

ES&BG News – March 2020

With hand sanitiser at the ready, and one councillor self-isolating due to a winter bug, (not Covid-19, thank goodness) we held last month's meeting in Ecchinswell Village Hall on 11th March.

Hants County Councillor Tom Thacker informed us that our overall precept has risen by 3.99% for 2020/21 meaning that council tax for a band D property in our parish will rise from £1654 last year to £1720 this year.

I know it's outside our parish, but if you are a user of Kingsclere's community library, please note that HCC will cease its funding of this facility from 1st April and therefore, to stay open, it will need to be managed by volunteers from the local community. HCC will donate all the books to the group that takes over the running of it.

Speeding remains a problem caused by a number of regular offenders throughout the parish. We are examining different schemes with the Police to identify and challenge these people so please will you take note of car registration numbers and report them to the Clerk so that we can build a record of this anti-social behaviour which endangers pedestrians, horse riders and other road users.

You may have noticed the village pond has become infested with a type of Azolla commonly known as duckweed. Left untreated, this can kill most of the flora and fauna in the pond as it starves them of light and nutrients. We have taken advice from experts and read up on DEFRA's treatment recommendations and it's likely we will introduce specialised Azolla weevils which are totally harmless and only devour this plant. Best results are obtained when the weevils are introduced from mid-late April so hopefully we will have a clear pond in time for summer. If you want more information you can read up at www.azollacontrol.com

We are planning for our annual assembly on May 13th in Ecchinswell Village Hall at 7.30. Our theme is going to be focused on sustainability, environmental concerns and how to reduce your carbon footprint. Naturally, in light of current circumstances caused by Corona Virus, we will determine nearer the day whether it's sensible to hold the event and we will let people know through the Parish mailing list. (If you're not on that mailing list, please ask Sarah, our clerk (clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk) to be added)

I hope you're able to stay healthy and avoid whatever bugs are going around. Don't forget that there is a wonderful community spirit in this Parish and help is always round the corner. We are looking at practical steps to see how we assist.

Cllr Tim Hall
Chairman