

A Bimonthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Friends Meeting House Children's Room on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Present: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) - Chair, Councillors: - Chris Tonge (CT), David Ruse (DR), Sue Tulloch (ST), Deana Carpenter (DC) Clerk :Alison Blackmore, District Councillor: Clive Hooker (CH) For item 8 only Martin Hutchings of GRCC, Alan Breadmore : Parishioner. Apologies: - Annabelle Eyre.
2. Declarations of Interest: None
3. Minutes of Bimonthly meeting held 6th November 2019 – were read and signed as correct.
4. Matters Arising: -
 - a. Sovereign had responded to our letter regarding options for the garages/parking in Humphries Lane requesting more information. DC to follow up
 - b. DC confirmed that the monthly inspections of Jubilee Meadow & bird droppings were now being actioned. A spreadsheet would be updated quarterly & forwarded to the Clerk as a record.
 - c. JR reported that the repair of the fence to the east of the millenium field by Valley Fencing had now been completed. Cost was slightly in excess of the quote due to the addition of a railing. A contribution of 50% to be recovered from the landowner.
 - d. Clerk reported that she had been advised that a new Clerk's training course would be running in Newbury in April 2020
 - e. JR reported that, as a precaution, with the unusually high level of the river for the time of year, 2 tonnes of sand had been purchased for sand bags.
 - f. ST advised that the Queens Arms had agreed to sponsor £50 for a trophy for the proposed Village Champion volunteer award provided a Co-sponsor could be found. JR to approach PJS as a potential.
5. Finance and Compliance (including community grants): -
 - a. Paid since last meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT	CQ number or on-line banking approvers
Scofell	Mowing	£240	DR CT
CPRE	Subscription	£30	DR CT
Aasvogel	Skip Hire	£472	DR CT
Willis & Ainsworth	Salt & Salt Bin	£212	DR CT
Wilkins Kennedy	Payroll	£300	DC DR
Travis Perkins	Building sand	£122	DC CT
Unity Bank	Service Charge	£18	

- b. To be paid by next meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT
Valley Fencing	Millenium Field Fence	£1,392
Mid Thames Quakers	Room Hire	£72
EGPCC	Churchyard Maintenance	£200
EG Village Hall	Community Broadband	£200
WB Council	Dog Waste Removal	£170
Cripps	Room Hire	£72
EG PCC	Churchyard maintenance	£200

- c. Received since last meeting:N/A

- d. To be received by next meeting

Name	Goods or service	Amount inc VAT
HMRC	VAT refund	£1348
R Wilkins	Dog Training	£180
P Kindersley	Fencing Contribution	TBC

- e. The November & December Current and Deposit Account statements were reconciled to the cash book and agreed and signed by the Chairman.
 - f. Councillors discussed the continued grant of £200 to the Village Hall to support community broadband. Agreed . Proposed CT, seconded JR
 - g. Budget for 20/21: Under delegation previously granted Clerk confirmed with Councillors that no undisclosed changes had been made to their pecuniary interests and accordingly granted dispensations for the ensuing budget discussions. Clerk presented a budget statement based upon actual and anticipated expenditure for 2019/20 and projections for anticipated expenditure for 2020/21 based upon previous patterns & known changes. This showed that the PC had broadly operated to plan. Councillors agreed to a skip being available in March, this having proved worthwhile in the past. Included in the 2020/21 budget was the set up cost, estimated at £3,000 ex VAT, for the installation of speed control machinery which it was proposed to fund out of general reserves. The budget was accepted in its draft

form and the outstanding items for the current FY approved. After discussion Councillors agreed that the precept should remain unchanged at £9,000 for 2020/21. Proposed DC. Seconded DR.

6. Flood / Emergency Management Status: - CT advised that the next flood forum meeting was next week and there was nothing further to report at this time. DR reported on the latest draft of the Parish emergency plan that had been issued to Councillors. It was proposed to advertise on the Parish website for volunteers for the Community Emergency Group. After discussion it was agreed DR & CT would continue to complete the plan on this basis. DR was thanked for his efforts.
7. Speeding/Parking and Road Safety: - DR reported that progress was being made with WBC in obtaining all necessary permission for the set up of the SID machinery. DR advised that the equipment needed to be TOPAS registered & accordingly he was looking for equipment that met this requirement.
8. Planning Status a) Nothing to report
b) Housing survey. Martin Hutchings of GRCC, who had undertaken a housing survey on behalf of a developer to identify affordable housing need in East Garston, then joined the meeting. He explained the background to the report & presented the findings, which he would be reporting back to his client. Councillors noted the report, the relatively low response rate, and the very limited affordable housing need that had been identified. Councillors were concerned that some parishioners believed that the survey had been commissioned or endorsed by the Parish Council. This was clearly not the case, the Parish Council having had no involvement whatsoever in the survey. Martin confirmed that the final report would be made available in the public domain and any one wishing to read it should contact GRCC.
9. Volunteer programme :- Nothing to report
10. Correspondence :- Nothing to report
11. Any other business:-
 - a) Clerk highlighted the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th April. Councillors to consider potential speakers. Clerk to investigate changing the meeting date to later in April to prevent a clash with Easter holidays. Councillors discussed inviting local groups to the meeting or holding a cookery demonstration although no conclusion was reached.
 - b) Councillors approved the preparation of an annual newsletter to parishioners. JR to ask Penny Post to produce.
 - c) Further to the request for trees for the millenium field only one had been received. JR to contact the parishioner
 - d) Clerk confirmed to CH that his newsletter was distributed widely in the parish it being available on the website as well as sent to Councillors. Councillors were also up to date with plans for the District Parish Conference on Thursday 12th March 2020

Meeting ended – 9.00 p.m. Next meeting – Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7pm