

A Bimonthly meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held as a virtual meeting on Thursday 8th January 2021 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Present: - Sue Tulloch (ST) -Chair, Councillors: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Annabelle (AE), Deana Carpenter (DC), District Councillor Clive Hooker (CH)
Clerk: Sonia Coyle (SC).
Apologies: Chris Tonge
2. Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest
3. Minutes of Bimonthly meeting held on 4th November 2020 – were read and signed as correct. Approved DC seconded AE.
4. Finance and Compliance : -
Clerk had emailed to Councillors all detailed papers ahead of the meeting.
 - a. Payments since last meeting

Payments & receipts Name	Goods or Service	Amount inc VAT	Approved
Scofell	Mowing	£252	DC CT
EG Village Hall	Community Grants	£499	CT AE
Clerk	Wreath	£20	AE ST
Aasvogel	2 skips	£998.40	ST AE
The Good Exchange	Platform Fee	£31.50	Direct Debit
Clerk	Printer stand/diary/tng	£109.55	ST DC
Lexis Nexis	Arnold Baker LCA Book	£119.99	ST DC
Unity Bank	Service Charge	£18	Direct Debit
T&M Cooper	Hedge Cutting	£120	ST DC
Trevor Cripps	Tree Pollarding	£1440	ST DC
CPRE	Membership	£30	ST DC
Azets	Payroll	£160.04	ST DC
EG Village Hall	Community Broadband	£200	ST DC
Scofell	October Mowing	£252	ST DC
Caloo	Outdoor Gym Maintenance	£474	ST DC

- b. To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
PJS	Salt Bin Repair	£180
PCC	Churchyard Maintenance	£200
Payroll	Oct-Dec	£445.50

- c. Received since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
R Wilkens	Dog Training	£30
Good Ex/Greenham Trust	Grants/donations new swing	£627

- d. To be received by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
Lady Whent	Money towards pollarding	£450
C James	Money towards pollarding	£200

Clerk advised that receipts included a further grant payment towards the new swing bringing the total received to £1127. Also, Rhona Wilkins has made a final payment for dog training and has confirmed that she will no longer be running the classes. Clerk reported that finances were healthy with funds of £23,004.

- e. Clerk to draft policy for GDPR breach in accordance with new standing orders. Still outstanding.
- f. Clerk requested change of Payroll company and to pay the Clerk monthly instead of quarterly. Azets would charge £540 per year and Autela would charge £160.80 per year. It was agreed to move payroll to Autela on a monthly basis.

5. Budget & Precept.

Budget for 21/22: Under delegation previously granted Clerk confirmed with Councillors that no undisclosed changes had been made to their pecuniary interests and accordingly granted dispensations for the ensuing budget discussions. The Clerk presented a budget statement based upon actual and anticipated expenditure for 2020/21 and projections for anticipated expenditure for 2021/22 based upon previous patterns & known changes. ST confirmed this showed that the PC had broadly operated to plan. Councillors agreed to earmark the cost for speedwatch equipment, confirmed at £3,405 ex VAT, which it was proposed to fund out of general reserves. The budget was accepted in its draft form and the outstanding items for the current FY approved. After discussion Councillors agreed that the precept should remain unchanged at £9,000 for 2021/22. Proposed DC. Seconded AE.

6. Emergency co-ordination & coronavirus response.

ST reported that the Covid vaccination programme will take place at Newbury Racecourse (as stated on Facebook) but there is concern as to how parishioners will get there.

7. Planning Status

Clerk reported 2 applications had been received;

- 20/02953/HOUSE – Foxdene No objections
- 20/03080/HOUSE – Merrybrook No objections

CH explained that CIL money was available for Parish Councils (deadline of 5pm 8th Jan 2021) for projects starting at £10k. The PC confirmed there are no plans at the moment for any upcoming projects.

8. Jubilee Meadow

DC confirmed that the gym has been fenced off again due to lockdown restrictions.

