

**The Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on
Thursday 10th July 2025 at 7.00pm**

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Councillors – Stephen Reschwamm (SR/Chair), Deana Carpenter (Vice-chair/DC), Annabelle Eyre (AE), Liam Robson (LR), Sue Tulloch (ST), Liz James (Clerk), Cllr Clive Hooker

Apologies: Jonathan Rabbits (JR)

2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2025 were unanimously confirmed and adopted.

4. **Questions/comments from members of the public:**

Pat Glover (PG) reported on the West Berkshire Town and Parish Climate Forum on 25th June. There is an opportunity for Town and Parish Councils to work with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, and their Cosier Homes Advice Centre. They also had information on the Environmental Strategy Refresh, the Warmer Homes Local Grant, and Solar Together. More information is available from their online [Green Hub](#), or by signing up to their monthly [Environment Newsletter](#). As part of a six-month trial (starting in July 2025), local community groups and individuals are invited to attend the West Berkshire Town and Parish Climate Forum. If you would like to be added to the distribution list for the meeting invites or have any questions, please email environment@westberks.gov.uk.

Action: Clerk to check for email from Jo Watt regarding the Cosier Homes initiative.

The heat pump in the Social Club has been installed and is working well. This could be a useful community resource during hot weather, as well as being a clean and efficient heating system in winter.

The saplings planted by Thames Water in the Millennium Field a few months ago have not survived. Replacement trees may be available from Greenham Trust, but it may be better to wait till the soil is in better condition before any more planting.

Action: Clerk to make a note to add Greenham Trust Tree application to relevant agenda in 2026 should the trust run the scheme again next year.


PG has recently been accredited to deliver [Carbon Literacy](#) training, and has offered to deliver the 8 hour course (over 3 workshops) free of charge for a limited time only. Please email drwatson.eco@gmail.com for more information.

Henry Wilson (HW) reported that e-mango are ready to go with the new website launch and the council unanimously agreed that he should proceed. Photographs of the village are needed for the page headers, ST suggested that Emily and Matthew Clayton are both keen photographers.

Action: ST to contact Emily Clayton to see if she is interested in providing some suitable photography.

HW also raised the road along Hillside which is in a poor state of repair. Three small patches have been repaired but numerous potholes remain untouched. He suggested to the council that the whole stretch of the Lambourn-bound side of the road need resurfacing from the junction with Humphrey's Lane to the end of the houses. Cllr Hooker recommended raising this with WBC.

Action: SR to photograph the stretch of road, Clerk to submit photograph and map to WBC.

Signed: 

Date: 11/9/25

HW also raised the decision by West Berk's Libraries to withdraw Passreader which allows library users to download online copies of numerous newspapers and magazines. Cllr Hooker recommended that this should be raised with Nigel Foot at WBC.

Action: HW to contact Cllr Hooker and Nigel Foot to raise his concerns.

5. Planning Information since the last meeting:

NEW:	
25/01097/HOUSE	6 Burfords, East Garston, Hungerford, RG17 7HL Rendering of existing brick elevation and erection of shed/garden room located to the side of the property.
25/01054/HOUSE	Muchmore, Front Street, East Garston, RG17 7EU Addition of a new dormer and window alterations. <i>The Parish Council has no objections to these plans – consultee comment logged with WBC 08/06/25</i>
25/01152/FULMAJ	Manor Farm, Station Road, East Garston, RG17 7HF Part retrospective: Use of buildings A and B for ancillary residential use, ancillary to Manor Farm House. <i>The Parish Council has no objections to these plans – consultee comment logged with WBC</i>
PENDING:	
24/01651/FUL	2 Burfords, East Garston RG17 7HL Replacement dwelling. <i>Revised plans were reviewed at the PC meeting of 13th March, objections were lodged with WBC</i>
DECISIONS:	

6 Burfords: The Council discussed the proposed plans and had no objections.

Action: Clerk to add consultee comments on Planning Portal before the deadline

2 Burfords: The Council received notification on 10/07/25 that the Planning Committee will be visiting the site at 10am on 17/07/25. DC raised the fact that the council's updated objection to the revised plans have still not been made available on the planning website.

Action: DC to attend the site visit alongside the Planning Committee. Clerk to contact the Planning Department to note that the updated objection has not been added to the application.

6. **Receive reports:**

District Cllr Clive Hooker updated the council on various issues including the proposed Ridgeway Council, and potential impact devolution of services may have on Parish Councils and Parish Meetings. Cllr Hooker's most recent report can be found here:

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


Chairman's Report:

a/b) SR commented on the proposed Ridgeway Council plans, and potential devolution of services.

At present it is too early to give a definitive comment on these plans, council will continue to monitor.

Action: SR to attend upcoming Community Forum on Local Government Re-organisation and Devolution on 15th July.

c) SR informed the council that a request has been made to provide parking on Millenium Field for a charity darts event on 26th July. Those present had no objections to this but suggested that parking should be at the top end of the field.

