

A Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 1st July 2015 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

Note: The Chairman determined the meeting should be moved to the Village Hall at the start time due to the number of attendees.

1. Present: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) - Chairman, Chris Tonge (CT), Sue Tulloch (ST), Jane Haddock (JH), Deana Carpenter (DC) and Alan Breadmore – Clerk. Apologies: - Liam Robson (parishioner). Guests: - (part time) Huw Evans and Mike Carr of SPM Homes. 9 Parishioners.
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 13th May 2015 were read and signed as correct.
3. Matters Arising:-
 - a. c/f The siting of the Rogers Lane salt bin to be reconsidered. Action, JR and CT.
 - b. Community Speedwatch. Meeting held with WBC Highways Traffic Calming Officer, advice sought re calming on Newbury Road and making war memorial junction safer. Traffic speed survey to be performed on Newbury Road, white lines to be renovated at War Memorial. Further consultation to take place.
 - c. JH and Clerk reported that new website proposals to be discussed later in the meeting.
 - d. JR to invite potential co-opted Councillor to next meeting.
 - e. Public concern over indiscriminate parking adjacent to the War Memorial junction. Letter has been distributed to residents in the area.
 - f. Request for an update regarding the research project by Leicester University. CT has contacted but no response.
 - g. Litter. Councillors agreed the purchase of 6 new litter pickers. Action, Clerk. Proposed CT, seconded DC
 - h. Clerk reported that repainting of foot and road bridges is scheduled by WBC in "late summer".
 - i. JH awaiting guidance from residents of tree replacement in College Way.
 - j. Tree root trip hazard in Downlands referred to Sovereign after WBC claim not on their land.
4. Minutes of Planning Meeting held 13th May 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	
WBC	Wantage Bus contribution	£236	CQ777
Newbury College	Newsletter Printing	£80	CQ778
Scofell Landscapes	2 x Mowing	£462	CQ774 &781
Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£245	CQ776
CCB	Subscription	£30	CQ775
PJS	Mower Service	£87	CQ773
Auditing Solutions Ltd	Internal Audit	£252	CQ779
WBC	Election Costs	£100	CQ780

- b. To be paid by next meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount
Douglas Tonks	Salary and payroll bureau	£300
Valley Fencing	Millennium Field Fencing	£701
Scofell Landscapes	2 x Mowing	£462
Mazars	External Audit	£100
As decision	Community Grants	£1500
emango	Website	£800
litterpickersdirect	Litter Pickers	£80
PJS	Strimmer Maintenance	£50

- c. Received since last meeting: - None
- d. To be received by next meeting: - None
- e. The Clerk reported that the invoice had still not been received for Millennium Field fencing. JR to chase. He also reported that Douglas Tonks had not processed June payroll and that they were not responding to emails or phone calls. Clerk to pursue.
- f. The April and May Current Account bank statements were reconciled to the cash book and signed by the chairman.
- g. Clerk presented the Internal Audit report and was pleased to report there were only two minor adverse findings. Clerk reminded Councillors that when purchasing items on behalf of the Council that they should ensure that invoices were made out to the PC. Clerk also confirmed that grant awards would in future be made by letter rather than email. The Clerk noted that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are due for review by councillors this year. The Clerk confirmed he would implement the recommended action plan. Councillors accepted the report and thanked the Clerk; proposed CT seconded DC.

7. Proposed application for development of land to the south of Rogers Lane: - (DC and JR declared a non financial interest in this matter as owners/residents of adjoining properties. There were no objections to their participation in the discussion) Chairman invited the representatives of "SPM Homes" to present their proposals for the development. They presented their development credentials and then explained that they had no specific plans but were seeking input from the community as to how they would like to see the field developed. They stressed that the design would be sympathetic to the local environment and needs. After considerable questioning and public scrutiny it transpired that the development company were offering no information that would aid consultation and the Chairman called a halt to the discussions. Councillors declared that they were generally not in support of such a development but would offer a considered opinion if and when a detailed planning application was submitted. The majority of Parishioners in attendance appeared against any such development.
8. Applications for Grants for the Community: - Clerk reported that four applications had been received for community grants; he confirmed that all applications met the criteria set by the Parish Council. Councillors discussed the applications and the following three were awarded, subject to spend this financial year, using powers under S137 of the Local Government Act; proposed DC, seconded ST.
 1. EG Friends – Exhibition and Community Project. £300
 2. All Saints Church – Refurbishment of Gravel Drive. £500
 3. EG Football Club – Mower and Strimmer. £500
9. Digital Village Status
 - a. Clerk reported that the BT Superfast Broadband (SFB) implementation was progressing according to schedule and that completion by September, as planned, seemed realistic. The two fibre telecoms cabinets in the Parish had been installed but were not yet operational.
 - b. Clerk reported that two contracts had been signed with residents and a further one was in progress that would enable Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal implementation in the centre of the village to go live soon after the SFB implementation was complete.
 - c. Clerk reported that a preliminary plan under the government's Mobile Infrastructure Plan (MIP) was under way that would hopefully result in a mobile phone mast (for all providers) being installed on Coldborough Hill, Eastbury. This should provide good mobile coverage through most parts of the Parish. This is subject to planning consent yet to be received.
 - d. Parish Council website. Clerk and JH reported that an alternative solution for a PC website had been identified. The company, emango, is well established and has implemented similar solutions for other Town and Parish councils and has worked with NALC and Hampshire ALC. Further research is required and consultation with James Pryer (owner of east-garston.com) is planned. This would enable quick implementation of the PC's statutory needs and also allow links to the historical archive of eg.com. Costs would be approx £800 in year one and £500 per annum thereafter for full set up, hosting and support. Councillors empowered the Clerk and JH to proceed and agreed to finance from the Digital Village fund under their S142 LGA powers. Proposed JH. Seconded CT.
10. Flood Management Status: - CT reported that there had been a Lambourn Valley Flood Forum meeting that he was unable to attend, He is awaiting a report back from Mark Brock, Flood Warden.
11. Planning :-
 - a. Planning Status – Jimmies Farm Stables – approved.
 - b. Planning Applications
 - i. Manor Cottage - 15/01575/HOUSE – No Objections
 - ii. The Chaplains House - 15/01585/HOUSE - No Objections
 - c. Certificates of Lawfulness
 - i. Manor Farm Bungalow - 15/01416/CERTE – No factual observations
 - ii. Manor Farm Cottage - 15/01417/CERTE – No factual observations
12. Correspondence:-
 - a. Penny Locke had written explaining that she and a group of children were taking up the proposed plans for play facilities on Millennium Field for "older children". Councillors considered the initial ideas and were concerned about the practicality of the proposals and the potential noise nuisance. They suggested that Penny be invited to the next meeting to discuss face to face. Clerk to invite.
 - b. Clerk reported that he had received assurance from WBC Highway Drainage Officer that action would take place to alleviate road flooding on Front Street near PJS.
 - c. Invitation to WBC Planning Road show. Councillors declined.
13. Any Other Business:- None

Meeting ended – 9.25 p.m. Next meeting – Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at 7pm
Confirmed change of date for following meeting to 11th November 2015