

The Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

MINUTES

- 1. Present:** Councillors: - Deana Carpenter (Vice-Chairman) DC, Sue Tulloch ST), Liam Robson (LR) and Jonathan Rabbitts (JR)
Gillian Woodward (Clerk).

Apologies: Annabelle Eyre (AE)

- 2. Declaration of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th July 2024 were unanimously confirmed and adopted.
- 4. Co-option of new councillor:**
The relevant forms for co-option of new councillor Stephen Reschwamm have been identified and will be given to SR for signature and he can then start attending PC meetings.
- 5. Questions/comments from members of the public:**

Pat Glover (PG) of the East Garston Eco Group reported on the WBC Town and Parish Climate Forum from 11th September as follows.

1. Applications for the [HUG2 grant](#) should be in by the end of September 2024, brought forward from March 2025.
2. The village hall fund (for promoting decarbonisation, improving energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy installations and/or helping to improve digital connectivity) is now open. East Garston Village Hall has just put in a grant application with SSEN to optimise the solar panels, including more panels and a solar diverter to the hot water tank for cleaner, low-cost hot water. The Village Hall are considering applying for the village hall fund, and have a quote for installing air to air heat pumps (similar to air conditioning units) in the hall and social club.
3. There were two presentations, one by [Edge](#), on market gardening in a nature-friendly way in towns and villages, the other by Newbury Friends of the Earth on [Newbury's Nature corridor](#).

The Millennium Field

At the suggestion of the PC in July, PG has looked at the edges of the Millennium Field, but doesn't think the ecology of the field would be significantly improved by changing the management of just these areas.

The West Berkshire Countryside Society are visiting the small wooded area at the back of PJS on 13th September. This area was cut back a few years ago by Chris Tonge and Jonathan Rabbitts, but is now overshadowing neighbouring gardens.

ST will ask Thames Water if they are able to replant the saplings they lifted from the wildlife hedge.

ST was still looking into parcel lockers, which may pay rent to the land owner. There are several such lockers, run by [InPost](#), in local towns. ST said the Queens were still considering EV chargers.

6. Planning Matters since last meeting:

NEW:	
24/01651/FUL	2 Burfords, East Garston RG17 7HL Replacement dwelling
PENDING:	

D. Carpenter

14/11/24

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..
245/01156/AGRIC	Jimmies Farm Stables, School Lane, East Garston There were no objections from the PC or residents
DECISIONS:	
24/01532/COND	Weighbridge Cottage, Pounds Farm, East Garston, RG17 7HU Approval of details reserved by Conditions 3) Materials, 10) Bat emergence survey, 11) Precautionary biodiversity method statement and 13) Ecological enhancements of Approved Application 22/03047/HOUSE – single-storey extensions to north-west elevation. PERMISSION GRANTED
24/00743/FUL	Land East of Mabberleys and south of River Lambourn, Newbury Rd, East Garston Application WITHDRAWN
24/00491/FUL	Greengates, Front Street, East Garston Demolition of existing structurally compromised cottage and provision of a replacement cottage, with provision for access and related landscaping. PC met on 4 th April to discuss revised plans. It was agreed that more detailed plans showing exact measurements be requested and looked at before any decision can be made. These comments were submitted before 11 th April deadline. Meeting with WBC on June 19 th . PERMISSION GRANTED with conditions (on website)

2 Burfords

It had been brought to the attention of the PC that the official Planning Notice had not been displayed in a prominent position on the building by WBC so that many people almost missed seeing it and therefore, the deadline for comments.

The councillors looked at the plans in detail and discussed the various objections raised by parishioners and their own concerns. Essentially these were:

1. The property although on a similar footprint is increasing in size from 75 sq.m to 185 sq.m which is an increase of 146%. It is also moving closer to the neighbour's property which could pose problems with overlooking their property.
2. The overall design is too modern and not in keeping with the several listed properties that surround it eg large floor to ceiling glass frontage.
3. If planning is granted it could set a precedent for other applications in Burfords leading to over development of the cul-de-sac which is all small bungalows.
4. This in turn removes a number of small, affordable houses in the village.

Action: It was agreed that the Clerk should lodge these comments on the WBC planning portal before the deadline.

