

Your Parish Council



As the current Chairman of East Garston Parish Council, I am pleased to provide you with this updated guide to your Parish Council. This document aims to provide you with an insight into the work of the Parish Council whilst at the same time encouraging you to participate in the work and play of the community.

Parish Council elections were held in May. For East Garston this was really a non-event since we had only four nominations for the six vacancies. However, I am pleased to say that two new councillors have been co-opted onto the council whom I am sure will bring fresh ideas to the management of our community. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Jane and Sue. At the same time I would like to thank Peter Smith, who stood down at the election, for his past service to the Parish Council.

We are all aware of the “cutbacks” in government funding and we therefore expect that we may have to become less dependent upon discretionary grants and support from West Berkshire Council. However this comes at a time when the Parish Council will have some extra funds available since we will have finished paying off the loan to purchase the Open Space during this year. Councillors will be looking at ways of using this money to the benefit of the community and would welcome ideas from any parishioners or community groups on this matter.

We are very proud of our beautiful village which to a great extent is due to the work of a few stalwart parishioners. This is however becoming increasingly difficult to maintain and there are areas where just a few man hours a week of effort would transform some of the more neglected areas. If you can spare just an hour or so of your time, please contact me or any councillor so that we can co-ordinate the work. And finally don't forget that the Parish Councillors are always willing to listen to your ideas for making East Garston an even better place to live – feel free to contact them.

Jonathan Rabbitts
Chairman, East Garston Parish Council
July 2011



About Your Parish Council

The Civil Parish of East Garston is a long narrow Parish of about 4,500 acres bordering South Fawley in the North and including Poughley in the South and bounded by Maidencourt and Coldborough farms to the East and West. The population has been fairly static for some years at around 550 people in 240 households.

East Garston Parish Council is one of more than 9,000 Town and Parish Councils in England that form the tier of local government closest to the people. By statute, Parish Councils have limited duties and a range of powers that enable them to fulfil those duties. In general terms the functions of the Council are:

- To exercise those statutory powers and those that may be delegated by West Berkshire Council.
- To protect, enhance and promote the environment of the Parish.
- To protect, enhance and promote the collective interests and well-being of the residents of the Parish.
- To make representations to West Berkshire Council and any other Statutory Body or Public Utility on matters affecting the residents of the Parish.

In real terms, this means that the Parish Council has direct responsibilities for local amenities including open spaces, recreational facilities and footpaths and has a consultative role on matters such as Planning and Highways.

The Parish Council comprises 6 elected Councillors who are elected every 4 years. At the May 2011 election only four nominations were received and thus these were elected unopposed. In accordance with regulations two additional members were co-opted. Councillors receive no payment for serving on the Parish Council but may claim for expenses incurred in the course of their duties. None of the current Councillors claim such expenses.

The Parish Council has one paid employee, the Clerk. The Clerk is the formal “gateway” to the Council and has a key role in advising the Council and individual Councillors, on statute, governance and ethical matters and liaises with West Berkshire Council on these matters. He is also the “Proper Officer” of the Council responsible for statutory notices and maintaining financial processes and records.

Meetings of the Parish Council are held bi-monthly (January, March etc.) in the Children's Room of the Friends Meeting House, Back Street. They normally take place on a Wednesday evening in the first week of the month at 6pm in the winter and 7pm in the summer. At least three days before any meeting of the Council or its sub-committees, notice will be posted on the Village Notice Board at the junction of Back Street and College Way and every effort will be made to ensure copies appear in other prominent positions in the Parish including the website www.east-garston.com








Planning sub-committee meetings are held as required and meeting notices are posted as for the bi-monthly meetings.

Members of the public are entitled to attend all meetings of the Council or its sub-committees. However if they wish to make representations to the Council, this must be requested in writing to the Clerk at least five days prior to the meeting and must be relevant to an agenda item or at the discretion of the Chairman. From time to time the Chairman may deem, due to the nature of the business to be transacted, that it would be advisable in the public interest for the public to be excluded; in which case they will be asked to temporarily withdraw.

Relevant documents to an agenda item may be inspected by appointment with the Clerk.

An Annual Parish Meeting is normally held in April and notice is posted as for normal Council Meetings.

