

11th Jan

**MINUTES**

1. **Present:** - Sue Tulloch (ST) -Chair, Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Annabelle Eyre (AE), Liam Robson (LR) and Peter Smith (PS)  
Clerk: Gillian Woodward (GW)  
Apologies: Deanna Carpenter (DC)

Meeting started at 7:00 pm

2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

3. **Minutes of last meeting:**  
Councillors RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to confirm and adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023

4. **Questions/comments from members of the public.** No members of the public present.  
Pat Glover from the **East Garston Eco Group** was present before the main council meeting began to report on a meeting of the West Berkshire Town and Parish Climate Forum she had attended on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2023. Pat updated the meeting on her ongoing research into actions the parish council may be able to take on the climate and nature emergencies. Following guidance from Friends of the Earth, councillors answered her questions as follows: the Local Plan mentioned in the guidance is not relevant to East Garston, East Garston has no council buildings or street lighting, any change in maintenance to the Jubilee Meadow and Millennium Field to improve their ecology should be reasonable to maintain in the years to come, the Parish Council banks with Unity Bank, and councillors have had no training on the climate and ecology crisis from WBC. Pat plans to discuss some possible actions with WBC and report back to East Garston PC in due course.

5. **Planning matters since last meeting:**

**NEW APPLICATIONS:**

23/002809/HOUSE

9 Poughly Cottages, Woodland St Mary

Single storey rear extension, single storey front extension. Walls to the side and front. PV panels to timber framed garage. Consultation deadline 2nd January 2024 extension granted to 15th January 2024.

There were no objections from the parish Council.

23/02895/HOUSE

Spring Cottage, Front Street, East Garston  
19<sup>th</sup> January deadline

Rear extension – larger kitchen/dining area

23/02896/LBC

Spring Cottage, Front Street, East Garston  
19<sup>th</sup> January deadline

Rear extension – larger kitchen/dining area

The PC had a few observations about the proposed roof tiles, height of the roof ridge, and also some concerns about building supply deliveries ie where delivery vehicles might have to park. It was decided that there should be a site visit for the next day 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**AWAITING DECISION:**

As above applications.

**DECISIONS:**

23/01765/HOUSE

Southview, Rogers Lane, East Garston

Proposed two-storey extension to both sides of the property and demolition of existing garage.

**Application withdrawn**

23/02025/HOUSE

Rivermead, Newbury Rd, Great Shefford

Replacement windows, new entrance door, new double doors to master bedroom, Juliet balcony

**Permission Granted**

23/02232/COND

Bay Tree Cottages, Front Street, East Garston

External doors and windows, of planning permission 22/02884/LBC

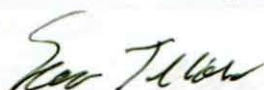
**Approved**

22/02870/FUL

Greengates, Front Street, East Garston

Demolition of existing structurally compromised cottage and provision of a replacement cottage, with provision for access and related landscaping. Site visit for West Berks Council 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Chair attended. Subsequent WBC Planning Meeting also attended by Chair when the application was

Signed



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Refused.

**The Sheiling, School Lane, East Garston, Hungerford RG17 7HR**

No further information regarding this application/enforcement. Appeal Ref: APP/W0340/W/22/3305452  
There has been no further update from West Berkshire Council - the PC is still waiting for this.

**6. Receive Reports:  
Chairman's Report**

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting with **Thames Water** on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 held in the village had been circulated and ST ran through the main points of the meeting which she had chaired.

The filtration unit has been fitted and is working but with the amount of rain and the high groundwater levels it is already at full capacity, with a big concern about sewage. Thames Water would like to move it closer to the pumping station but there are some cables and branches which need moving first and it cannot be switched off for any period without tanker back up. There are a number of houses who are experiencing backing up of sewage in their downstairs toilets so additional tankers are needed. Thames Water have been made aware of this but so far no additional tankers have been sent. Anyone experiencing problems should report them to Thames Water. The groundwater is so high that several properties in the village have been flooded and are pumping water into the river. The Parish Council have sandbags should anyone need them but mostly the problem is from groundwater flooding as opposed to surface water.

