

A bi-monthly meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held at the Friends Meeting House Children's Room on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Questions/comments from members of the public.

1 member of the public presented plans for work in his garden to make councillors aware before submitting his planning application in full to WBC.

1 member of the public put forward ideas to encourage wildlife in the village and will now discuss possibilities with a designer before committing to putting forward a proposal to the Parish Council

2. **Present:** - Sue Tulloch (ST) -Chair, Councillors: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Peter Smith (PS) Chris Tonge (CT) and Annabelle Eyre (AE)

Clerk: Sonia Coyle (SC).

Apologies received: Clive Hooker, Deana Carpenter

Meeting started at 7:25pm

3. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes** of the bimonthly meeting held on 6th January were signed as a true and accurate record.

5. **Receive Reports**

Representatives from Outside Bodies – District Cllr Hooker.

Cllr Hooker was not present, Clerk confirmed that Cllr Hooker's newsletter had been received today and presented to Councillors.

Chairman's Report

ST has spoken to Caroline Bayley who confirmed that a charity car wash will be taking place in April to raise funds towards the cricket wicket.

ST also informed the Council of the EGA plans for the Jubilee weekend

Thursday

Lighting of the beacon

Saturday

Party in Jubilee Meadow

Sunday

BYO picnic, decorate the village, encourage all to come

Clerk's Report

A request has been received from a parishioner to reduce the height of the trees by 10-12ft if possible every few years to allow more light into their garden. Councillors are not opposed to the idea but due to the costs involved the PC would look for a contribution and this could not be considered until next year as the budget for 22/23 has already been allocated.

Another resident has asked for confirmation of the location of the cricket wicket – there will be a final site meeting to agree exact location.

Caroline Bayley has requested the Cricket Wicket project be uploaded on to the Good Exchange to apply for funding. (Clerk to confirm cost).

PS has confirmed that the gym seat in Jubilee Meadow has been repaired.

Following discussions regarding the War Memorial and ensuring its safety in the future the clerk will check to see if CIL money can be put towards any necessary work.

Clerk informed Councillors of article in the NWN stating that various dog bins have been overflowing and they are working to resolve the matter.

Clerk had signed up for Big Jubilee lunch pack and handed this over to ST

There was also a request that the Clerk contact Thames Water to sort out the track by the pumping station.

6. **Planning matters**

21/03186/HOUSE – 18 College Way Proposed single storey front extension to kitchen

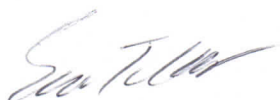
(Post meeting note; this has now been granted)

21/02963/FULD – Greengates, Front Street. Demolition of existing structurally compromised cottage & provision of a replacement cottage & detached car port. (No update)

21/02941/FUL The Sheiling Part Retrospective) Proposed change of use of the land to a countryside business use (suigeneris) and erection of ancillary storage building. Retention of 2x buildings, hardstanding and external alterations to stable

Clerk informed Councillors that due to Covid there had been a delay in WBC putting the orange notice up. Clerk also confirmed that once in place the public then have 3 weeks from that date to register any comments.

Signed



1

Date 16/5/22

7. Finance and Compliance:-

A. The Clerk presented the payments

Payments since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount	Approved
S Coyle	Jan salary	£179.67	
TM Cooper	Hedge Cutting	£120	
S Coyle	Feb Salary	£179.47	

To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount
HMRC	Tax Jan-Mar	£134.40
S Coyle	Mar & Apr salary	£359.34
CPRE	Membership	£30
Autela	Payroll services	£50.40
West Berks	Dog bins	£172.33
Bank	Service charge	£18.00
PJS	Weld & strengthen bench	£112.35
R Gibbard	Bench repair	£159.50

Received since last meeting

£1451.81 – VAT HMRC

- B. Councillors AGREED to renew Scofell's contract at a cost of £288 per month. This has increased this year due to rising insurance costs & material prices along with no longer being allowed to use red diesel. However, it was pointed out that there had been no increase last year.
- C. Councillors AGREED that the fund for community defibrillator which currently stands at £1421 is sufficient and no further monies are required. The following grants had been budgeted for and Councillors AGREED that payments should be made following the meeting. Proposed ST seconded CT
Wantage Bus Service £50
Library Contribution £525
EGPCC Churchyard Maintenance £200
Village Hall broadband £200
- D. The Asset register was reviewed (a copy is attached) Proposed ST seconded CT
- E. The bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved up until 28th February 2022. Proposed ST seconded AE
- F. Clerk proposed the council purchase a PAYG mobile phone – councillors AGREED with a maximum spend of £25.
- G. Clerk was asked to note that the TM Cooper invoice for hedge cutting is an annual charge and should be accounted for in the budget.

8. Jubilee Meadow

The playsafety inspection will take place during April – date unknown. The bark chippings will need to be replenished at the end of March. ST to co-ordinate.

9. Village Maintenance & Millennium Field

With the Jubilee celebrations taking place in June and a wedding taking place early July the Clerk has been tasked with contacting Scofell to ask for the grass to be cut on Monday 30th May and Monday 27th June. Clerk made Councillors aware that the current grounds maintenance contractor used by WBC ends in January 2023 and will go to tender. The main concern highlighted at this early stage is that costs are expected to be a lot higher.

10. Speedwatch

PS has completed SID training.

Signed



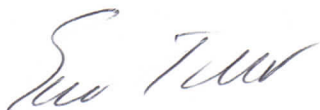
The following dates were confirmed for the year ahead
5th May
30th June
1st September
3rd November
5th January
2nd March
4th May

2023 Annual Parish Meeting date tbc due to Easter

Meeting ended – 8.42p.m.

Next meeting – The Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 7th April 2022 at 7.30

Signed



3

Date

16/5/22