

The annual general meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held at the village hall on Thursday 18th May 2023

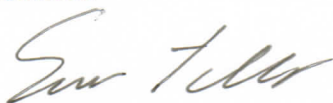
MINUTES

1. **Present:** - Sue Tulloch (ST) -Chair, Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Deana Carpenter (DC)
Clerk: Sonia Coyle (SC).
Clive Hooker – District Councillor
Apologies; Annabelle Eyre
Meeting started at 7:03pm
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Acceptance of Office and Election of Officers**
Following the uncontested election, those Councillors present signed their Acceptance of Office. Clerk to follow up with AE. ST was proposed as Chairman by JR, seconded DC. Elected. DC was proposed as Vice Chairman by ST, seconded JR. Elected. ST also stated that she would like to stand down as Chair after the year ahead. There are currently 3 vacancies within the PC, these are Website administrator, Clerk, Councillor. ST to investigate advertising costs/options – to include Pennypost and NWN.
Councillor Chris Tonge stood down in April, following more than 40 years service.
Councillor Peter Smith had stood down (due to house sale) but had put himself forward for co-option which ST proposed and DC seconded.
4. **Minutes** Councillors then RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to confirm and adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2023.
5. **Questions/comments from members of the public.**
None
6. **Planning matters**
23/00827/HOUSE 19 College Way
Proposed single storey front extension and alterations to rear conservatory to form new kitchen.
Councillors unanimously agreed that there were no objections to this application.

Information – West Berks Decision

- 23/00486/LBC Mask Cottage, Front Street**
Removal of existing roof tiles and replacement with new handmade plain clay tiles
Decision **Grants**
- 23/00452/COND 15 College Way**
Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 5 (SuDS) of planning permission 20/02953/HOUSE
- Proposed single storey side and rear extension
Decision **Approves**
- 22/02658/FUL The Chaplains House, Goodings Lane**
Demolition of existing stable yard, removal of existing muck bunker and erection of replacement American Barn, Storage Barn and suitable ancillary facilities and infrastructure.
Decision **Withdrawn**
- 22/00948/COMIND Land East of Mabberleys & South of River Lambourn, Newbury Rd**
The land is currently in Agricultural use and this application is seeking permission for its use class to be changed to allow the land to be used as a cricket pitch. Such a use would fall under: Class F2, Local Community Uses - C) Outdoor sport or recreation (not involving motorised vehicles or firearms)
Decision **Refuses**
- 22/03047/HOUSE Weighbridge Cottage, Pounds Farm**
Single storey extensions to north-west elevation
Decision **Granted**
- 22/02883/HOUSE Bay Tree Cottage, Front Street**
Single storey rear extension and the introduction of new partitions within the 20th and 21st Century parts of the house
Decision **Granted**

Signed



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Date

24/7/23

23/00499/AGRIC Poughley Farm, Woodlands St Mary,

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Steel portal framed building of 24.40 m length, 8.10 m Height to eaves, 18.30 m breadth and 11.50 m height to ridge

Decision

A planning application is required for the proposal

7. Receive Reports**Representatives from Outside Bodies – District Cllr Hooker.**

Following the recent elections CH confirmed election results by party were;

Party	2023	2019
Liberal Democrats	29	16
Conservative Party	11	24
Green Party	2	3
Labour Party	1	0

CH will now be vice chair of planning and also on the planning advisory group. CH suggested considering doing a Neighbourhood Plan. Clerk to contact Bryan Lyttle (head of planning policy) to see if available for July meeting.

Chairman's Report

ST has attended 2 flood forum/water meetings – at the most recent both Clive Hooker and Laura Farris were in attendance. Martyn Wright also spoke about the sewer pipe between Eastbury and East Garston not being fit for purpose. Unfortunately, there are a lot of private land owners whose sewage filters into the mains but Thames Water are not responsible for maintaining those pipes. Martyn had also put forward a Health Warning sign which he would like to put up by the pumping station, informing everyone that on occasion untreated sewage is discharged from the pipe. Councillors agreed for this to go ahead. ST also said that once minutes from the meeting had been received, they would be shared with Councillors.

The road closure planned for Newbury Road 27/05 – 3/06 has been postponed. Date TBC.

