

A Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Friends Meeting House, Children's Room on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7 p.m.

### MINUTES

1. Present: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) - Chairman, Chris Tonge (CT), Jane Haddock (JH), Deana Carpenter (DC) and Alan Breadmore, Clerk. – Apologies: Sue Tulloch (ST) – Guests: - PCSO's James Parfitt and Zoe Gibson
2. Minutes of Bi-Monthly Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were read and signed as correct.
3. Matters Arising:-
  - a. c/f. WBC has advised that contract has been placed for the repainting of foot and road bridges.
  - b. c/f. JH presented proposal for tree replacement in College Way. JH To action.
  - c. c/f. Tree root trip hazard in Downlands referred to Sovereign, they have not responded.
  - d. Community Speedwatch. Police have still to run speed campaign but are supportive of installation of speed indicator devices. Councillors agreed this is a priority for 2016, Clerk to follow up on offer from Smart Meter contractors of "free" indicator and to pursue a more detailed costing for a second one. Action Clerk
  - e. Village Hall Broadband to be arranged by DH.
  - f. New dog waste bin installed and added to contract.
4. Minutes of Planning Meetings held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were read and signed as correct.
5. Matters Arising: - None
6. Finance and Compliance:-
  - a. Paid since last meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT	
CPRE	Subscription	£36	CQ804
Alan Breadmore	Clerk's Expenses	£60	CQ805
Scofell Landscapes	Mowing	£231	CQ803
Griffins	Payroll	£310	DD
Quakers	Meeting Room Hire	£72	CQ807
East Garston PCC	Churchyard Maintenance	£200	CQ806

- a. To be paid by next meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT
Glasdon	Dog Waste Bin	£124
WBC	Dog Waste Collection	£180
WBC	Wantage Bus Subsidy	£237
Alan Breadmore	Clerk's Expenses	£25
T & M Cooper	Hedge Cutting	£170
Village Hall Trustees	Village Hall SFB	£200
??	College Way Tree	£240

- c. Received since last meeting: - None
- d. To be received by next meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount
HMRC	VAT Rebate	£936

- e. The November Current Account bank statement was reconciled to the cash book and signed by the chairman.
- f. Budget for 2016/17: - 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. Clerk presented a budget statement based upon actual and anticipated expenditure for 2015/16 and projections for anticipated expenditure for 2016/17 based upon previous patterns and known changes. This showed an excess of income over expected expenditure of approximately £1500, mainly attributable to delays in implementing planned village maintenance. Councillors determined to rapidly implement some of these planned projects before the end of the FY and/or rebudget them for 2016/17. Immediate actions as follows: -
  - i. Quote for refurbishment of bus shelter – Clerk reported that tenders were due by 15<sup>th</sup> January
  - ii. Quote for refurbishment/replacement of Millennium Field steps – Clerk reported that tenders were due by 15<sup>th</sup> January
  - iii. Expedite previously minuted and agreed expenditure – Action All Councillors
  - iv. Investigate purchase of Speed Indication Equipment. – Action Clerk

After some discussion Councillors agreed that the precept should remain unchanged at £9,000 for 2016/17. Proposed CT, Seconded DC.

The key budget decisions were

- v. The community grant process using S137 powers would be repeated. £1500
- vi. Continue contribution to Wantage Bus Service £250 (S137)
- vii. Increase Village Maintenance budget with a view to implementing previously agreed priorities.

- viii. Maintain the Defibrillator Sinking Fund.
  - ix. Continue to earmark £2500 of S106 funding for children's playground equipment project, subject to a formal proposal and matched funding.
  - x. Monitor implications of withdrawal of WBC services e.g. road salt provision and bus services and be prepared to adjust priorities accordingly.
  - xi. Focus on road safety through appropriate use of signage and speed indicator devices.
7. Co-option of Councillor – Councillors considered the co-option of parishioner Liam Robson to the Parish Council Agreed. Proposed JR, seconded CT. Clerk to arrange all appropriate documentation and advise WBC.
8. Digital Village Status
- a. Superfast Broadband (SFB) : - Clerk reported no news re phase 2.
  - b. Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal implementation complete and operational.
  - c. Mobile Infrastructure Plan (MIP). No news on Government MIP installation.
  - d. Parish Council website. No issues, full migration from eg.com complete but adjustments to eg.com required. Clerk working with James Pryer.
9. Flood Management Status: - Groundwater levels are still low but are being monitored. Clerk reported that the Environment Agency had responded regarding the build up of silt below Baggers Bridge. Briefly it is a PC/WBC responsibility but would require consent from the EA Biodiversity team. Councillors to consider next actions. East Garston is hosting the next Lambourn Valley Flood Forum in February.
10. Planning Status:-
- a. Planning Applications
    - i. Old Mail House – Approved
    - ii. Hilltop House - Approved
11. Correspondence:-
- a. Complaint received from parishioner regarding the use of permitted paths by horses at the eastern end of the village. This has been investigated with PROW officer and he advises that the restriction of useage of permitted paths is solely down to the landowner. Further, the path identified in the complaint is in fact not a designated permissive path but a private path that was originally installed by the landowner for use by horses. Clerk to advise Parishioner.
  - b. BALC advised of subscription increase due to appointment of full time office. The implication for East Garston is trivial (£17). No issue for Councillors
  - c. Letter of thanks received from Wantage Bus Service Committee for financial support.
  - d. Letter of thanks received from Vicar re financial support for Churchyard Maintenance
  - e. Letter recorded of previous communication regarding the installation of Utility Smart Meter transmitter on Newbury Road near entrance to Millennium Field. The contractors have offered to install a Speed Indicator Device on the pole free of charge. Councillors welcomed this initiative.
12. Any Other Business:-
- a. Police representatives reported that there was little reported crime within the village recently. There had been some instances of non residential theft and they were monitoring rural crime on the downs. They participated in a further discussion regarding traffic speed concerns and were supportive of Councillor's initiatives.
  - b. DC reported complaints regarding irresponsible dog owners not removing dog waste in the Downlands area. Clerk to remind owners again in East Garston News.

Meeting ended – 8.10 p.m. Next meeting – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at 7.00pm