9. Village Maintenance & Millennium Field

JR informed the council that the trees have been cleared and the field will need to be rolled again in the spring. DC asked JR if the kissing gate has been fixed. This was being dealt with by CT so needs to be checked.

10. Volunteers

ST asked CH if the general public can drive residents to Newbury Racecourse for the vaccinations. As rules stand at the moment no. Awaiting confirmation from WBC.

11. Speedwatch

Figures below received from Cheryl Evans, Senior Road Safety Officer at West Berks Council;

Treatment	Av. mph	Max mph	85 th mph	% Above ACPO	IN mph	OUT mph	Reduction mph	Reduction %
1	35	68	44	54.1	35	33	-2	-6
2	34	68	42	45.4	34	32	-2	-6
3 (Ghost)	36	62	44	54.2	36	34	-2	-6
3	35	82	44	50.6	35	33	-2	-6

Until the final report has been received council agreed to withhold from making a final decision as to whether to buy own equipment or stand outside with SID equipment. CH reported that the Gen5-pro has proved to be good as an educational item as it warns people what speed they are doing.

12. Sewage/River flooding

AE reported that Thames Water have been doing some work in the village. CH is working with Mr Sanderson from Thames Water on the flood forum. Numerous leakages in the sewage were confirmed at the Lambourn Valley flood forum and these will have to be sleeved.

13. Parish Plan review/Village Design Statement

ST confirmed that this would be an extension of the neighbourhood plan done 10 years ago and questioned how useful a document/exercise is this and who would steer it? There is no financial support from WBC. AE asked what are the advantages and CH stated the Planning Officer would look at the document, however, it was confirmed that the village has a settlement boundary so there are very few areas where developers can go. ST asked Councillors to review the example VDS sent out, along with the document from WBC and also to consider who could lead the project.

14. Swing/ground surface

ST confirmed that the PC had committed to replace the swing but at the EGA meeting it was suggested that the ground surface underneath needed some work as very muddy and uneven. A new quote has been received but in order for this to happen the area would have to be levelled. JR suggested that the swing be put in now and then do the surface after but concluded it would be better to commence works in the Spring. DC to talk to Ross to obtain quote for levelling the ground prior to the swing company doing their work. It was agreed to pay out of open development fund and ST to approach East Garston amenities to pay the other half.

15. Vacancy

ST reported there had been no applicants.

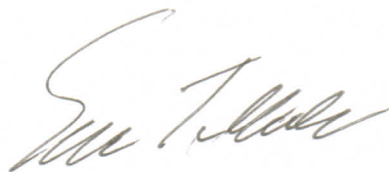
16. Parish Clerk Report; - Clerk reported as follows

- The overgrown trees on Front Street are not over the highway so need to be reported to SSE and not WBC. Clerk has called a few times but due to current restrictions is in a call queue.
- An email had been received regarding dog signs popping up in the village – Clerk to investigate legality. CH suggested contacting WBC.
- Clerk has recently attended several training courses. Due to working for 3 Parish Councils SC has ensured that the costs have been split.
- Clerk requested the PC purchase Local Council Risk System to help in the producing of Risk Assessments. Councillors agreed on the basis the cost is split with Welford PC if agreed at their meeting next week.
- An email had been received offering various services relating to grounds maintenance. Clerk had requested a quote for emptying the dog bins as these have been full on more than one occasion recently. WBC charge £127.85 per year (plus admin fee) for all 5 bins. Quote obtained was £5.27 per bin per week which resulted in a total of £1370.20 per year.
- Following confirmation that the PC had agreed to pay the Churchyard Maintenance of £200 the clerk had received a request that on this occasion it goes to the Emergency Roof repair fund if possible, instead. Councillors agreed.

17. Items for next agenda

No items.

Meeting ended – 9.03p.m. Next meeting – Thursday 4th March 2021 at 7.00pm



Signed:

12/3/21

Date: