

A Meeting of East Garston Parish Council of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Friends Meeting House
Children's Room
on Wednesday 5th January 2011 at 6 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Present:- Jonathan Rabbitts (JR) - Chairman, Brian Cowan (BC), Chris Tonge (CT), Monica Eyre (ME) and Alan Breadmore – Clerk. Apologies:- Peter Smith (PS). Parishioners present:- David Bell
2. Minutes of bi monthly meeting held 3rd November 2010 – were read and signed as correct
3. Matters Arising –
 - a. Salt bin licence application submitted, Clerk will order as soon as approval received.
 - b. CT and BC are now “qualified” SID operators, ID badges issued.
 - c. Reseeding quotes for Millennium Field outstanding due to weather
 - d. JR indicated that Village Hall trustees likely to approach PC re financial assistance for shop security.
4. The Minutes of the Planning Decisions made 24th November and 15th December were read and signed as correct.
5. Matters Arising – Councillors noted that there seems to be a delay in posting fluorescent planning notices – Clerk to draw WBC attention to this.
6. Finance
 - a. Paid since last meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount
Ken Tarbox	Website Maintenance	£40
Scofell Landscapes	Mowing	£211
CPRE	Subscription	£29
PJS	Skip and oil	£115
East Garston Preparative	Meeting Room Hire	£60
East Garston PCC	Churchyard Maintenance	£200
Alan Breadmore	Clerk Salary and expenses	£250

- b. To be paid by next meeting:

Name	Goods or service	Amount
Ken Tarbox	Website Maintenance	£40
Cripps Fencing Services	Emergency Tree Felling	£59
Willis Aggregates	Grit Bins	£200
??	Open Space Gate and Fencing	£500

- c. Received since last meeting

Name	Goods or service	Amount
HMRC	VAT rebate	£2037

- d. To be received by next meeting: None
- e. The November and December Current Account bank statements were reconciled to the cash book and signed by the chairman.
7. Budget for 2011/12 – The clerk outlined the current financial state and explained expenditure was at similar level to previous year. This would enable the allocation of £1000 to the Special and Emergencies Fund. This was approved. Proposed CT - seconded BC. The end of financial year balance in the general fund was forecast to be within audit guidelines. Budget for next FY was outlined with two key differences to this year highlighted. Election expenses (up to £700) and the final repayment of the PWLB loan. Without new projects this could lead to a surplus of approximately £1000 in next FY. Clerk suggested consideration of grant award system to local bodies under S137 powers. He was asked to investigate how this might work. Clerk highlighted that grants from central and district government are likely to dry up and that the PC should not rely upon receiving these at previous levels. Councillors debated and concluded to freeze the precept at £9000. Proposed BC – seconded ME.
8. Performance Review of Clerk - as required, an annual review of the Clerk's performance was held. He was thanked for his services and the contract reaffirmed at NJC SCP 21. (Proposed JR, seconded CT).
9. Annual Parish Meeting – the date of the Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as 12th April. A discussion was held regarding “guest” speakers. Clerk to investigate speaker from CPRE re “the demise of village life”. Clerk to invite speaker from Alzheimer's Society re Lambourn Valley project.
10. Planning Status
 - a. Stable Court, Poughley – pending
 - b. 6 School Lane - pending
 - c. 12 College Way – revised – pending
 - d. Parking restrictions – no objections received – likely to be implemented March/April
11. Correspondence –
 - a. District/Parish event – re Flooding – CT and JR to attend – Clerk to register
 - b. PC Election and national referendum almost certain to be 5th May pending government bill.
 - c. Acknowledgement and thanks received from PCC for grant
12. Playground Safety – Clerk confirmed that East Garston Amenities were progressing with safety modifications to the play equipment and councillors agreed to inspect and fix any issues with fencing and gates to ensure all was well before April safety inspection. A budget of up to £500 was agreed for this work Proposed JR – seconded BC.
13. Any Other Business.
 - a. Councillors to inspect fencing at edge of VH car park – potential hazard with children jumping on to road.

Meeting ended – 7.15 p.m. Next meeting – Wednesday 2nd March 2011 at 6pm