

A bi-monthly meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held at the village hall on
Thursday 16th September 2021 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Present: - Sue Tulloch (ST) -Chair, Councillors: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Annabelle Eyre (AE), Deana Carpenter (DC) Vice Chair, Chris Tonge (CT), Peter Smith (PS)
District Councillor Cliver Hooker, Ed James (parishioner)
Clerk: Sonia Coyle (SC).
2. Declarations of Interest:
Sue Tulloch declared an interest in Mask Cottage
Jonathan Rabbitts declared an interest in The Sheiling
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 7th July were read and signed as correct. ST queried if the auditor point on Standing Orders had been updated, clerk confirmed this would be presented at the Nov PC mtg for Cllrs to approve. Proposed ST seconded AE.
4. Sewage/River Flooding
CT informed the PC of the following update on information which Martyn Wright has obtained from both Thames Water (TW) and the Environment Agency (EA)
A. The discharge into the River Lambourn from the East Garston Sewage Pumping Station, is untreated and unfiltered sewage. Confirmed by TW.
B. The total number of hours of discharge in each year, confirmed by TW, were as follows: (Recording such data only started in 2019)
2019 - 384 hours
2020 - 214 hours
2021 - 193 (to date)
C. It is acknowledged that the majority of sewer flooding, resulting in discharges being made, is caused by infiltration of groundwater into the sewer system.
D. The Permit issued by the Environment Agency, that allows discharges to be made in the event of emergencies (such as storm or mechanical breakdown), does not allow for discharges due to groundwater infiltration. Confirmed by EA.
E. In respect of East Garston Sewage Pumping Station, TW has received only three notifications of category 3 breaches of permit from EA since 2013 (breaches are categorised 1-4 with 1 being most serious), despite the discharges occurring almost annually for many years.
F. EA has issued no prosecutions or fines against TW with regard to the River Lambourn which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation, the highest level of environmental protection categorisation. EA say that they have warned TW and given advice and guidance!
The work carrying out on the piping lining in Front Street and Station Road has been completed and it now remains to be seen what happens when the springs rise next year.
5. Finance and Compliance : -

- A. The Clerk presented the payments

Payments since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount	Approved
HMRC	Tax Apr-Jun	134.6	ST/AE
Scofell	April grounds maintenance	252	ST/DC
HALC	Subscription	127.6	ST/DC
Unity Bank	Bank charges	18	
Auditing Solutions	Audit	282	DC/CT
S Coyle	Expenses	29.95	DC/CT
Autela	Payroll process	50.4	DC/CT
PJS	Strip out wheel on scythe	41.04	DC/CT
PJS	Padlock	39	DC/CT
Scofell	July grounds maintenance	252	ST/DC
Datacenta	Renewal of domain name	210	ST/DC

Signed



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S Coyle	July salary	179.47	ST/DC
CCB	Renewal of membership	40	ST/DC
Scofell	June grounds maintenance	252	ST/DC
Scofell	August grounds maintenance	252	ST/DC
S Coyle	August salary	179.47	ST/DC

To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount
Scofell	Additional cut for fete	120
E-Mango	Annual service charge	460.8
S Coyle	Sept salary	179.67
HMRC	Tax Jul-Sept	134.4
Autela	Payroll process	50.4
SLCC	Membership	95
Caloo	Inspection	474
Aasvogel	Skip Hire	499.2
S Coyle	Oct Salary	179.67
Scofell	Sept grass	252
Scofell	Oct grass	252

Received since last meeting

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- B. The Clerk requested to move £1,000 from the savings account to the current account. Councillors AGREED.
- C. Due to current shortages the Clerk will present the proposal to purchase a new laptop at the November meeting.

6. Planning Status

- 21/01513/HOUSE Frog Hollow – GRANTED
- 21/01997/HOUSE College Farmhouse
No objections
- 21/02087/HOUSE & 21/02088/LBC2 Mask Cottage
No objections
- 21/02116/FULL Mabberleys

OBJECT

Councillors consider that although traffic is not coming through the village, access to the site in the village on Front St is inadequate both with regard to the level of traffic generated and the narrowness of the road.

Councillors propose instead that access to the site be created on the Newbury Rd, away from the main body of the village and with clear visibility. There is already an existing gateway and path for access onto this road.