Meet Your Parish Council

	<p>Jonathan Rabbitts Chairman</p>	<p>Jonathan has lived and farmed in the immediate locality virtually all of his life. He is married to Joanne and they have 2 children. Driving through and around East Garston everyday he can keep up with what is happening in the village and feels well placed to lend assistance should any problems arise. As a Parish Councillor and current Chairman he likes to think he can keep and maintain all that is good in our village for future generations.</p>
	<p>Brian Cowan Vice Chairman</p>	<p>Brian and his wife Grace have lived in the village for 13 years. Brian is a graduate chemist. He was the Managing Director of the UK subsidiary of a Danish biotechnology company prior to his retirement. His interests are golf, travel, rugby and walking his dogs.</p>
	<p>Monica Eyre Councillor</p>	<p>Monica and her family moved to the village 23 years ago. Sadly her husband, James, died in 2003 and is buried in All Saints' churchyard. The kindness of villagers at that time has meant much to Monica's family. She has been on the Parish Council for many years and is a past chairman and is a trustee of the Village Hall. Monica is fanatical about racing and enjoys music, bridge and walking her wire haired dachshunds and caring for her 2 grandchildren.</p>
	<p>Chris Tonge Councillor</p>	<p>Chris first came to the village in 1959 to work. He met Dawn in 1963 and they married in the parish church in 1965. They moved away but returned in 1979 to run the shop and post office until 2006 when they retired. He has served on the Parish Council for 30 years and has been Chairman several times. He has two children, a son who lives in the village and daughter who also lives locally.</p>
	<p>Jane Haddock Councillor</p>	<p>A newcomer to the village, Jane settled in East Garston with her husband Mark in 2009 after living and working in the USA for Intel. Having been brought up in a local shop and post office in Old Town, Swindon she understands the importance of community and relishes the opportunity to make a difference in her own. You'll find Jane most mornings and evenings in pink wellies walking Mack their Chocolate Labrador.</p>
	<p>Sue Tulloch Councillor</p>	<p>Sue moved to the village from London in 2003 with her husband Freddie. She helps to run an Events and Corporate Hospitality business in the village and works with Freddie on the farm and shoot. They have four children, 2 boys & 2 girls, the last 3 born here & christened at All Saints Church. She is a trustee of the Village Hall. Sue loves running, particularly around the beautiful countryside of East Garston; she also loves to cook and to play golf – badly!</p>
	<p>Alan Breadmore Clerk</p>	<p>Alan is married to Jackie and has two adult sons who grew up in the village and now also has two grand-daughters. He has lived in the village for nearly 25 years and is retired from a career in international sales and administration management in the IT industry. He is now pleased to be able to apply his commercial skills to benefit the community. His other interests include walking, travel, scuba diving and cricket.</p>

Contact Your Councillors

Jonathan Rabbitts Chairman	Tel: 01488 648736 Email: lornehillquilts@yahoo.co.uk
Brian Cowan Vice Chairman	Tel: 01488 648120 Email: brian_cowan@hotmail.com
Chris Tonge Councillor	Tel: 01488 648370 e-mail: dawntonge@btinternet.com
Monica Eyre Councillor	Tel: 01488 648238
Jane Haddock Councillor	Tel: 01488 648828 Email: janeabroad@yahoo.com
Sue Tulloch Councillor	Tel: 01488 649590 Email: SueTulloch@sportingagenda.co.uk

All formal communications with the Parish Council should be through the Clerk.
Provisional Meeting Dates for 2011-12

Alan Breadmore
Clerk to East Garston Parish Council
Lime Tree Cottage
Back Street
East Garston
Hungerford
Berks
RG17 7EY
Tel: 01488 648851
Email: egpc@breadmore.me.uk

7th September 2011 - bimonthly - 7pm
2nd November 2011 - bimonthly - 6pm
4th January 2012 - bimonthly - 6pm
7th March 2012 - AGM - 6pm
2nd May 2012 - bimonthly - 7pm
4th July 2012 - bimonthly - 7pm
5th September 2012 - bimonthly - 7pm
7th November 2012 - bimonthly - 6pm

Further Information

If you would like further information about the Parish or Parish Council please contact the Clerk or visit www.east-garston.com