ST reported that although Maureen Velvick hadn't won the main Community Champion award she had received a Highly Commended award. **Action: ST to inform Maureen of her award.**

If anyone wants to see West Berkshire Council's new licensing policy they should ask the Clerk for the relevant link. Salt and sand supplies have been ordered and delivered to JR at Maiden Court.

Damaged dog bin – a quote had been received for replacement of one of the dog bins. PS agreed to look at the bin to see if it can be mended rather than incurring expenditure on a replacement bin.

**Action: PS to look at damaged dog bin.**

**Clerk's Report**

The Clerk (GW) explained about the Sport England annual check of the Millennium Field facilities. This is not a physical check but an online update on what is essentially an online info hub for anyone wanting to know about village sports facilities.

With regard to the war memorial, ST is waiting to undertake an inspection with Johnny Rayfield to discuss exactly what needs doing and to find the cheapest repair quote...

**Action: ST to meet with Johnny Rayfield.**

**7. Finance and Compliance:**

The Clerk (GW) presented the figures for the period since the last meeting.

**a) Payments and Receipts**

Paid since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount inc VAT	Approved
West Berks	Library grant	£525	ST/DC
EG PCC	Grant	£500	ST/DC
Village Hall	Community Broadband	£200	ST/DC
Clerk's salary – SC	November		ST/DC
Clerk's salary – GW	November		ST/DC
SLCC	Annual membership	80.00	ST/DC
Caloo	Gym equipment inspection	294	ST/DC
Clerk's salary – SC	Extra hours flood meeting		ST/DC
Clerk's salary – GW	December		ST/DC
Tactical	Dog bins November	81.60	ST/DC
	<b>Total (incl Clerk's salary)</b>	<b>2468.14</b>	

To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
Tactical	Dog bins - December	81.60
HMRC Q3	PAYE tax	147.80

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G Woodward Expenses	Copy paper/ink cartridges/file dividers	29.73
Autela Payroll Services	Payroll Q3	54.59

Received since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
Unity deposit account	Interest	116.71

	Balance	
<b>Current Accounts</b>	£2,266.93	
<b>Deposit Accounts</b>	£16,518.38	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£18,785.31</b>	

**b. 2024/25 Draft Budget**

The Clerk (GW) presented the draft 2024/25 budget for discussion. Looking at the projected expenditure it was discussed and agreed that the Precept amount should be increased by £500.00 which is a small increase bringing the total per elector to £23.86 compared to £23.47 last year based on 440 people on the latest electoral register. Councillors discussed whether items like the quote for a broken piece of equipment in the Jubilee Field (see item 8) could be covered by the Special & Emergencies Fund. Precept amount of £10,500 to be requested and draft budget signed off at the March meeting.

**Action: Clerk to find out what the Special & Emergencies fund money can be used for. Complete Precept Request form and submit by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.**

**8. Jubilee Meadow**

A quote for £294 had been received from Caloo (who undertake the inspections) and it was agreed to accept the quote and get this work done.

**Action: Clerk to organise.**

AE had undertaken an informal inspection in November and will send her report to the Clerk.

**Action: AE to send form to Clerk.**

**9. Millennium Field**

ST reported that the re-seed would happen in March/April. There was some discussion whether some fencing would need to be removed in order that re-seeding can take place. ST will discuss this with the contractor (Bruton Knowles?).

**Action: ST to talk to Bruton Knowles.**

**10. Community Speedwatch**

It was agreed to hire the speedwatch equipment and that the date or dates would be confirmed in the March meeting.

**11. Any Other business**

Dates for 2024 Parish Council meetings were agreed:

March 7<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting

April 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting.

ST asked for suggestions for a suitable speaker for this meeting, possibly someone from the British Legion.

May 9<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting

July 11<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting

September 12<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting

November 14<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting

There was No Other business.

Meeting ended – 8.30 pm

**Next Meeting: Thursday March 7th 2024 at 7pm**

Signed



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