

A Bimonthly meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held as a virtual meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7 p.m.

**MINUTES**

1. Present: - Sue Tulloch (ST) -Chair, Councillors: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Annabelle (AE), Deana Carpenter (DC), Chris Tonge (CT) District Councillor Clive Hooker (CH)  
Clerk: Sonia Coyle (SC).
2. Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest
3. Minutes of Bimonthly meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – were read and signed as correct. Proposed DC seconded AE.
4. Finance and Compliance : -  
Clerk had emailed to Councillors all detailed papers ahead of the meeting.

a. Payments since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount inc VAT	Approved
EG PCC	Church roof fund	£200	ST DC
Azets	Fees & PAYE Tax/NI	£61.60	ST DC
The Good Exchange	Platform Service Fee	£31.35	DD
Autela	Payroll	£533.73	ST AE
Willis & Ainsworth	Salt	£98	ST AE
PJS	Lid Magnets	£50	ST AE
Autela	Payroll	£179.47	ST AE

b. To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
Autela	Payroll (Q1 tax & Mar salary)	£403.20
Outdoor Play People	Swing – 50%	£2133
DMH	Local Council Risk System	£55
Clerks Expenses	Postage, stamps, wallets	£16.80

c. Received since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
C James	Pollarding donation	£200
Lady Whent	Pollarding donation	£450

d. To be received by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
EGA	Swing contribution	£750

Clerk requested authorisation to move £1777.50 from the deposit account to the current account to cover the (net) deposit payment for the swing. Councillors APPROVED the request. Clerk reported that finances would total £20,763 after paying for the swing. *[Post meeting note; VAT reclaim of £1214.29 in bank account 08/03 so clerk only transferred £1000]*

Councillors AGREED to renew Scofell's contract for 2021 at the same cost as 2020 - £252 per month, for 8 months.

Clerk informed Councillors of the "Surviving to Thriving Fund" deadline for applications 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Clerk to draft policy for GDPR breach in accordance with new standing orders. Still outstanding.

Signed



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5. Sewage/River Flooding

At this point Martyn Wright joined the meeting and presented the results of the flood survey.

It is important to note that when logging a complaint with Thames Water households should ask for a reference number as this can then be followed up, we need to keep the pressure on to ensure the work is carried out.

Martyn also thanked Clive Hooker for his work in getting the gullies cleared – CH offered if anyone would like to show him their issues in the village do contact him and he will come out to look at. CT thanked Martyn on behalf of the Parish Council for all the work he has done. Martyn then left the meeting. JR thanked Henry Matysek for clearing the drains at the bottom of school lane and opposite PJS this morning [Post meeting note; Flood risk information, flood policy and flood forum details are all available on the East Garston Website]

6. Emergency co-ordination & coronavirus response.

CT thanked Deana & Danny Carpenter for continuing to give out medicines, stating that Danny has devoted a lot of his time over the past year. CT also informed the PC that WBC have said volunteers may be required if there is a need to surge test for Covid-19.

7. Planning Status

Clerk confirmed 2 applications had been submitted to WBC during February

- |                  |               |                    |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| • 21/00197/CERTE | No objections | Manor Farm         |
| • 21/00249/LBC2  | No objections | Bay Tree Cottage   |
| • 20/02253/FUL   | WBC REFUSES   | Mabberleys Stables |
| • 20/00259/House | No objections | 8 Downlands        |

8. Jubilee Meadow

ROSPA inspection due in April – review of maintenance to be carried out. It was agreed that a date would be set to carry out the work towards the end of March. It was confirmed that the gym will be re-opened on 12<sup>th</sup> April in line with government advice.

9. Village Maintenance & Millennium Field

JR informed the council that the field was rolled yesterday. DC asked CT if the post at Humphreys Lane Gate will be replaced. CT will ask Trevor to sort. There is an ongoing issue with the emptying of dog bins in the village, it would appear that on occasion 4 out of 5 bins may be emptied which results in 1 overflowing. DC/ST/SC to monitor the situation to establish whether a larger bin is required on the bridge.

10. Speedwatch

PC agreed to consider the Gen5-Pro, however before a final decision is made the following needs to be investigated;

- Can the SID be used both ways?
- Is the cost £835 per pole
- Where can the poles be sited
- How easy is it to move the SID
- Are we able to use the current pole already in place

ST to speak to CE at WBC.

11. Parish Plan review/Village Design Statement

CH confirmed that the production of a VDS wouldn't particularly help East Garston as an aid to planning decisions. There are no plans to build here at least until 2036 and development is limited to land inside the settlement boundary. It was agreed that due to the amount of work involved and the fact that no one has come forward to lead the project the PC won't be pursuing this for the time being.

12. Vacancy

Clerk confirmed that three formal applications had been received for the vacancy. These had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. Each was reviewed and discussed. Councillors held an open vote and the successful candidate was Peter Smith. Clerk to confirm the outcome to all candidates and brief the successful candidate on the formalities. Once paperwork complete Clerk to then inform WBC Electoral Services.

13. Parish Clerk Report; - Clerk reported as follows

- Clerk had received a donation request from Citizens Advice Bureau ST PROPOSED £50, CT seconded.
- Request also received from a parishioner offering to carry out voluntary work for their DofE. Councillors came up with several options – clerk to contact parishioner and follow up.
- Attended year end training and Make a change, become a councillor. This will be available from NALC online – details to be sent out to councillors when received.
- Trees overhanging power cables in Front Street have been reported online – clerk awaiting response.
- Observation – sign in the centre of the village lists Shop, PO, Village Hall and Club. ST/SC to look at sign, can letters be removed/painted over?

Signed



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14. Any other business

- ST to request the hedge be cut back on the corner opposite Charlie and Ed James's house
- The PC lawn mower needs replacing. CT confirmed that PJS can organise for £250. Councillors APPROVED the purchase.
- ST had received an email from Vanessa Lee to report that someone had been throwing eggs at her car and the house. The incident has been reported to the community police and she asks for everyone to be vigilant
- Brian from Penny Post had been in contact with ST to see if the PC wants to produce the Village newsletter this year but the councillors agreed that due to Covid and everything being closed there isn't much point at the moment – will review later in the year or next year
- DC asked about the publication that was given to new people moving to the village. SC to send to ST to update so it can be used again.
- JR is going to write a thank you to Lady Whent and Charlie James for their contribution towards the tree pollarding.

Meeting ended – 9.11p.m. Next meeting – Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7.00pm

Signed



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