Councillors also do not wish this change of use to set a precedent for further development of the site.

- 21/00216/13HOME The Sheiling – planning enforcement relating to unauthorised fencing
WBC have confirmed that when resources allow a further site inspection will be made to determine if further enforcement action needs to be taken
- 21/02269/FULL The Sheiling Replacement Storage Barn
Councillors strongly **OBJECT** to this planning application and lack of design statement informing use of storage, based on the following;
Other buildings have gone up/been installed for which no planning has been submitted.

AONB

The building has already been built with no planning application in place


Outside the settlement boundary, Councillors have concerns about this setting a precedent for future development outside the boundary.

Councillors are also concerned about future development of this property, previous planning for a house on this site has already been refused

This is a change of use from agricultural to domestic use

Tarmacked roads have already been installed on this site

Signed



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- Notice & Plan – Westfield Farm WBC have confirmed that the owners have submitted a declaration to declare that they have had no intention to dedicate any additional public rights of way over their land, other than those already recorded on the Definitive Map

7. Jubilee Meadow

ST proposed the PC purchase a 1000 litre bulk bag of chippings for £106.50 to top up and maintain minimum depth in the play area, DC seconded.

Clerk informed the PC that the Caloo inspection will take place week commencing 20th September and that JR has been given as point of contact.

8. Village Maintenance & Millennium Field

DC presented quote from R Gibbard Garden Services to repair the bench by the phone box at a cost of £159.50 which includes the materials. ST seconded.

Clerk had obtained several quotes for skip hire, after price and terms & condition comparisons were made ST proposed that Aasvogel were booked again and AE seconded. Clerk to book for skip to be delivered on Friday 8th and removed on Monday 11th at a cost of £416 (net). Village cleanup to take place on Sunday 10th at 10am. Clerk to request Alan Breadmore put a notice on website to inform Parishioners. *[Post meeting note; posters were also put up on the 2 noticeboards]*

Following issues with the dog bins overflowing in the village CH suggested the Clerk contact WBC and ask for the Dog Warden to visit the parish.

9. Proposal to maintain border between Jubilee Meadow and the river

A request had come from Penny Lock that with the PC's consent, Penny will happily control some of the nettles, dogwood etc. (without damaging the wildlife food and cover) and occasionally prune the tops out of a few of the bushes that cut out the evening sun in late summer in the border between Jubilee Meadow and the river. The PC welcomes enthusiasm and input in keeping the village tidy. The council discussed possible funding towards the project but agreed that since this would benefit a few parishioners rather than the parish as a whole funding would not be made available on this occasion. The clerk has received some free seeds from WBC and will contact PL to see if these are of interest.

10. Speedwatch

SC now has access to the SID portal but ST & PS have not been able to access. Clerk will reissue sign-in details.

11. Chairman's Report - ST continues to work on the welcome packs for new arrivals in the village

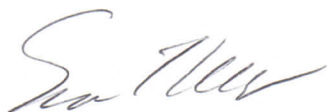
Parish Clerk Report; - Clerk reported as follows

- Following the brief discussion at the last meeting regarding the Platinum Celebrations next year, ST will speak to EGA before the next PC meeting and the clerk will bring details of commemorative mugs.
- Attended Engaging with WBC, below is a list of the key points discussed
- ❖ Communications – regular sharing of information, legislation, projects, best practice and shared campaigns.
- ❖ Engagement – how we work together. For example on policy development, consultation exercise's and in a thematic way such as attendance at forums.
- ❖ Customer service – generally and with specific service areas.
- ❖ Resources – such as templates, training, guidance etc.
- ❖ Planning and delivering services together – in relation to devolution and parish planning.
- Sovereign have been contacted and asked to maintain the Downlands area on Station Road and this has now happened. The Parish Council would like to publicly thank David Taylor for his efforts in maintaining this area over the years.
- Clerk presented West Berkshire's Greening Campaign for consideration but Councillors felt that generally people are aware and this is not something the PC would promote.

A copy of District Cllr Hooker's newsletter is attached. CH also took the time to explain planning procedures.

Meeting ended – 9.20p.m. Next meeting – Thursday 4th November 2021 at 7.00pm.

Signed



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Date

4/11/21