

ES&BG News – November 2019

The November meeting of the Parish Council took place at a chilly Bishops Green Village Hall on Wednesday 13th November – I say chilly only because we weren't able to find the heating controls, so we just went ahead with our coats on!

In a report from Borough Councillor, John Izett, we heard that BDBC's budget has been passed by Cabinet and despite a £5m gap they have to close by 2024, there is no planned loss of services across the borough. The council has also declared a "climate emergency". They have allocated a significant amount of funding to tackle environmental issues and set out a series of actions to make Basingstoke & Deane a carbon neutral borough by 2030. Read more about the plan here:

(<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/climateemergency>).

The Parish Council was also pleased to hear that additional funding has been provided to secure 2 extra Police Community Support Officers who will be focused on rural areas. This extra resource is expected to come on stream next April.

Like you, we are frustrated with the delay to the repair of the road bridge over the stream behind the pub car park. A number of residents have made contact – directly and indirectly – to ask what's happening and I'm afraid we are just waiting for the work to be scheduled. We have chased a couple of times and Tom Thacker, our County Councillor has contacted the repair team and see if it can be raised up the priority list. We've been told "it's on the work list" and "we'll get to it as soon as possible". Let's hope that by the time this article is published, there's been some progress.

Two of our councillors – Cllr Dain and Cllr Bayliss – were on holiday so we had to push a number of November's agenda items to the December meeting. We are also still looking for another Councillor to fill a vacancy on the PC. Please contact Sarah our clerk if you'd like to offer your services. clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council would like to thank a number of volunteers who continue to make our parish a nicer place to live – whether it's picking up litter on their walks, or planting bulbs and shrubs, or ensuring paths and rights of way are safe to use, or keeping the grass and hedges round the allotments cut during the summer – all these things make such a difference and, without you, they simply would not get done! You know who you are, and we are hugely grateful for your efforts. Thank you very much.

Next month's Parish Council meeting will be at Ecchinswell Village Hall on Tuesday 10th December. Please note it's a day earlier than normal owing to scheduling challenges.

Cllr Tim Hall - Chairman