

**The Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on
Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.00 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Councillors: - Deana Carpenter (Vice-Chairman) (DC), Sue Tulloch ST), Liam Robson (LR), Annabelle Eyre (AE), Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) and Stephen Reschwamm (SR)
Gillian Woodward (Clerk).
Also present: Councillor Clive Hooker
2. **Declaration of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2024 were unanimously confirmed and adopted.
4. **Welcome to new councillor Stephen Reschwamm.**
SR signed the relevant new councillor forms in the presence of the Clerk.
5. **Resignation of Clerk.**
GW confirmed that if a new clerk hadn't been appointed before her contract ends (30th Nov) she would be able to continue for a while longer. DC reported that although several people have expressed interest in the role there have been no official applications.
6. **Questions/comments from members of the public:** None.

Pat Glover (PG) of the East Garston Eco Group had little to report of direct relevance to East Garston from the West Berkshire Town and Parish Climate Forum on 6th November, apart from their ongoing Village Hall grant. Ed James is in the process of obtaining quotes and applying for grants for cleaner, more efficient energy for the village hall, along with other work needed.

Terry Davis from West Berkshire Countryside Society came to look at the wooded area at the side of the Millennium Field on 13th September with myself and Chris Powell. PG had previously emailed notes from the visit to the PC members. WBCS have now kindly offered to do a one-off visit to coppice and cut back the trees, on Tuesday 8th April 2025. They asked for a donation of £100 to cover their admin costs and their average attendance is 15 volunteers. The PC agreed they could have a bonfire on the field to dispose of the brash generated. PG will check with Chris (12 College Way), and JR will check with David Bell (11 College Way), that they are okay to wait until April to have this work done. PG will then confirm with the PC, and get back to WBCS, so they can finalise their calendar of events for next year.

ST reported that The Queens pub is looking into getting electric vehicle charges, which will be accessed via an app. She confirmed she has contacted a company about getting a parcel locker in the village and is waiting to hear back from them.

7. Planning Matters since last meeting:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| NEW: | |
| 24/00032/FUL | The Sheiling, School Lane, East Garston RG17 7HR APPEAL lodged against January 2024 decision when planning REFUSED. |
| PENDING: | |
| 24/01833/HOUSE 24/01834/LBC | Old Warren Farm, South Fawley, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9NN 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 th October 2024. No Objections. |

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 24/01651/FUL | 2 Burfords, East Garston RG17 7HL Replacement dwelling. PC meeting on 12 th Sept 2024 had several Objections which were lodged with WBC. |
| DECISIONS: | |
| 24/01376/HOUSE | 6 Burfords, East Garston RG17 7HL Demolish existing garage/store and replace with annex. There were no objections from the PC or residents.. Permission GRANTED |
| Appeal Ref APP/WO340/W/24/3344745 | Greengates, Front Street, East Garston After a site visit on 25/09/2024 by the Planning Inspectorate, the Appeal was DISMISSED . The Costs Decision was also REFUSED . |
| 24/02015/TPC | Somerfield House, Back Street, East Garston RG17 7EX T1 – willow re-pollard back to old points, approx. 4m growth form old points. Tree is approx. 10m tall and 0.5at base of tree. T2 – box elder – reduce canopy by 1.5m. Tree is approx. 10m tall, 0.5 at base, spread is approx 6m wide. Permission GRANTED |
| 24/01156/AGRIC | Jimmies Farm Stables, School Lane, East Garston Storage Barn Extension Planning Application is Required |

8.

Receive Reports:

District Councillor Clive Hooker reported on the various 2024/2025 Budget Proposals being considered by WBC. Councillor Hooker's October report was circulated before this meeting and can be accessed via this link. <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/downlandsparishcouncilreport>

ST reported that remedial works to the war memorial had been done and the memorial was looking good.

ST gave an update on the Millennium Field. The ground has been cultivated and soil added where needed, and seeded. It had been too wet for the heavy rolling required to flatten down the cultivation marks and this has been scheduled for spring 2025. The infill planting ie the trees which were removed before work carried out should be carried out this autumn/winter.

