

**The Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on
Thursday 12th March 2026 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), Cllr Clive Hooker
Parishioners: Pat Glover

Apologies: None

- 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 15th January 2026 were unanimously confirmed and adopted.

4. Questions/comments from members of the public:

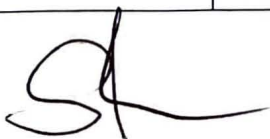
Pat Glover (PG) of East Garston Eco Group (EGEG) reported that the WBC Climate Forum on 28th Jan presented information on the funding and installation of EV charge points and solar panels, including an EV charger(s) in East Garston. Membership of the Forum has been extended to community members on a permanent basis, and the initial results of the three weekly black bin collection suggest recycling rates have increased with no increase in fly-tipping. The WBC Climate Forum on 4th March included a presentation by the West Berkshire Countryside Society, who would like to support Parish Councils to set up their own countryside groups for local biodiversity. East Garston Eco Group worked alongside West Berkshire Countryside Society on 23rd January to coppice trees and create a 'butterfly scallop' on the Millennium Field.

Action: Clerk to contact WBC regarding EV charging points and the WBC partnership with Connected Kerb

5. Planning Information since the last meeting:

NEW:	
PENDING:	
25/02765/FULMAJ	Manor Farm, Station Road, East Garston, Hungerford RG17 7HF Conversion of an agricultural barn to equestrian use, replacement stable building and formation of horse walker and menage together with associated works and landscaping. Awaiting decision
25/02412/FUL	P J S Agricultural Services Ltd Back Street East Garston Hungerford 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. Awaiting decision
DECISIONS:	

Signed:



Date:

14/5/26

6. Receive reports:

District Cllr Clive Hooker updated the council members on matters such as the recent budget meeting, increased welfare costs, and various grants that have been secured. His most recent report can be accessed here: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/downlandsparishcouncilreport>

Chairman's Report: The on-going issue of parking in the Village Hall carpark has been raised. While this is not a Parish Council matter it is pertinent to future planning proposals.

Clerk's Report: Updates to the Parish Flood Policy and Emergency Plan are underway. Clerk has asked Martyn Wright to contribute his expertise to the Flood Policy. The clerk updated the PC on village Speedwatch and has liaised with Matthew Clayton regarding this. The clerk informed the PC of notification of increase to cost of services provided by Tactical Facilities (dog waste). ST has provided a cheaper quotation for playground mulch. Nick Olaf from FWRP has carried out the cleaning of the junior play equipment – with thanks to Corn Baggers for providing access to water.

Action: Clerk to investigate alternative providers for dog waste removal

Action: Clerk to order additional mulch for playground

Action: Clerk to write IT Policy for distribution

7. Finance and Compliance:

a) Payments & receipts

Payments since the previous meeting:

Name	Goods/Service	Amount incl VAT	Approved
Fieldwork Rest & Play	Junior play equipment service	360.00	SR/DC
Tactical Facilities	Dog waste – Dec	80.24	SR/DC
Limesigns	Playground sign replacement	181.72	SR/DC
East Garston Social Club	Donation for wood chippings	10.00	SR/DC
E James	Salary – Jan	271.61	SR/DC
Unity Bank	Service Charge	6.00	
Tactical Facilities	Dog waste – Jan	88.40	SR/DC
WBCS	Donation Conservation Work	100.00	SR/DC
Tactical Facilities	Dog waste - Feb	88.40	SR/DC
E James	Salary – Feb	271.61	SR/DC
	TOTAL	£1,457.98	

Received since the previous meeting:

	TOTAL	£0.00

Upcoming expenses:

Fieldwork Rest & Play	Junior play equipment clean	200.00
TBC	Rubber mulch	TBC
	TOTAL	£200.00

Signed:



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Bank balances:

Current Account	£ 3,940.68
Deposit Account	£ 12,047.68
TOTAL	£ 15,988.36

Funds breakdown:

General Fund	£ 4710.32	
Special & Emergencies	£ 6,000.00	<i>frozen</i>
CIL Fund	£ 953.42	
Open Space Dev.	£ 3,934.36	
Defib. Fund	£ 390.26	
Playground Equipment	£ 0.00	

- 8. Co-option to fill Parish Councillor Vacancy:** There were no requests for an election from members of the parish so the PC can now fill the vacancy by co-option. A notice will be displayed on the website and noticeboard asking for volunteers.

Action: Clerk to advertise vacancy

- 9. Draft Budget:** The draft budget was distributed ahead of the meeting. Those present unanimously agreed to adopt the current 2025-26 NJC pay scale with regards to Clerk's salary. The proposed budget was unanimously approved and will be displayed on the website.
The PC has requested a slight increase to the Parish Precept for 2026/27 (£11,000) - any shortfall will be absorbed through use of the Open Space Development Fund for items such as playground maintenance. It is anticipated that the precept may need to be increased further next year due to increased costs.

Action: Budget to be displayed on website

- 10. Village Newsletter:** This is printed and ready for collection. It will be distributed by councillors during the week after Easter.

Action: SR to collect newsletters. Councillors to distribute to their designated areas of the parish

- 11. Articulated lorries in the village:** This has been raised with WBC. The response suggests that it has been taken seriously although there is no solution to the problem.

- 12. Jubilee Meadow & Playground:** Trees have been cut and invoice received. Some cuttings have been left in the meadow. The junior play equipment has been cleaned – due to its age it will now be necessary to conduct servicing/maintenance every 2 years, this has been incorporated into the budget. SR has put up the new playground sign to replace the one which was vandalised.

Action: JR to clear any remaining cuttings if necessary

- 13. Village Maintenance & Millenium Field:** The Millenium Field and making good from the Thames Water works will be discussed at the next meeting. Lambourn Parish Council have offered some football nets which the PC was pleased to accept.

Action: Clerk to add making good in the Millenium Field to agenda for May meeting

Action: ST to arrange collection of football nets

- 14. Review of Action Points:** Action points from previous meetings reviewed. Most have been completed; the clerk is working on those which remain outstanding.

Signed:



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15. Any other business: The PC discussed potential guest speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting. All members expressed concern about the increased incidence of rubbish around the village and fly-tipping at the top of School Lane.

Action: ST to ask Matthew Clayton if he might be available to speak at APM

Action: SR will include fly-tipping and rubbish at the APM

The meeting was concluded at 7:58pm

Date of next meeting Thursday 16th April Annual Parish Meeting

2026 meeting dates:

14th May Annual General Meeting

9th July

10th September

12th November

Signed:



Date:

14/5/26