

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Sue Tulloch (ST) - Chair
Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Annabelle Eyre (AE), Deana Carpenter (DC), Liam Robson (LR)
and Peter Smith (PS)
Councillor Clive Hooker also in attendance (CH)

Clerk: Gillian Woodward (GW)

Meeting started at 7:00 pm

2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

3. **Minutes of last meeting:**

Councillors RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to confirm and adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2023.

4. **Questions/comments from members of the public.** No members of the public present.

Pat Glover (PG) from the **East Garston Eco Group** was present before the main council meeting to provide an update on environmental issues since the last meeting, the main points being:

1. The PC is in favour of an electric vehicle charging point(s) in the village. PG will ask WBC for advice following the experience of Kintbury PC.
2. The PC would like to trial a parcel locker in the village. PG to share the link to InShop, and the **Chair (ST) agreed to look into this.**
3. EGEG have a thermal camera available for loan. The Chair (ST) borrowed the camera.
4. LR expressed an interest in taking the Carbon Literacy training.
5. AE expressed an interest in the BBOWT training, if her time permits.

For information the following link relates to carbon literacy courses <https://saveourshropshire.org/parish-council-workshop>. £120 per person. The link to the parcels lockers is <https://inpost.co.uk/business/host-a-locker>

PG reported on the Berkshire Town and Parish Climate Forum explaining that there is a village hall energy scheme grant of up to approximately £10,000 available for upgrades to insulation, LED lights, windows and doors, solar panels, EV charging points and heating sources. PG agreed to look into this further. PG also reported back on the Biodiversity Duty and Biodiversity Net Gain implementation, and will continue to feed back information on this to the PC.

5. **Planning matters since last meeting:**

New Applications:

24/00032/FUL

The Sheiling, School Lane, East Garston

New application for changing small parcel of land into residential curtilage. PC submitted comment that they not making an official comment until outstanding matters re current refused permission and appeal have been resolved.

24/00176/TPC

Corn Baggers, Back Street, East Garston

Tree work to 5 different trees (4 to be felled and 1 pollarded)

PC has no objections.

24/00340/TPC

Penny Cottage, Front Street, East Garston

Reduce copper beech tree by 2m from 18m to 16m. Reduce rest of tree by 2m back to suitable growth points to maintain shape.

PC has no objections.

Signed



Page 1 of 4

Date

9/5/24

Decisions:

23/02895/HOUSE

Rear extension – larger kitchen/dining area

Permission granted

Spring Cottage, Front Street, East Garston

23/02896/LBC

Rear extension – larger kitchen/dining area

Permission granted

Spring Cottage, Front Street, East Garston

23/01963/HOUSE

Addition of first floor and two-storey extension to accommodation and tack/boot room.

PC recorded no objection August 2023 – delay with WBC before final approval 24/1/2024

Permission granted

Parsons Close Stables, East Garston

23/002809/HOUSE

Single storey rear extension, single storey front extension. Walls to the side and front. PV panels to timber framed garage.

Permission Granted.

9 Poughley Cotts, Woodlands St Mary

23/01765/HOUSE

Application withdrawn

Southview, Rogers Lane, East Garston

23/01221/FUL

Engineering operations in regard to the improvement of an existing access.

Retrospective permission granted.

An East Garston resident (March House) had copied the Clerk into an email to WBC wanting further clarification on why planning permission had been granted to Mabberley Stables re access. No more has been heard.

Mabberley Stables, Front St, East Garston

6. Receive Reports:

Councillor Hooker's recent newsletter can be found by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/downloadsparishcouncilreport>

Councillor Hooker reminded the PC that funding was available for village hall upkeep and to contact him if interested.

Chair's Report

- The significant sewage problems throughout the Lambourn Valley are well known. The villages of Great Shefford, East Garston, Eastbury, Lambourn and Upper Lambourn, all suffer from sewer flooding by groundwater infiltration, and all are in the catchment of the East Shefford Sewage Treatment Works. Many people, including the Lambourn Valley Flood Forum, have been trying for many years to get Thames Water to bring about some improvements. However, as the name suggests, the LVFF's main focus has been on flooding issues. It is now felt that a more concentrated and co-ordinated effort is needed to resolve sewage problems in the specific part of the Valley that ties in with TW's East Shefford STW Management Plan.

The Chairs of the Parish Councils of Great Shefford, East Garston, and Eastbury, Lambourn and Upper Lambourn, have formed a Sewage Action Group for the Upper Lambourn Valley. The prime objective is to secure clear sewers and a clean river, and the prime target is Thames Water. Martyn Wright of the EG Flood & Pollution Forum has agreed to chair the group, and will also be supported by the District Councillors, Clive Hooker and Howard Wollaston. A small number of committed individuals, with specific knowledge and experience from each parish, will be invited to join the group to gather evidence of sewage problems, in order to present the strongest possible case to TW, the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations. The group will keep everyone updated, and seek feedback as the campaign develops.

