

A Bimonthly meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held as a virtual meeting on Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Present: - Sue Tulloch (ST) -Chair, Councillors: - Jonathan Rabbitts (JR), Chris Tonge (CT), Annabelle (AE), Deana Carpenter (DC), Clerk: Alison Blackmore (Clerk), Sonia Coyle (SC). Apologies: Clive Hooker
2. Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest
3. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman- The sad death of Chairman David Ruse had necessitated an election of officers. ST was proposed as Chairman by CT, seconded by AE. Elected. DC was proposed as Vice Chairman by CT, seconded by ST. Elected. Clerk to arrange signature of declaration of acceptance of office as Chairman by ST. ST took over as Chair of the meeting. Clerk reported that there was now a casual vacancy on the Council. Clerk to put up Notice of Casual Vacancy & advise the returning officer at West Berks Council
4. Minutes of Bimonthly meeting held on 2nd September 2020 – were read and signed as correct. Approved CT seconded AE
5. Matters Arising: -
 - a. Overgrown trees on Front Street. Clerk to report to West Berks Council
6. Finance and Compliance : -

Clerk had emailed to Councillors all detailed papers ahead of the meeting.

a. Payments since last meeting

Payments & receipts Name	Goods or Service	Amount inc VAT	Approved
Scofell	Mowing	£504.00	DC DR
Wilkens Kennedy	Payroll	£300.16	DC DR
EG Over 60s club	Community Grant	£350.00	DC DR
E Mango	Annual Service charge	£460.80	DC DR
ICO	Domain registration	£35.00	
West Berks Council	Library contribution	£528.00	DC DR
E Mango	E-mail addresses	£60.00	DC DR

b. To be paid by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount inc VAT
Scofell	Mowing	£252.00
AZETS	Payroll	£855.00
Caloo	Outdoor Gym Maintenance	£474.00
Aasvogel	2 skips	£998.40
PJS	Salt bin repair	£180.00
EG Village Hall	Community Grants	£499.00
PCC	Churchyard Maintenance	£200.00
EG Village Hall	Community Broadband	£200.00
Clerk	Wreath	£20.00

c. Received since last meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount inc VAT
West Berks Council	Precept	£4,500
Greenham Trust	Grants/donations new swing	£550
West Berks Council	CIL – Jimmies Farm	£2,061.54

d. To be received by next meeting

Name	Goods or Service	Amount inc VAT
N/A		

Clerk advised that receipts included a further CIL payment bringing the total received this year to over £6,000. Clerk to forward to Councillors the criteria for using CIL funds. Grants/donations to date towards the new swing totalled £550 and news of the Greenham Trust grant round in mid November was awaited. Clerk reported that finances were healthy with funds of £27,725, although some of these had restricted uses. There were no significant variances from budget to report to date. A review of the budget for the remainder of the year indicated there was likely to be a small overspend due to additional salary costs. Councillors approved the payments for Churchyard maintenance, £200 & Community broadband, £200.

- e. Standing orders – Clerk reported that she & DC had reviewed the first draft new standing orders and went through each of the proposed changes all of which were approved. It was further agreed to move the day of Council meetings from Wednesday to Thursday for future meetings commencing with the January 2021 meeting. Clerk to draft policy for GDPR breach in accordance with new standing orders. Approved CT, seconded AE.
- f. New Clerk – Clerk was please to confirm Sonia Coyle as the new clerk and confirmed a handover date of Saturday 7th November.
7. Emergency co-ordination & coronavirus response:- CT reported that matters had quietened down with regard to the Coronavirus response. In the light of the new restrictions in place from 5th November CT to put volunteers on standby although restriction were less restrictive than before. DC and Danny Carpenter were thanked for their efforts on medicine pick ups.
8. Planning Status:-
 - a. Clerk reported on applications since the last meeting
 - Foxdene College Way – no objections
 - Chalkpit Cottages Poughley – no objections. Subsequently the design had been reduced to a less subservient form
 - Mabbereys Stables – objection
 - b. Great Shefford Farm Shop – clerk had drafted a letter to West Berks Council raising concerns about this proposal with regard to the threat to the livelihood of local business and the PO & the traffic implications. Approved.
9. Jubilee Meadow:-
 - a. DC reported that Caloo had carried out the inspection of the playground equipment. There was some wear & tear & repainting which had all been carried out under the contract.
10. Village Maintenance & Millennium Field :- CT to chase up replacing the post on the gate into Millennium Field. JR & CT to cut back the trees in Millennium Field at the back of College Way. Agreed to place the Dog waste bag station by Middle bridge. The request from a group of individuals to use the football pitch for the Newbury Sunday League was discussed. Agreed not to proceed due to the lack of facilities available, issues with the pitch & potential restriction on use for villagers. JR reported that 2 salt bins lids were being trialled with magnetic lids.
11. Volunteers:- CT reported that 20 people had taken part in the Village clean up. In future it was agreed to put a piece on the website to ensure weekly recyclable items were not put in the skips. Agreed to have a skip next Spring. CT & JR had cleared the drain at the bottom of School Lane although this may need further work. CT reported there were a few other jobs for volunteers around the village at present. There were some overhanging branches in the village & hedges that need some attention, if allowed under Covid rules.
12. Speedwatch:- Cheryl Evans, Senior Road Safety Officer at West Berks Council joined the meeting and provided an update on the results so far from the SID machine and the pros and cons of its use. Agreed to wait for the results of the final trial before deciding on a course of action.
13. Sewage/River flooding:- CT reported that he had met with Thames Water in the village and shown them the key trigger points. Thames Water have a works programme for the winter to seal the brickwork in the man holes & to line further of 40 metres of sewer pipes in Front St.
14. Parish Plan review: – ST had contacted the Community Hub for example statements and West Berks Council with regard to funding for consultants to assist with the village design statement. ST to report back at the January meeting.
15. Parish Clerk Report :- Clerk reported as follows
 - A request from MP Laura Farris to attend a Council meeting had been received. Agreed to ask her to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2021
 - An advisory note regarding fireworks and the risk to thatched properties had been put up on the website
 - A condolence note had been received from Chaddleworth Parish Council on the passing of David Ruse
16. Any other business:-
There was no other business

Meeting ended – 8.50 p.m. Next meeting – Thursday 7th January 2021 at 7.00pm

Sue Trench
Sue Trench Chairman