

A Bimonthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Friends Meeting House Children's Room on Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Present: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) - Chair, Councillors: - Chris Tonge (CT), David Ruse (DR), Sue Tulloch (ST), Annabelle Eyre (AE) Clerk :Alison Blackmore (Clerk). For item 12 c Alan Breadmore : Parishioner. Apologies: - Deana Carpenter, Clive Hooker.
2. Declarations of Interest: JR reported a declaration of interest in item 12 b
3. Minutes of Bimonthly meeting held 8th January 2020 – were read and signed as correct.
4. Matters Arising: -
 - a. Sovereign had not responded to contact. AB to write again & request a meeting.
 - b. No progress on Village Champion Award. JR to moot the subject at the Annual Parish Meeting to judge if there was sufficient interest in the village.
5. Finance and Compliance (including community grants): -
 - a. Paid since last meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT	CQ number or on-line banking approvers
Valley Fencing	Millenium Field Fence	£1,392	DR CT
East Garston PCC	Churchyard Maintenance	£200	DR CT
East Garston Village Hall	Community Broadband	£200	DR CT

b. To be paid by next meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT
WB Council	Dog Waste Removal	£170
Mid Thames Quakers	Room Hire	£72
Penny Post	Newsletter	£350
Wilkens Kennedy	Payroll	£300
Aasvogel	Skip Hire	£471
Unity Trust	Service charge	£18
Scofell Landscapes	Mowing	£240

c. Received since last meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT
HMRC	VAT refund	£1348
R Wilkins	Dog Training	£180
P Kindersley	Fencing Contribution	580

d. To be received by next meeting : N/A

e. The January & February Current and Deposit Account statements were reconciled to the cash book and agreed and signed by the Chairman.

6. Flood / Emergency Management Status: The recent flooding had caused sewage issues at a number of houses on Front Street. The response from Thames Water had been poor. Clerk to write a letter of complaint. CT reported that a new flood warden had been appointed. DR updated Councillors on further work on the emergency plan which should be completed in time for the Annual Parish Meeting
7. Speeding/Parking and Road Safety: - DR had looked into purchasing TOPAS registered equipment as recommended by WB Council however this would increase the cost significantly. Councillors agreed to go ahead with original proposal. Clerk to obtain more information regarding the signage proposed on the village sideroads.
8. Settlement/Boundary Review – WB Council is reviewing its local plan to cover the period up to 2036. Parish Councils are invited to comment on the following
 - a) local facilities & services in the area. A questionnaire was provided
 - b) settlement boundaries
 - c) sites promoted in the HELAA (sites submitted for potential development)
9. Planning Status a) Nothing to report
10. Volunteer programme :- CT reported that he, JR & George Rabbitts had cleared the river outside the Wright's cottage
11. Correspondence :- Nothing to report
12. Any other business:-

a) Annual Parish Meeting – Date had been changed to avoid Easter week to Wednesday 29th April 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall. Clerk reported that she had received a good response from voluntary groups to the invite to run a table at the Annual Parish Meeting & it was agreed to go ahead on that basis.

- b) Rights of Way - JR left the meeting and took no part in this discussion. The parish council had been notified by WB Council that the owners of Maidencourt farm had submitted a plan to try & prevent any further public rights of way being recorded across their land. Having reviewed the documentation Councillors had no objections.
- c) Computers - Alan Breadmore, parishioner joined the meeting. There were two requirements for updating the parish council website. One was in connection with the domain name, the other to ensure it was accessibility compliant. Costs for this work were a one off £100 plus £20 pa. Councillors approved the expenditure.
- d) Coronavirus – It was agreed no action was required at present, just be aware of government guidelines, but bearing in mind the number of elderly people in the village

Meeting ended – 8.30 p.m. Next meeting – Wednesday 29th April 2020 at 7.30pm