

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors: - Sue Tulloch - Chairman, Deana Carpenter, Annabelle Eyre, Chris Tonge, Jonathan Rabbitts, Peter Smith and Sonia Coyle (Clerk). Guests: - Howard Woollaston (District Councillor), Patricia Glover, Charlotte Hitchmough (Director of ARK). Parishioners: - 17

**Apologies:** Clive Hooker (District Councillor) Sally Wright

1. Chairman Sue Tulloch opened the meeting by welcoming those present and explaining that her appointment was due to the very sad passing of David Ruse. The Parish Council miss him very much, he was passionate about many village issues. Sue also thanked Alison Blackmore for her work as Parish Clerk and explained that Alison had stood down from her role and Sonia Coyle had taken on the role. The PC also had a new councillor - Peter Smith. The Parish Council has continued to support local services such as the Lambourn Library as well as grants for the church, social club and village hall broadband. The PC also maintains the defibrillator, the outdoor gym and play area in the Jubilee field and the Millenium Field. The village has a fantastic community spirit which was truly highlighted during Covid. The PC would like to thank the team of volunteers – David Knight, Trevor Butcher & Richard Talmage, ably led by Chris Tonge – who all help keep the village pristine. There was also thanks for Alan Breadmore for his work on the East Garston website. The PC hopes that 2022 will be a better year for everyone. All local businesses have now reopened along with social clubs. The highlight for this year will be the Jubilee celebrations.
2. The draft accounting statement of the Parish Council, fixed asset register and bank reconciliation were distributed. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had broadly operated within budget and to plan over the past 12 months. She then went on to explain that this year the PC had decided not to increase the precept and that the main reason costs are maintained is due to a lot of the work done in the village is carried out by councillors and volunteers rather than paying contractors to come in. One member of the public asked a question regarding what money had been received during the last year. There was one CIL payment and the VAT claim. The Annual Financial Summary and supporting documents will be available on the website, once approved by the Parish Council.
3. Patricia Glover gave a presentation on recycling. An information sheet has been produced and has been put up in the village. It covers local options to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Patricia also explained this information will be promoted with posters in the local area, public talks and a hands-on recycling display. There is also help with gaps in local recycling by collecting aluminium foil (scrunched up, with food cleaned off), ink cartridges, pens and toothpaste tubes. These can be left in the metal box by the entrance to the driveway at Hillsprings in Front Street. (RG17 7HW), also encouraging residents to share trips to the Mini-recycling centres (at either Hungerford or Thatcham and the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Newbury (aka The Tip). Patricia had also laid out a table full of recycling examples.
4. Charlotte Hitchmough gave a presentation on taking responsibility for your rainwater. Charlotte explained that as climate changes we are seeing more cloudburst type rainfall, with heavy deluges that overwhelm our drainage network, causing local surface water flooding and sewage spills into our rivers. These rainstorms are often followed by long dry periods, so it's important that we look for ways to slow the flow of stormwater, catch what we need to water our gardens and create space for water to soak into the ground slowly instead of rushing off down drains to either the river or the sewage treatment works. The first and simplest thing to do is install a water butt. The average roof collects enough rainfall to fill 300 water butts with rain every year. Storm water planters are also known as rain water or downspout planters. They catch water, usually from the roof, slow it down and filter it before releasing it slowly either to the drain or into the ground. You can connect your gutter to the planter via a downpipe or a rain chain. Examples can be seen on the website [riverkennet.org](http://riverkennet.org)
5. Howard Woollaston (district councillor) explained that he is the Lambourn Ward Member and moved to Eastbury in 2005, he had been asked to attend on behalf of Clive Hooker. He sits on various committees including Western Area of Planning. One of his key local issues is groundwater and he said there is a need to work with Thames Water. Council tax has increased by 1% and is one of the lowest in the country. He also explained that the council are working very hard to repair potholes. The lido completion is due in 2023 and there is also a new dance studio in Hungerford. He also stated that planning is one of WBC issues and they hope to improve the service delivery. WBC are looking at upgrading the Lambourn Valley Trail to a cycle trail from Lambourn to Great Shefford. One member of the public queried road signs going up and staying up when road works have been completed. HW suggested going on to the WBC website to the "report a problem" page and logging the issue.
6. Any Other Business
  - a. Chris Vaughan said there was a good community spirit in the village and he thinks the Parish Council deserve recognition for the work they do.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking attendees and all of the speakers.

The Meeting closed at 8.36 p.m.

Additional material is available on the Parish Council Website [www.eastgartson-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastgartson-pc.gov.uk)