

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 6th July 2016 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Present: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) - Chairman, Chris Tonge (CT), Jane Haddock (JH), Deana Carpenter (DC), Liam Robson (LR) and Alan Breadmore – Clerk. Apologies: Sue Tulloch (ST). Parishioners: - David Bell, David Knight
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 4th May 2016 – were read and signed as correct.
3. Matters Arising:-
 - a. the repainting of foot and road bridges is complete.
 - b. c/f. Awaiting action from WBC re re-profiling and drainage on Back St outside PJS
 - c. Clerk confirmed that the cricket nets had been “adopted” by the Parish Council and that they had been added to the Parish Council insurance.
 - d. c/f. Clerk to revise and reprint “Welcome to East Garston”
 - e. Clerk awaiting quotes and decision of PC re Millennium Field steps, district councillors have indicated they would consider a “members bid” application.
4. The Minutes of Planning Decisions dated 4th May 2016 were read and signed as correct
5. Matters Arising:- None
6. Finance and Compliance:-
 - a. Paid since last meeting: * unplanned

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT	
Valley Community Bus	Wantage Bus Grant	£410	CQ824
Scofell Landscapes	2 x Mowing	£462	CQ822 & 828
Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£266	CQ825
Griffins	Payroll	£310	DD
CCB	Subscription	£30	CQ826
PJS	Mower Repair	£25	CQ823
Auditing Solutions Ltd	Internal Audit	£258	CQ821
Alan Breadmore	Clerk's Expenses	£15*	CQ827
WBC	Wantage Bus Transition	£15*	CQ829

- b. To be paid by next meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT
PJS	Strimmer Repair	£132
East Garston PCC	Community Grant	£500
Scofell	Mowing x2	£462
Newbury College	Printing	£50
Alan Breadmore	Clerk's Expenses	£13

- c. Received since last meeting: - None
- d. To be received by next meeting: - None
- e. The May Current Account bank statement was reconciled to the cash book and signed by the chairman.
- f. Clerk reported that only one Community Grant application had been received by the deadline. The application for a contribution towards a church notice board had been received from the churchwardens. Councillors considered and approved this application for £500. Proposed CT, seconded JR.
- g. Clerk reported that the external auditor had not yet signed off the annual return but had been in contact with some minor queries. In particular they questioned the relatively high level of reserves currently held by the PC. The Clerk had explained that this was mainly due to funds for which there was an identified future project or contingency. They seemed satisfied but Clerk pointed out that it would be prudent to make progress with the projects concerned.
- h. Clerk reported that he had failed to secure revised quotes from the previous preferred bidder. Councillors agreed that a further contractor should be engaged. JR to arrange.
7. Volunteer Programme: - CT and the Clerk reported that the first outing of the “Garston Gang” had been successful and the concept generally well received. Councillors agreed that the following tasks should be promoted
 - a. Treat Jubilee Meadow fence:- lead by JR
 - b. Treat Notice board:- lead by Clerk
 - c. Clear weeds/nettles/hedge in children's playground:- lead by CT
 - d. Hedge cutting at Friends Meeting House:- lead by David Knight
8. Flood Management Status: - CT reported that the fallen trees at Maberleys had been cleared by the landowner and that the river was now flowing freely at that point and levels had dropped. Similarly following the weed clearance near the middle bridge, flows were generally clear, although another working party would be required later in the summer.

9. Planning Status:-

- a. North Cottage – LBC - approved
- b. Mask Cottage – LBC – approved
- c. Fieldridge House – Porch and alterations – approved
- d. Jimmies Farm Stables – Trainers residence - approved

10. Correspondence:-

- a. Clerk and Councillors had received representations regarding the poor maintenance of some footpaths in the village.
 - i. Front Street to Queens Arms, Front Street to Glebe Stables, Manor Farm along back of Burfords. These are all the responsibility of WBC. Clerk to check schedule with WBC and to obtain quotes for maintenance of these paths, since it seems likely that the WBC service will be inadequate.
 - ii. Glebe Stables to Gallops. This is the responsibility of the landowner. JR to request action from the landowner.
- b. Advice of a SID training course. Clerk to promote through Volunteer programme.
- c. Advice received of roadworks at Swan Bridge, Great Shefford
- d. Parishioner reported “near miss” caused by speeding outside Queens Arms and junction with Goodings Lane, has offered to work with PC for potential solutions. Clerk to reply by suggesting SID training and suggest she present proposals to the PC. Additional considerations for a “20’s plenty” campaign for main streets in centre of village. Clerk to investigate what is permitted.
- e. West Berks Minerals and Waste Site consultation – no comments.
- f. Clerk advised of current impasse with Beech Hill PC and WBC.
- g. Clerk confirmed that PC had “adopted” the three salt bins previously owned by WBC.

11. Any Other Business

- a. JR and DC reported that they had been made aware that the potential Rogers Lane developer had booked the Village Hall on 27th July 4-7pm for a “public consultation”. No further information was available. Councillors agreed that they would continue their position of opposition to any development of that land.
- b. DC reported that there were continuing complaints regarding parking on Hillside and Humphreys Lane. Councillors agreed that they could do no more and unless a resident was able to present a feasible proposal for a solution then they would take no further action. DC to discuss with Village Hall Trustees the possibility of overnight parking in the Village Hall car park.

Meeting ended – 8.15 p.m. Next meeting – Wednesday 7th September 2016 at 7pm