

The Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green AGM and annual assembly took place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at Ecchinswell Village Hall.

Our AGM took the first 30 minutes of the evening during which both the Chairman, Tim Hall and Vice-Chair, Marian Dain, were unanimously voted back into their roles. In addition to the five councillors on the team, there are still two vacancies which we are keen to fill. The role is interesting and varied with just one meeting a month so any interested parties should contact the clerk at [clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk) or on 07884 432964.

The pouring rain outside did not stop play for our annual assembly! We had a good turn out with 28 people present, along with our guests - Borough Cllr John Izett, County Cllr Tom Thacker, PC John Dullingham and Lorrina Wooldridge, Chair of the Bishops Green Community Association.

Councillor Hall talked of the work carried out by the Councillors and their efforts to look after the villages. He thanked them all for their hard work. Maintenance and groundwork is high on the list of topics discussed at the meetings, this includes maintenance which is necessary such as ditch unblocking and grass cutting, and also the tidying/litter picking and planting which takes place. The Volunteer group were thanked for their efforts, and the May Fayre and Panto committees thanked for their donations which are so gratefully received. The monies are being put to good use.

Borough Councillor Izett talked about the housing crisis and how the borough is under pressure to provide a certain number of new houses each year. At present Basingstoke and Deane are meeting those targets. County Cllr Thacker talked of new developments and the impact this might have on the already busy A339. He also talked of schools in the area and was happy to report 90% of families get their first-choice school, and overall in the county schools are performing 4% higher than the national average.

Lorrina Wooldridge is the Chair of the Bishops Green Community Association which manages the BG Village Hall. The association has worked hard to get the village hall back up and running after a number of problems had led to it not being utilised. The hall is now open for business and the Parish Council now hold meetings both there and at Ecchinswell Village Hall on alternating months. Both halls are well run and maintained so are great venues for many different events. Look out for advertising for coffee mornings, quiz nights and other events at both halls.

Finally Councillor Kearney, who joined the Parish Council during 2018, gave an enthusiastic talk asking for input from residents regarding small projects which could improve the village. There is funding available for some projects so if anyone thinks of something they feel the villages need, or indeed even want, then please contact the Parish Council and we will look into it.

The Annual assembly concluded with refreshments, and the residents were able to mingle and chat with the councillors. It's a very positive and enjoyable evening and we hope to see as many of you as possible there next year. Thank you to those who attended.

Sarah Jones – Parish Clerk