ST reported on where funding had got to for the £10,000 new playground equipment. With grants from the Greenham Trust and the Englefield Trust agreed, contributions from the Parish Council and EGA, and one individual matched funding donation, £2,000 still needs to be raised. With more matched funding available only £1,000 needs to be raised to reach the required £2,000.

References to flooding and sewage problems in the village haven't been removed from the website and some thought needs to be given as to what is the best and most logical place for them on the website. Henry Wilson had suggested that the website needs tidying up and ST agreed to meet with him to discuss this.

Action: ST to speak to Henry Wilson about tidying up the website.

DC explained that she had spoken to the Hillside resident with the mould problem and had put her in touch with the environmental health department at WBC.

Defib -The cost of a replacement unit is £770 and as the machine is coming to the end of its life it was unanimously agreed to purchase a replacement unit. **Action: Clerk to let Alan Breadmore know that he can go ahead and order new unit.**

Clerk's report:

The Clerk reported that the RoSPA safety inspection on the playground equipment had taken place in October and the report had been circulated.

The Emergency Plan had finally been completed, sent to WBC and a copy put on the EGPC website.

The PC mobile phone no longer works and in view of only a few call having ever been received in the past year it was agreed not to buy another mobile until a new clerk has been appointed and can decide on what

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to get and to use the email for the time being.

Action: Clerk to remove mobile number from stationery and websites where it appears.

9. Finance and Compliance:

1. Payments since last meeting:

| Name | Goods or Service | Amount incl VAT | Approved |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Tactical | Dog waste - August | 81.60 | ST/DC |
| Scofell | Grounds maintenance - August | 305.53 | ST/DC |
| X-Net (prev Kimcell) | Annual service charge IT | 460.80 | ST/DC |
| Information Commissioner's Office ICO | Data Protection fee | 35.00 | DD |
| G. Woodward | Clerk salary - Sept | | ST/DC |
| Tactical | Dog waste - Sept | 81.60 | ST/DC |
| Rayfield Stonemasonry | Memorial repairs | 504.00 | ST/DC |
| Scofell | Grounds maintenance - Sept | 305.53 | ST/DC |
| G. Woodward - Oct | Salary - Sept | | ST/DC |
| | Total incl Clerk's salary | £2208.68 | |

2. To be paid by next meeting

| Name | Goods or Service | Amount Inc VAT |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Tactical | Dog waste - Nov | 102.00 |
| Scofell | Grounds maintenance - Oct | 305.53 |
| G. Woodward | Salary - Nov | |
| CPRE | Annual subscription | 30.00 |
| | Total | 654.74 |

3. Received since last meeting

| Name | Goods or Services | Amount |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| West Berks Council | Contribution to moving fallen tree invoice | 300.00 |
| Good Exchange grant | Playground equipment | 500.00 |
| Good Exchange grant | Playground equipment | 2500.00 |
| West Berks Council | Precept 2 nd payment | 5250.00 |
| HMRC | VAT refund | 617.59 |
| Good Exchange grant | Playground equipment | 500.00 |
| Good Exchange grant | Playground equipment | 1000.00 |
| Unity Bank | Interest | 116.07 |
| | | £10,783.66 |

Current Account 8,642.82
Deposit Account £16,861.73
TOTAL £17,393.36

There was some discussion about the recent employer increase in NI and it was agreed that any increase should be factored in next year's budget.

10. Jubilee Meadow:

There was some discussion about buying more chippings and ST agreed to look into this.

Action: Clerk to let ST know the cost of the purchase of previous rubber chippings. ST to order.

11. Village Maintenance and Millennium Field: - JR

JR had nothing to report.

12. Community Speedwatch:

Nothing to report. ST to speak to Matthew Clayton.

12. Any Other Business:

Fly tipping was discussed. Also some signposts out of date. LR confirmed that he would clean the sign and then the PC would look at providing new stickers. **Action:** LR to clean the sign & report back on what is needed to update it.

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Dates of future meetings:

January 9th 2025

March 13th 2025

April 10th 2025 Annual Parish meeting

May 8th 2025 Annual General meeting

July 10th 2025

September 11th 2025

November 13th 2025

The meeting finished at 8.15 pm

Date of next meeting: January 9th 2025 at 7.00 pm.

Signed:

Date: