

**The Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.00pm**

**MINUTES**

1. **Present:** Councillors – Stephen Reschwamm (Chair/SR), Deana Carpenter (Vice-chair/DC), Sue Tulloch (ST), Jonathan Rabbits (JR), Annabelle Eyre (AE)  
Liz James (Clerk), Pat Glover, 11 Parishioners

**Apologies:** Liam Robson (LR), Cllr Clive Hooker

2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Bi-monthly Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were unanimously confirmed and adopted.
4. **Questions/comments from members of the public:**  
11 members of the public were present at the meeting to voice their views on the proposed development of the PJS site (planning application 25/02412/FUL). Those that spoke all voiced objections to the planned development although there was universal agreement that future development of the site was necessary in some form.


**Pat Glover (PG)** of East Garston Eco Group (EGEG) reported on the West Berkshire Town and Parish Climate Forum from 22nd October, which had information on volunteer driving opportunities through the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire, and a new Teams channel to view meetings. Hungerford Hub and Library replaced their condemned gas boiler with a heat pump, and their solar panel grant, which has resulted in predicted annual bill savings of £3500, and a claim to being one of the first operational net-zero public buildings in the country. East Garston Village Hall hopes to follow a similar path, depending on grant availability. PG asked the PC about managing the wooded area at the side of the Millennium Field. West Berkshire Countryside Society will do a day's work on Friday 23rd January, and it was agreed this could be an annual visit if possible. PG suggested that strategic planting of trees to reduce surface runoff could be incorporated into the village flood plan.

**Action: Clerk to look at village flood plan.**

5. **Planning Information since the last meeting:**

<b>NEW:</b>	
25/02412/FUL	<b>P J S Agricultural Services Ltd Back Street East Garston Hungerford</b> Full planning permission for the demolition of the existing industrial buildings and replacement with four new residential dwellings, together with parking, landscaping and any other associated works and infrastructure. <b>Consultation deadline 17/11/2025</b>
<b>PENDING:</b>	
25/01854/HOUSE	<b>East Garston House Front Street East Garston Hungerford</b> External alterations to existing house; including 2 no. dormer windows, 1 no. roof light and new portico. <b>Granted with conditions</b>
<b>DECISIONS:</b>	
25/01972/HOUSE	<b>The Old Vicarage School Lane East Garston Hungerford</b> Replacement of beech hedge with stone garden wall and trained fruit trees <b>Approved</b>

Signed:



Date:

15/11/26

**25/02412/FUL** Those present agreed unanimously that the proposed development should be objected to. It was felt that some development of the site would be essential as and when PJS ceases to trade but that these plans are an overdevelopment of the site and would potentially set an unwelcome precedent for development of the adjoining site of Whye. The council's full objection will be logged on the WBC website. Those present felt that the deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> November was a little tight for compiling the full objection and felt that an extension was necessary.

**Action: Clerk to contact WBC Plan Apps to request an extension. Clerk to submit the council's full objection via the website.**

**6. Receive reports:**

**District Cllr Clive Hooker** was not able to attend the meeting but his most recent report can be found here: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/downloadsparishcouncilreport>

**Chairman's Report:** WBCS will be returning to the Millenium Field on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. It would be good to have a team of volunteers to assist with the work. It was also felt that a 'Village Clean Up' Day was overdue. This will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 10am.

**Action: Clerk to ask for an announcement in EGN and on the website for both events.**

**Clerk's Report:**

- a) Clerk reported that the previous duplicate payment to X-net has been recouped against recent invoices – details in the financial statements below.
- b) Annual payment of the Data Protection Fee is now on a direct debit from the Parish Council bank account.
- c) Clerk highlighted that the budget for next year will be an agenda item at the next meeting. Those present confirmed unanimously that contributions to PCC for churchyard maintenance, and to Lambourn library should continue as before. It was felt that the contract with Scofell should be renewed for grounds maintenance in the village.

**Action: Clerk to make contribution to PCC of £200 for this year. Clerk to compile draft budget for discussion at next meeting.**

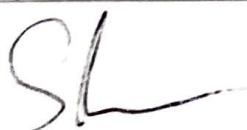
**7. Finance and Compliance:**

- a) Payments & receipts

*Payments since the previous meeting:*

Name	Goods/Service	Amount incl VAT	Approved
X-net	Annual Service Charge*	419.80	
Scofell	Grounds Maintenance (Aug)	320.81	
Tactical Facilities	Dog bins (Sept)	88.40	
Scofell	Grounds Maintenance (Sept)	320.81	
E James	Salary (Sept)	271.61	
Unity Bank	Service Charge	6.00	
ICO	Data Protection Fee	47.00	
Cripps Fencing	Replacement fence post	72.00	
E James	Salary (Oct)	271.61	
S Reschwamm	Phonebox supplies – glaziers putty	6.30	
Scofell	Grounds Maintenance (Oct)	320.81	
Tactical Facilities	Dog bins (Oct)	88.40	
Unity Bank	Service Charge	6.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2180.55</b>	

Signed:



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The previous duplicate payment of £125 to X-net has been used to cover the following:

X-net	Email storage (annual)	60.00
X-net	Email forwarding (2023-2024)	24.00
X-net	A deduction to annual service charge*	41.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>125.00</b>

*Received since the previous meeting:*

WBC	Precept 2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment	5250.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5250.00</b>

*b) Bank balances:*

Current Account	£ 5,546.09
Deposit Account	£ 11,981.65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 17,527.74</b>

*Funds breakdown:*

General Fund	£ 6,205.90	
Special & Emergencies	£ 6,000.00	<i>frozen</i>
CIL Fund	£ 997.22	
Open Space Dev.	£ 3,934.36	
Defib. Fund	£ 390.26	
Playground Equipment	£ 0.00	

- 8. Open Space Development Fund:** Clerk reported that the Open Space Development Fund was money ringfenced by the council for development of open spaces. Any grants/donations for specific projects have already been allocated to those projects. Those present agreed that the Open Space Development Fund could therefore be utilised for maintenance and repair of open space facilities, providing some breathing room in terms of the budget.
- 9. RoSPA Inspection Report:** Several minor problems were identified in the RoSPA report which was shared with councillors ahead of the meeting. Nick Olaf of FWRP is scheduled to service the junior play equipment (wooden) with an estimated cost of £400. Caloo are due to provide a quote for servicing the outdoor gym equipment. It was felt that the poor ground surface under the new infant multi-climber should be covered under warranty, although Caloo have already disputed this. Minor repairs are needed to features such as benches.  
**Action: Clerk to chase to Caloo re warranty and servicing of gym equipment.**  
**Action: SR to make minor repairs to benches and clear vegetation from gym equipment sign.**
- 10. Jubilee Meadow and Replacement Sign:** Quotes for replacement playground sign had been circulated ahead of the meeting. It was felt that the text on the old sign was too dense and a simplified layout was agreed.  
**Action: Clerk to order new sign.**
- 11. Village Maintenance & Millenium Field:** Nothing to report.
- 12. Review of Action Points:** SR reported on the council's new 'Action Point' Spreadsheet for recording and review of action points from meetings. Outstanding action points were discussed.  
**Action: Clerk to invite Matthew Clayton to join the village Speedwatch group.**

Signed:



Date:

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13. **Any other business:** The issue of maintenance of trees in Jubilee Meadow was raised. There was some willingness from those present to donate a small amount towards the cost of work. This will be added to a future agenda when a quote is received.

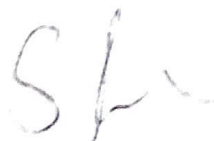
The meeting was concluded at 9.00pm

**Date of next meeting                      Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

2026 meeting dates:

15 <sup>th</sup> January	
12 <sup>th</sup> March	
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Annual Parish Meeting
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Annual General Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup> July	
10 <sup>th</sup> September	
12 <sup>th</sup> November	

Signed:



Date:

15/1/26