefore the PC cannot act.

13. **Village Newsletter:** It was agreed that this needs to be organised earlier than last year. Proof copy to be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> March with the aim that printed copies can be available by 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Action: Clerk to contact Brian Quinn to discuss printing timeline**

**Action: SR to compile proof copy**

14. **Jubilee Meadow & Playground:** Discussed earlier in the meeting. Nothing further to report.

15. **Village Maintenance & Millenium Field:** Discussed earlier in the meeting. Nothing further to report.

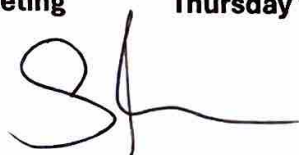
16. **Review of Action Points:** Action points from previous meetings reviewed. Most have been completed.

17. **Any other business:** None.

The meeting was concluded at 8.15pm

Date of next meeting **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

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Date:

12 | 3 | 26

2026 meeting dates:

12<sup>th</sup> March

16<sup>th</sup> April

14<sup>th</sup> May

9<sup>th</sup> July

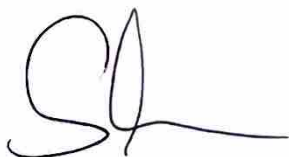
10<sup>th</sup> September

12<sup>th</sup> November

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual General Meeting

Signed:

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Date:

12/3/26