

**The Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm**

**MINUTES**

**1. Present:** Councillors – Deana Carpenter (Chairman), Sue Tulloch (Vice-Chairman/ST), Liam Robson (LR), Annabelle Eyre (AE), Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), and Stephen Reschwamm (SR)  
Liz James (Clerk)

**2. Declarations of Interest:**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting:**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were unanimously confirmed and adopted.

**4. Welcome to the new clerk:**  
Liz James was welcomed as the new clerk.

**5. Questions/comments from members of the public:**  
**Pat Glover (PG)** of the East Garston Eco Group reported on the agenda for the upcoming WBC Town and Parish Climate Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> January. WBC are collaborating with the Trust for Sustainable Living who run the Living Rainforest in Hampstead Norreys, and the Climate Ambassador Scheme based at Reading University, to help support West Berkshire Education settings with their climate action. WBC ask: "Please use any links you have with local schools to encourage them to send a representative to a session at the Living Rain Forest on 10<sup>th</sup> February." PG also thanked the Parish Council for their support over the last year. PG has been using the Friends of the Earth document: ['20 Actions Parish and Town Councils can take on the climate and nature emergency'](#) as a guide.

**PG reminded the council of the visit of West Berkshire Countryside Society's visit to coppice and cut trees in the wooded area at the side of the Millenium Field on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The council confirmed that they had agreed to a £100 donation to cover costs. JR will meet with PG beforehand to confirm the bonfire site. PG queried the potential use of pesticides along the strip of grass replanted by Thames Water and asked about the proposed replanting of the saplings that had been removed from the Community hedge which ideally needs to happen in the next month or so. Action: ST to check that Thames Water can replant the saplings and to request that no pesticides be used by Thames Water on the Millenium Field.**

**ST reported that she has had limited success in sourcing a parcel locker for the village but has continued making enquiries. More progress has been made towards sourcing E.V. chargers for The Queens pub and a survey is coming up.**

**Matthew Clayton (MC) has recently been appointed as Speed Management Technician with WBC and updated PC members on the Community Speed Watch programme and ways in which it could be utilized by the PC. Action: MC and ST to liaise regarding ways forward.**

**6. Planning Information since last meeting:**

<b>NEW:</b>	
None	
<b>PENDING:</b>	
24/00032/FUL	The Sheiling, School Lane, East Garston RG17 7HR APPEAL lodged against January 2024 decision when planning REFUSED.
24/01651/FUL	2 Burfords, East Garston RG17 7HL

**Signed:** 

**Date:** 13/1/25

	Replacement dwelling. PC meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2024 had several <b>Objections</b> which were lodged with WBC.
<b>DECISIONS:</b>	
24/01833/HOUSE 24/01834/LBC	<b>Old Warren Farm, South Fawley, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9NN</b> Extensions and alterations to Old Warren Farm. Demolition of existing extensions, demolition and reinstatement of existing ancillary building, refurbishment to existing ancillary building, construction of a new ancillary building and creation of new parking area and access and associated works. PC site meeting on 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2024. <b>No Objections.</b> <b>PERMISSION GRANTED with conditions.</b>

It was noted that a decision was made on 24/01833/HOUSE & 24/01834/LBC after the agenda for the meeting was published but prior to the meeting itself.

## 7. Receive Reports:

District Councillor Clive Hooker's November 2024 report was circulated prior to the meeting and **can be accessed via** <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/downlandparishcouncilreport>

Vice-Chairman's report:

- ST outlined the proposed changes to the layout of the PC website. These were unanimously approved. **Action: ST to give Henry Wilson the go-ahead to action the proposed changes.**
- The PCs planning application procedure was discussed.

**Clerk's report: The Clerk had nothing to report.**

## 8. Finance and Compliance:

### 1. Payments since last meeting:

Name	Goods or Service	Amount incl VAT	Approved
Tactical	Dog waste – Oct	102.00	ST/DC
Scofell	Grounds maintenance - Oct	305.53	ST/DC
G. Woodward	Salary – Nov		ST/DC
CPRE	Annual subscription	30.00	ST/DC
West Berks Council	RoSPA Inspection	71.94	ST/DC
Autela Payroll Services	Payroll 4 months Aug - Nov	75.05	ST/DC
Polybound Ltd	Rubber chippings	722.40	ST/DC
CCB	Annual membership	42.00	ST/DC
Community Heartbeat	Defib machine	954.00	ST/DC
Tactical	Dog waste - Nov	81.60	ST/DC
SLCC	Annual sub	80.00	ST/DC
G. Woodward	Salary - Dec		ST/DC
Tactical	Dog waste - Dec	102.00	ST/DC
Unity Bank	Service charge	6.00	
	<b>Total incl Clerk's salary</b>	<b>£2,905.24</b>	

### 2. To be paid by next meeting:

Name	G Goods or Service	A Amount Inc VAT
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>

### 3. Received since last meeting:

Name	Goods or Services	Amount
Unity Bank	CIL money xfer from Deposit A/C	722.40
Unity Bank	Defib Fund money transfer	1,030.74
Unity Bank	Interest on Dep a/c	111.85
		<b>£1864.99</b>

Current Account £5,966.47

Signed:



Date: 13/13/25

Deposit Account        £16,251.18  
TOTAL                    £22,217.65

4. Draft Budget for 2025/26: The draft 2025/26 budget had been circulated prior to the meeting for discussion. It was agreed to transfer £200 to the Defib Fund. The Clerk queried whether the Play Area Inspection and Gym Area Inspection were separate inspections or carried out jointly.  
**Action: Clerk to look through previous invoices to ascertain whether inspections were separate or joint.**  
Looking at the projected expenditure it was unanimously agreed that the Precept amount should remain at £10,500 for 2025/26. **Action: Clerk to complete Precept Request form and submit by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.**
9. Jubilee Meadow:  
ST reported that the current cold weather had prevented the spreading of new rubber chippings around the play equipment. This will be completed w/c 13<sup>th</sup> January (weather permitting).
10. Village Maintenance & Millenium Field:  
JR raised the issue of the overgrown paddock hedge along the road between The Queens pub and the gate opposite the entrance to Maberley's, the paddock is owned by Charlie James. JR reported that this has become a hindrance to vehicles. **Action: Clerk to ask Charlie James if it is OK for JR to arrange for the hedge to be cut.**
11. Community Speedwatch: See point 5.
12. Any Other Business: ST mentioned that the Annual Parish Newsletter was imminent, and that Brian Quinn was available to organise printing as before. ST also raised the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting and asked for suggestions for a speaker.

The meeting was concluded at 8.05pm

**Date of next meeting        13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm**

**2025 meeting dates:**

10<sup>th</sup> April 2025        Annual Parish Meeting  
8<sup>th</sup> May 2025         Annual General Meeting  
10<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
11<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Signed:



Date: 13/3/25