

ES & BG News – June 2017

Last month's meeting was held on 7th June at Ecchinswell Village Hall.

The first item of business was to elect our new Clerk – Sarah Jones - who is taking over from our outgoing clerk, Doreen Gascoine. We wish Sarah good luck and we look forward to working with her and I'm sure she'll be a real asset to the Parish Council. Sarah email address is clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk - please make contact if you have any local issues you would like to bring to the parish council's attention. As it was Doreen's last meeting, we presented her, as a small token of our thanks, some champagne and a large picture frame containing images of the parish - we wish her a very happy retirement. She has been a key part of the Parish Council for 10 years and she will be missed.

You may have noticed that a defibrillator has now been installed outside the Royal Oak pub. This vital piece of equipment has been kindly donated to the parish with funds raised at the Ecchinswell Village Hall Pantomime and our thanks go to the EVH Committee. It's a great asset to the parish but let's hope we don't have to use it! Two training sessions on how to use the device are being held on 18th July at 18.30 and 22nd July at 9.30 in the morning. The training lasts an hour and is being run by Kathy Wander. Please email her on kathy.wanderx@gmail.com if you'd like to attend.

The Tree Warden Scheme is currently looking for volunteers. This is a national initiative to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. The scheme was founded back in 1990 and is co-ordinated by The Tree Council. As a tree warden you have the opportunity to champion their local trees and woods and play an active role in protecting and improving them. If you would be interested in volunteering more information can be found at <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/treewardens>

The southern part of the parish still suffers from very slow broadband and we would like to enlist your help in putting pressure on the various interested parties to get things moving. The Openreach website states that fibre broadband is due to be available in the next four months – but it's been saying that for the last five months at least. Please would you email our newly re-elected MP, Kit Malthouse, and request that he puts pressure on BT Openreach to complete their installation as soon as possible. Kit Malthouse's email address is kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk or you can fill out a contact form on his constituency website at <http://kitmalthouse.com/contact/>

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 12th July at Ecchinswell Village Hall at 19.30. We would love to see you there so do come along if you'd like to find out more about what's going on in the parish or if you have any issues or concerns you would like to bring to our attention.

Cllr Lissa Lowrie