- Reinstatement work on the Millennium Field due to start on 1st April.
- Three village mothers had asked for some new play equipment. Existing play equipment coming to the end of its life. Predicted costs would be in region of £10-£15,000 so they are looking into fundraising incl approaching The Greenham Trust. EGPC can probably contribute from its CIL money or the Open Space Development Fund. Councillor Hooker mentioned the WBC option which is worth a try.

Signed



Page 2 of 4

Date

9/5/24

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/41046/Bidding-for-Community-Infrastructure-Levy-CIL-funds> and <https://greenhamtrust.com/>

- No success with contacting anyone from the British Legion for a speaker at the PC General meeting on April 18th. A suggestion was put forward about asking Karen Sperry to talk about her EG village house restoration works.

Action: Chair to contact.

- Front street verge – posts had been erected to prevent cars parking and eroding the verge.
- War memorial – Chair ran through a quote she had received for the remedial works. Councillor Hooker thought that the War Memorials Commission could pay for the work.

Action: Chair to investigate this before accepting the quote.

- East Garston Newsletter. It was agreed to accept the cost for 2024.

Action: Chair to give the go-ahead.

Clerk's Report

- The damaged dog bin had been fixed.
- The new Scofell grounds maintenance contract for 2024/25 agreed and signed off.
- It was agreed that last year's auditor should be contacted and asked to do the 2023/24 audit.

Action: Clerk to contact Jacqui Clack.

- The Emergency Plan was looked at and given the amount of work involved it was agreed to look at this before the next meeting.
- The blocked drain had been looked at and fixed.
- The fly tipping problem had been reported and fixed by reporting online to WBC.

7. Finance and Compliance:

The Clerk (GW) presented the figures for the period since the last meeting.

a) Payments and Receipts

1. Paid since last meeting:

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT	Approved
Tactical	Dog bins – December	81.60	ST/DC
HMRC Q3	PAYE tax	147.80	ST/DC
G Woodward Expenses	Copy paper/ink cartridges/file dividers	29.73	ST/DC
Autela Payroll Services	Payroll Q3	54.58	ST/DC
S Tulloch	Expenses – grit	213.90	ST/DC
J Rabbitts	Expenses – sand	55.07	ST/DC
G Woodward	Clerk salary – Jan 2024		ST/DC
Tactical	Dog bins – January	102.00	ST/DC
Caloo	Fixing gym equipment	294.00	ST/DC
G Woodward	Clerk salary – Feb 2024		ST/DC
	Total (incl Clerk's salary)	1413.50	

2. To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount Inc VAT
Tactical	Dog bins - February	81.60
WBC (credit note finally issued and small balance remaining)	Grounds maintenance	34.98

b) 2024/25 Draft Budget

The 2024/25 was formally accepted and signed off.

8. Jubilee Meadow

Caloo had fixed the damaged piece of equipment and their invoice paid.

Signed



Page 3 of 4

Date

9/5/25

AE gave the Clerk her completed routine inspection site check form. The Chest Fly is showing signs of age so will be monitored over the coming months to see if it needs attention.

9. Millennium Field

Nothing to report other than a problem with the salt bin lid opening in gusty winds.

Action: PS agreed to have a look and report back.

10. Community Speedwatch

Agreed to look for dates in April or May.

Action: Chair to contact Cheryl Evans at WBC for her to let the PC know available dates.

11. Any Other business

JR asked if someone could write up a few notes from the Feb 23rd meeting with Laura Farris MP for the Village Views. Ongoing problems with sewage pollution were discussed in the meeting and Laura Farris then hosted a surgery to discuss a wide range of topics including flooding, speeding along local roads, planning and farming/countryside issues.

Action: Chair agreed to do this.

The Chair asked if it would be a good idea to have a list of people who undertake regular jobs in the village so that everyone knows who might be available to help when needed.

Action: Chair and JR will discuss how best to do this.

The Chair reminded the meeting that she had mentioned in the election in 2023 that she intended stepping down as Chair at the May 2024 meeting. She confirmed that she was happy to stay on as a parish councillor and remain as the PC's representative at the Lambourn Valley Flood form (LVFF). She asked if the other councillors could be thinking about her successor.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

There was no other business.

Next Meeting: Annual General meeting on Thursday April 18th 2024 at 7pm

Signed



Page 4 of 4

Date 9/5/24