7. Receive Reports:

District Councillor Clive Hooker reported on various WBC matters including the Flooding Scrutiny meeting on 17th October which it was thought Martyn Wright might like to attend.

Action: ST to speak to Martyn Wright.

Signed:



Date:



CH asked about a Neighbourhood Plan for East Garston. Councillor AE is still researching other plans which can perhaps be adapted.

DC told the meeting that a large bill of nearly £800 had been received from the company who removed the fallen tree over the road in July and although the PC had asked for a contribution to this bill from WBC we were told that there was nothing that could be done. However CH stepped in and managed to get a contribution of £300 for which the PC is very grateful.

Action: Clerk to write a thank you letter to WBC.

Vice-Chairman report:

ST reported that the work to the War Memorial had been carried out and a good job had been done.

ST reported that work on the Millennium Field was ongoing and waiting

No further progress on any new playground equipment at this time although the mothers' fundraising Plans were ongoing and waiting for news of some funding in October.

Waste bin – it was agreed to find out the cost of a bin liner before making any decision to replace the damaged bin.

Action: Clerk to talk to Tactical for a quote.

DC told the meeting that a further window pane in the phone box was broken. Agreed to ask Peter Smith to fix this again as he did with the last one.

Action: Clerk to speak to PS.

Clerk's report:

The Clerk reported that the RoSPA safety inspection on the playground equipment was due to take place this month and an informal visual check had recently identified a couple of issues – some splintering plywood – but this would be resolved by any new equipment, and some toxic arum berries in the hedgerow. It was agreed to postpone the RoSPA inspection until October and LR agreed to look at the hedgerow before then.

Action: Clerk to talk to RoSPA about delaying inspection, and LR to look at the hedgerow, and ST to check the rubber chippings.

Emergency Plan – Clerk only needs a couple of pieces of information to finally complete the plan – she is talking to ST about this.

8. Finance and Compliance:

a) Payments and Receipts

Name	Goods or Service	Amount incl VAT	Approved
Scofell	Grounds maintenance – June	305.53	ST/DC
Tactical	Dog bins – June	81.60	ST/DC
Sue Tulloch	Exps – poo bags	41.34	ST/DC
Autela	Payroll services	75.05	ST/DC
G. Woodward	Clerk salary – July		ST/DC
Tactical	Dog bins – July	102.00	ST/DC
Scofell	Grounds maintenance – July	305.53	ST/DC
X-Net (IT)	Email account storage	60.00	ST/DC
Community Heartbeat	Defib pads	76.74	ST/DC
Cripps Fencing Services	Removal of fallen tree	780.00	ST/DC
G. Woodward	Clerk salary – August		ST/DC
	Total incl Clerk's salary	£2,262.21	

Signed:..... 

Date: 14/11/24

2. To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
Tactical	Dog waste - August	81.60
Scofell	Grounds maintenance - August	305.53
X-Net (prev Kimcell)	Annual service charge IT	460.80
Information Commissioner's Office ICO	Data Protection fee	40.00
	Total	£887.93

3. Received since last meeting

Name	Goods or Services	Amount

Current Account £647.70
 Deposit Account £16,745.66
 TOTAL £17,393.36

9. Jubilee Meadow:

Already discussed under point 7.

10. Village Maintenance and Millennium Field: - JR

DC reported that the Social Club had asked if they could use the field for Bonfire Night and fireworks again this year. All agreed.

11. Community Speedwatch:

Peter Smith needs to be contacted to ask about this as he had been dealing with it before he stepped down as councillor at the last meeting.

Action: Clerk to contact PS.

12. Any Other Business:

It was discussed how best to present the SAGLUV reports on the parish website.

Action: ST to speak to Henry re website.

The Clerk asked for the name of someone could is a trained first aider and who would be happy to be included in the Emergency Plan.

Action: ST to ask around as she may have some contacts who can help.

Dates of future meetings:

January 9th 2025

March 13th 2025

April TBC Annual Parish meeting

May 8th 2025 Annual General meeting

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm

Date of next meeting: November 14th 2024 at 7.00 pm.

Signed: 

Date: 14/11/24