

MINUTES

1. **Present:** - Sue Tulloch (ST) -Chair, Deana Carpenter (DC), Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Annabelle Eyre (AE)
Clerk: Sonia Coyle (SC).
Bryan Lyttle Planning Policy Manager (WBC)
Apologies; Peter Smith
Meeting started at 7:10pm
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Co-option of Liam Robson**
Liam Robson has previously been a councillor and following CT standing down as councillor would like to stand again. JR proposed and councillors agreed to co-opt LR onto the PC. (Clerk arranged for the declaration of eligibility to be signed at the end of the meeting along with AE)
4. **Minutes** Councillors then RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to confirm and adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2023.
5. **Questions/comments from members of the public.**
None
6. **Planning matters**
Bryan Lyttle explained that if neighbourhood plans are put in place, once completed they form part of the local plan. The difference between the parish plan and the neighbourhood plan is "development". How many new houses does the community want to have?
The advantage of doing a Neighbourhood plan is that it might influence future planning decisions. However, as East Garston is in an AONB there are currently no plans for development.
If the PC doesn't do one it's their decision however, if they were to consider going ahead with one the following would need to be considered:
The council needs to start by asking the community if they want to do this.
The PC should not be the driving force.
A steering group should be set up and a PC member should then be elected onto the group.
ST thanked Bryan for attending the meeting and councillors agreed that this would need to be discussed in more detail at the November meeting.

Information – West Berks Decision

23/01109/HOUSE 6 Burfords

Single storey rear extension

Decision

Grants

23/00827/HOUSE 19 College Way

Proposed single storey front extension and alterations to rear conservatory to form new kitchen

Decision

Grants

7. **Receive Reports**
Representatives from Outside Bodies – District Cllr Hooker.
A copy of Clive's newsletter can be found by clicking [here](#)

Chairman's Report

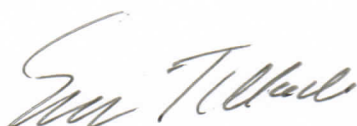
ST confirmed that Lee Michigan has agreed to take on the EGN newsletter and will be doing the next one with Alan.

The search for website administrator is ongoing.

One person has enquired if the clerk's position is still vacant.

ST to ask R Beeson to make Health Warning sign to put next to the sewage pipe.

Signed



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31/8/23

Date

Clerk's Report

SC made councillors aware of a group buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage being made available through WBC.

West Berks residents can join this group-buying scheme which offers not just solar panels, but optional battery storage and EV charge points too. There's also retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels and are just looking to get more from the renewable energy they generate whilst increasing their independence from the grid. It is free to register and there is no obligation to go ahead with an installation.

Further details can be found by clicking [here](#)

There has been a request for the PC to agree the line of a fence in the Millennium Field if Thames Water agree to donate a fence and some mulch for the no-mow strip. Councillors have asked for confirmation that TW have agreed to donate before agreeing the fence line.

Clerk to check if emergency funds can be used to carry out repair/maintenance on the War Memorial.

8. Finance and Compliance

Paid since last meeting

| Name | Goods or Service | Amount inc VAT | Approved |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Scofell | May & June grounds | £593.28 | ST/DC |
| S Coyle | May & June salary | £394.22 | ST/DC |
| BALC | NALC subscription | £130.14 | ST/DC |
| Kimcell Datacentre | Domain (for 2 years) | £150 | ST/DC |
| J Clack | Internal Audit | £90 | ST/DC |
| Unity Bank | Admin Fee | £18.00 | ST/DC |
| HMRC | Q1 P32 | £196.91 | ST/CT |
| Autela | Payroll service | £54.58 | ST/CT |

To be paid by next meeting

| Name | Goods or Service | Amount Inc VAT |
|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Wantage Bus | 20/21 & 22/23 donation | £100 |
| S Coyle | Jul & Aug salary | £394.22 |
| S Coyle | Expenses – Lebara topup | £5 |
| Scofell | July & August | £593.28 |
| WBC | Dog bins Apr 23 – Mar 24 1/4) | £295.75 |
| Datacenta | Email Storage | £60 |

Paid in since last meeting

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Unity Bank | Interest – Instant access a/c | £105.79 |
|------------|-------------------------------|---------|

Clerk confirmed the total in the current account at the end of July will be £1307.16 and the instant access Account £18948.58. The accounts are inline with the budget, the clerk reminded councillors that depending on the date the precept arrives in the account in September money may have to be moved across on a temporary basis to ensure all payments can be made.

Clerk will submit VAT claim for Oct 22 – July 23.

Clerk to remove CT from the bank account.

Clerk confirmed that the AGAR & public notification are on the website and notice boards.

Clerk is also awaiting confirmation from Tesco's as to how successful we were on our grant application to go towards the rubber chippings. ST will speak to EGA to see if they will also make a donation.

9. Jubilee Meadow

Clerk issued a template to record monthly playground & gym equipment inspections.

Clerk to contact Caloo to have the resistance tightened on both the seated rower and cross rider.

10. Village Maintenance & Millennium Field

The dog bins are filling up again and it appears that they are not being emptied on a weekly basis as per the latest agreement with WBC. Clerk to contact Caroline Booth to find out what is happening.

11. Community Speedwatch

(Still on hold due to ongoing works in the village – compound expected to be kept in place until mid September)

12. AOB

Meeting ended 8.55pm. Next meeting Thursday 31st August 2023 7pm

Signed

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31/8/23 Date