The Bi-Monthly Meeting of East Garston Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Councillors – Stephen Reschwamm (Chair/SR), Deana Carpenter (Vice-chair/DC), Sue Tulloch (ST), Annabelle Eyre (AE), Hamish Riddoch (HR)
   Liz James (Clerk), Cllr Clive Hooker
   Parishioners: Pat Glover, Henry Wilson

   Apologies: Jonathan Rabbitts (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 14th May 2026 were unanimously confirmed and adopted.

4. **Questions/comments from members of the public:**
   Henry Wilson (HW) provided an update on the website revamp. The new site should be launched in 2 weeks time. HW will have access to the old website as archive. Significant events such as the Queen's Jubilee will transfer to the new site, others will be held in archive.

   Action: Clerk to ask Ed James for an update on Village Hall / Social Club section. PG to provide EGEG update.
   Action: Clerk to ask for notice in EGN re photographs. PC to have a stall at Summer Fete, manned by HW. EGN to have a sign-up sheet for EGN at stall.

   Pat Glover (PG) of East Garston Eco Group (EGEG) reported that the WBC Community Climate Forum on 3rd June had a presentation about WBC's Environment Strategy Annual Report. PG and Hungerford Environmental Action Team have a meeting planned with WBC about their proposed use of solar generation to offset their operational carbon emissions.

   WBC promoted the Switch Together scheme for solar panels and batteries. The deadline for registration is 24 July. There was a discussion on the need for planning permission for solar panels. https://www.westberks.gov.uk/switch-together.

   The WBC Community Climate Forum on 8th July had a presentation on Carbon Literacy by PG.

   PG asked if the PC would show the Public Emergency Briefing film. SR agreed to co-facilitate a screening later in the summer, and offered to approach the EG Film Society to see if they may be interested in this.

   Action: SR to arrange screening later in the summer/early Autumn & to contact EG Film Society.

5. Planning Information since the last meeting:

NEW:	
26/01321/HOUSE	**14 College Way, East Garston, Hungerford, RG17 7EP** Erection of a two-storey side extension with rooflights and single storey rear extension with rooflights, including a front dormer window and associated Internal alterations. **Consultation deadline 14th July – The PC has no objections to this application**

Signed: SR Date: 10/9/26

26/01337/TELE28	**Telecommunications Mast at Shefford Woodlands** Notification under Regulation 5 of the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 (as amended) to utilise permitted development rights (Class A of Part 16 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).
PENDING:	
25/02651/FULMAJ	**Manor Farm Station Road East Garston Hungerford RG17 7HF** Section 73 application to vary conditions 2 (Approved Plans) 3 (Materials) 4 (Soft and Hard Landscaping) and 5 (Lighting Assessment) of approved Application Reference Number: 25/01152/FULMAJ **Awaiting decision**
25/02765/FULMAJ	**Manor Farm, Station Road, East Garston, Hungerford RG17 7HF** Conversion of an agricultural barn to equestrian use, replacement stable building and formation of horse walker and menage together with associated works and landscaping. **Awaiting decision**
25/02412/FUL	**P J S Agricultural Services Ltd Back Street East Garston Hungerford** Full planning permission for the demolition of the existing industrial buildings and replacement with four new residential dwellings, together with parking, landscaping and any other associated works and infrastructure. **Awaiting decision**
DECISIONS:	
26/00803/LBC	**College House Front Street East Garston Hungerford RG17 7HJ** Replace existing plastic-coated metal casement double glazed units, which sit in soft wood frames, with bespoke treated timber casements on front elevation. New double-glazed 1st floor casements will have glazing bars to be more in keeping with the property. **Approved with conditions**
26/00785/HOUSE	**East Garston House Front Street East Garston Hungerford RG17 7EU** External alterations to existing house; including 2 no. dormer windows, 1 no. roof light and new portico. Section 73 application to vary Condition (2) Approved Plans of planning permission 25/01854/HOUSE. **Approved with conditions**

Action: Clerk to upload comments on Planning Portal re. 14 College Way

6. **Receive reports:**

District Cllr Clive Hooker updated the council members on recent meetings he has had regarding planning. He has been to look at Greengates and is impressed with the quality of the build. He also reported on the recent road closure on Newbury Road and the issue with signage, hopefully the situation will be fully remedied over coming days. Thanks were given to Penny Post for efforts on keeping villagers updated on the situation.

