

A Bimonthly meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held as a virtual meeting on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Present: - David Ruse (DR) -Chair, Councillors: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Chris Tonge (CT), Sue Tulloch (ST), Deana Carpenter (DC), Clerk: Alison Blackmore (Clerk). Apologies: - Annabelle Eyre, Clive Hooker
2. Declarations of Interest: ST & DC declared an interest in item 5 b community grants
3. Minutes of Bimonthly meeting held on 1st July 2020 – were read and signed as correct. Approved ST seconded CT
4. Matters Arising: -
 - a. Clerk reported that the new signage posts on the bend at Maidencourt were now in situ
5. 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
Unity Bank	Service charge	£18.00	DC CT
Scofell	Mowing	£252.00	DC DR
CCB	Subscription	£35.00	DC DR
BALC	Subscription	£127.60	DC DR
Scofell	Mowing	£252.00	DC DR
Clerk	Laminator & pouches	£47.98	DC DR
PJS	Strimmer line	£15.05	DC DR
Tikspac	Dog pouches	£156.00	DC DR

b. To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
Scofell	Mowing	£504.00
Wilkens Kennedy	Payroll	£300.16
Caloo	Outdoor Gym Maintenance	£474.00
Aasvogel	2 skips	£998.40
PJS	Salt bin repair	£180.00
Various	Community Grants	£899.00
E Mango	Annual service charge	£460.80
ICO	Domain registration	£35.00
West Berkshire Council	Library Contribution	£528.00
E Mango	E-mail addresses	£60.00

c. Received since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
Unity Bank	Interest	£16.34

d. To be received by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
West Berks Council	Precept	£4,500

Clerk advised that accounts were healthy with funds of £22,870. There were no significant variances from budget to report

- e. Community grants – Clerk reported there had been 3 applications for community grants. Papers had been issued to Councillors prior to the meeting. Two applications were approved:- £499 for a cooker for EG Village Hall & £350 for a gazebo for EG over 60's. Approved CT & JR. Regarding the application for £50 towards a footpath in Stockcross Councillors did not consider it appropriate to fund a project outside the Parish.
- f. Website accessibility - Councillors had received the proposed statement for the website prepared by parishioner Alan Breadmore. Approved DC & CT. Parishioners to be asked to comment so we can ensure all village needs are met.

- g. Domain name. -some further issues had arisen in making Alan Breadmore the contact for domain matters. To resolve entailed registering some additional email addresses at a cost of £50. Approved DC & ST. Alan Breadmore was thanked for all his work on the website & domain matters.
 - h. AGAR – Clerk reported that the annual AGAR statement had been finalised and all necessary documentation published
 - i. Standing orders & financial regulations – Clerk had reviewed both documents. A new draft standing orders had been prepared in accordance with NALC guidelines. Clerk proposed going through the changes with a Councillor & providing a final draft for approval at the next Council meeting. Clerk had reviewed the latest financial regulations, which had been issued to councillors. No changes to this document were proposed. Approved ST & CT
6. Emergency co-ordination & coronavirus response:- CT reported that the medicine collection service continued with this the surgery's preferred approach. There was no progress on the emergency plan which would require updating for Covid -19 in due course
7. Planning Status:-
- a. Clerk reported that a planning application had been received for Frog Hollow. There were no objections.
 - b. DR reported on the new planning white paper which could have significant implications for future development & would need to be monitored.
8. Jubilee Meadow:-
- a. DC reported that she had an excellent response for volunteers to prepare the playground for reopening. All had gone well & she was carrying out a monthly cleaning & check.
 - b. Clerk to follow up inspection of the outdoor play equipment
 - c. Clerk reported that a grant application was live on The Good Exchange to raise funds for the replacement swing. This to be advertised on social media & websites etc.
9. Village Maintenance & Millennium Field :- JR had nothing to report. DC advised that there was a broken post on the gate into the Millennium Field. CT to obtain a quote & get replaced if under £50.
10. Volunteers:- ST had nothing to report
11. Speedwatch:- DR updated the meeting on the SID & black cat situation. There were issues with the validity of the data..
12. Sewage/River flooding:- No report had been received. Councillors were keen to keep the pressure on Thames Water to resolve. Clerk to ask AE for an update.
13. Parish Plan review: – DR had circulated a summary of the 2010 Parish Plan with a progress update. It was agreed to contact West Berks Council with regard to funding for consultants to assist with the village design statement. An audit of activities for young people was proposed.
14. Parish Clerk Report :- Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Royal Mail confirming that there were no plans to reinstate the Post Office at the present time. Clerk advised Councillors of the NALC Health & Wellbeing Week being held between 26th & 30th October.
15. Any other business:-
- a. JR reported that the trees on front street were overgrown and of concern. DR to contact West Berks Council for advice.
 - b. Next meeting to be via Zoom if the present situation continues. Clerk to investigate the availability of the Village Hall as an option.

Meeting ended – 8.45 p.m. Next meeting – Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7.00pm