Signed: 

Date: 11/9/25

Action: ST to check access code. Clerk to email event organiser with instructions for gaining access.

- d) West Berkshire Museum has approached the council seeking a donation towards the acquisition of a hoard of Iron Age staters originally found in East Garston. The council were unanimous that there are no funds available for a donation at this time.

Action: Clerk to respond to the request explaining that the council is unable to contribute.

Clerk's Report:

- a) Clerk reported that the bank account has been updated and that SR is now able to authorise payments alongside DC.
- b) Application has been made for two 'speedwatch' sites along Newbury Road, waiting for police authorisation.
Action: Speedwatch representatives on the council (SR/ST) can now start recruiting volunteers for the community speedwatch group.
- c) To ensure compliance, the PC email address has been updated to clerk@eastgarston-pc.gov.uk For the time being emails from the old address will be forwarded.
Action: Clerk to update various organisations/suppliers of the change.
- d) Clerk reported that Ailsa's Walks and Talks is unfortunately not available for the APM next year. Council agreed that she should be considered for future APMs.
- e) Clerk reported that payment to Caloo for the new infant playground equipment is being withheld whilst we wait for them to make-good the ground around the equipment. ST is liaising with Caloo.

The Junior equipment is in a bad state of repair. Contact has been made with Fieldwork Rest and Play who installed the equipment in 2003 and they can be available to carry out a service in September. The Council was unanimous that a service of the equipment is much needed.

Action: Clerk to contact FWRP to arrange service.


- f) An invoice has been received from X-Net for email forwarding for 2023-24. It was agreed to pay this invoice. Clerk reported that email forwarding should not be needed now that the email address is in use by the council. Clerk also reported that a duplicate payment of £125 has been made in error to X-net for the domain name renewal. Clerk has requested that this is refunded and is awaiting confirmation.

Action: Clerk to arrange for a EGN@eastgarston-pc.gov.uk address to be created.

7. Finance and Compliance:

- a) Payments & receipts
Payments since the previous meeting:

Name	Goods/Service	Amount Incl VAT	Approved
Scofell	Grounds Maintenance April	320.81	DC/ST
Zurich	Insurance 2025-2026	436.09	DC/ST
E James	Clerk's expenses – stationary	22.77	DC/ST
E James	McAfee 2 year subscription	165.99	DC/ST
E James	Microsoft subscription	79.99	DC/ST
E James	Salary – May	271.61	DC/ST
Unity Bank	Service Charge	6.00	DC/ST
Tactical Facilities	Dog waste – May	88.40	DC/ST
Scofell	Grounds Maintenance May	320.81	DC/ST
E James	Salary – June	271.61	DC/ST
Unity Bank	Service Charge	6.00	DC/ST

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X-net	Domain hosting 2025-2027	150.00	DC/ST
Tactical Facilities	Dog waste – June	88.40	DC/ST
Scofell	Grounds Maintenance June	320.81	DC/ST
X-net	Duplicate payment	125.00	
	TOTAL	£2674.29	

b) To

be paid before the next meeting:

X-Net	Email forwarding 2023-2024	20.00
Caloo	Toddler Playground	12000.00

c) *Received since the previous meeting:*

EGA	Toddler playground contribution	1500.00
Greenham Trust	Playground Grant	2000.00
	TOTAL	£3500

d) *Bank balances:*

Current Account	£ 9,919.66
Deposit Account	£ 15,405.93
TOTAL	£ 25,325.59

Funds breakdown:

General Fund	£ 3,795.50	
Special & Emergencies	£6,000.00	frozen
CIL Fund	£1,205.47	
Open Space Dev.	£3,934.36	
Defib. Fund	£390.26	
Playground Equipment	£10,000	

8. **Phone Box:** LR reported that he has tidied up the phone box and assessed ahead of renovation. Council unanimously agreed that funds should be made available for renovations.

Action: DC to arrange for wood at bottom of door to be replaced. LR to make list of renovation supplies. SR to arrange for purchase of supplies.

9. **Jubilee Meadow** JR met with Mark Rogers and Trevor Cripps to assess the trees. They will meet again in the Autumn to arrange a quotation for discussion.

10. **Village Maintenance & Millenium Field – JR**

ST reported that Scofell haven't been mowing the area in Millenium Field re-seeded by Thames Water.

Action: Clerk to contact Scofell to see why this area is not being mown.

There is an issue with long grass around edges of field/benches.

Action: SR volunteered to use the PC strimmer to strim these areas.

11. **Any other business:** Greenham Trust has just relaunched it's Free Trees initiative. It was felt that the ground in Millenium Field needs longer to recover from the Thames Water works but council will consider an application should Greenham Trust run the scheme again next year.

The meeting was concluded at 8.30pm

Signed: 

Date: 11/9/25