His most recent report can be accessed here:
https://www.westberks.gov.uk/downlandsparishcouncilreport

Signed: SL Date: 10/9/2026

Chairman's Report: SR reported that most of his updates have been covered by Cllr Hooker. He raised the issue of the temporary bus routes in place, the council discussed the potential disruption to school bus service. SR will arrange a working party to remove nettles in Jubilee Meadow ahead of the Village Fete.

Action: Cllr Hooker to raise the school bus issue at WBC

Clerk's Report: Emergency Plan has been updated. Flood Policy from 2015 has been partially updated, Clerk asked HR to provide his expertise with this. Two new bus shelters have been requested through the WBC bus shelter grant, the next step is to liaise with contractors for assessment/quotation – Clerk has notified WBC of the potential difficulty caused by current Thames Water works on the Newbury Road and is awaiting response. PJS have provided a quotation for repairs to the Memorial Railings. An alternative provider has been found for playground rubber chippings.

Action: Clerk to send updated Emergency Plan to HW for website.
Action: HR to update Flood Policy
Action: Clerk to arrange for bus shelter assessment/quotations
Action: Clerk to contact War Memorial Trust to see if they can help with repairs. Clerk to accept the PJS quotation for works.
Action: Clerk to arrange Rubber Chippings order – to be paid from CIL funds

7. **Finance and Compliance:**
   a) Payments & receipts
   Payments since the previous meeting:

Name	Goods/Service	Amount incl VAT	Approved
Zurich	Insurance	500.00	SR/DC
E James	Salary - May	310.25	SR/DC
Unity Bank	Service Charge	7.00	
Goodman&Goodman	Hedgecutting	120.00	SR/DC
Scofell	Grounds Maintenance – May	320.81	SR/DC
E James	Salary – June	310.25	SR/DC
Shield Maintenance	Dog Bins – May	78.00	SR/DC
Unity Bank	Service Charge	7.00	
Scofell	Grounds Maintenance – June	320.81	SR/DC
E James	Phonebox replacement windowpane	16.56	SR/DC
Shield Maintenance	Dog Bins – June	78.00	SR/DC
	TOTAL	**£2068.68**	

Received since the previous meeting:

	TOTAL	**£0.00**

Upcoming expenses:

E James		310.81
Play Bark		439.99
Shield Maintenance		78.00
Scofell		320.81
	TOTAL	**£1,149.61**

Signed: SR Date: 10/9/2026

Bank balances:

Current Account	£ 4,534.37
Deposit Account	£ 17,260.52
TOTAL	**£ 21,794.89**

Funds breakdown:

General Fund	£ 5,636.42	
Special & Emergencies	£ 6,000.00	*frozen*
CIL Fund	£ 5,833.85	
Open Space Dev.	£ 3,934.36	
Defib. Fund	£ 390.26	

8. **West Berkshire Local Plan:** The PC discussed the West Berkshire Local Plan, which is under review, along with a potential EG Local Plan.

   Action: Clerk to find a copy of the previous EG Local Plan for distribution

9. **Thames Water Pipe Replacement Work:** This was discussed with Cllr Hooker earlier in the meeting.

10. **Jubilee Meadow & Playground:** Caloo have informed the PC that it is no longer possible to source replacement items for the gym equipment in Jubilee Meadow and as such Caloo are no longer able to service this equipment. PC discussed options for future management of the gym equipment. It was noted that the original purchase of the gym equipment did not come from the Precept.

    Action: Clerk to request for a survey in EGN to assess villagers' thoughts on maintaining the gym equipment

11. **Village Maintenance & Millenium Field:** The Millenium Field seems to have recovered from the Thames Water works and the damaged strip is now being cut with the rest of the field. It was agreed that the compensation money would be utilised for other projects – potentially to help cover cost of repair to Memorial Railings.

12. **Any other business:** ST reported that she has been notified of a tree on Humphrey's Lane which is in a perilous condition. This falls under Sovereign Housing's jurisdiction.

    Action: ST to pass on this information to the person concerned.

The meeting was concluded at 8.10pm

Date of next meeting **Thursday 10th September**

2026 meeting dates:

10th September
12th November

Signed: Date: 10/9/2026