Clerk's Report

There has been a request to make a contribution towards the cost of the Wantage Brass Band who play at the Remembrance Service, unfortunately the budget for the year ahead has already been finalised and there are no funds available. (It may be possible to consider next year if the request were to be received prior to budgeting). There are concerns over erosion on the river bank on Front Street, ST to contact parishioner to discuss options and update PC at next meeting.

Following the library presentation at the annual meeting last week Felicity Harrison had been in contact to ask if anyone was available to join the Friends of Lambourn Library, unfortunately since the meetings are held at 10am on a Monday morning there is currently no-one on the PC.

The Clerk has been unable to make the payment for the Wantage bus as account details have still not been confirmed.

8. Finance and Compliance

Paid since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount inc VAT	Approved
S Coyle	March & April salary	£394.22	ST/DC
Community Heartbeat	Defib battery	£354	ST/DC
Autela Payroll	Q4 charges & P60	£83.27	ST/DC
HMRC	P32 Q4	£179	ST/DC
Clerks expenses	Phone, diary, parking, paper	£17	ST/DC
West Berks	Dog bins Apr 22 - Mar 23	£467.88	ST/DC
T M Cooper	Hedgecutting	£142.50	ST/DC
Playsafety	Rospa Report	£111	ST/DC
Scofell	March & April grounds	£593.28	ST/DC
Zurich	Insurance	£524.85	ST/DC
S Coyle (expenses)	McAfee & Microsoft 365	£199.98	ST/DC
Pennypost	Annual newsletter	£295	ST/DC

To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
Wantage Bus	20/21 & 22/23 donation	£100
Scofell	May & June grounds	£593.28
S Coyle	May & June salary	£394.22

Signed



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Date

24/7/23

WBC	Dog bins Apr 23 – Mar 24 (1/4)	£295.75
BALC	NALC subscription	£130.14
Kimcell Datacentre	Domain (for 2 years)	£150
J Clack	Internal Audit	£90

Paid in since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
WBC	Precept	£5000

The Clerk presented a copy of the bank reconciliation and the accounting statement.

The Council has operated within budget but with costs increasing almost everywhere the Clerk once again stressed that costs will have to be very closely monitored during the year ahead. Following payment of several invoices the current account has a balance of £2754.64 and the deposit account has £18842.79.

The audit took place last month and the auditor stated in their report that they "found the administration and procedures of the Council to be carefully planned, controlled and well documented with reports being presented to the Council as deemed appropriate. In addition, the Minutes provide a very factual and comprehensive record of the Council's activities with a clear indication of who is responsible for follow-up action. The actions of the Clerk continue to provide a very reliable system producing comprehensive and informative minutes and reports, tight budgetary controls and a clear and concise audit trail. The ongoing administration of the tender documents and contracts, where applicable, continues to be well documented and monitored".

SC also explained that the Playsafety ROSPA inspection had gone ahead as unfortunately this had been set up on a rolling contract. SC will check if WBC can cancel the inspections planned (for the gym and play area) to avoid paying twice. *[Post meeting note; WBC have agreed to the inspections being cancelled for this year and then reinstating for next year. Clerk to write to Playsafety and cancel rolling contract]*

9. Jubilee Meadow

The ROSPA report noted that the gate post (into the play area) has some rot at the base. JR to review.

There are stinging nettles which need to be removed – SC to contact CT

The laminate on the multiplay is damaged and needs to be rubbed down & damaged edges treated.

On the seated push up & also the seated rower (adult fitness) there is a recommendation to get both re-tensioned if possible – clerk to contact Caloo.

The Tesco grant (for the rubber chippings) is ongoing until the end of June when the PC will be notified as to how much they have been awarded.

10. Village Maintenance & Millennium Field

The village hall has declined the bike stands as currently there is more need for parking cars rather than bikes.

There has been a request to plant a gunnera on the riverbank underneath the signpost at the bridge.

ST to follow up with both parties concerned.

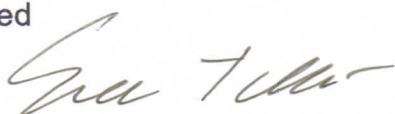
11. Community Speedwatch

(On hold until the works in the village have been completed).

12. AOB

Meeting ended – 8.49pm
Next Meeting
Thursday 6th July 2023 7pm

Signed



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Date

24/7/23