

ES&BG News – March 2018

March's Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 14th March at Echinswell Village Hall and was attended by some residents of Oakfields Close who were keen to share their experiences of the parking problems in the residential road and present some potential solutions.

Whilst parking isn't within the Parish Council's jurisdiction, we are happy to try and help find some answers. We have established that the grassy areas of land in Oakfields Close – where there might be space for additional parking - are owned by the housing company Vivid, and they are where we need to focus our attention. One of our councillors lives in Oakfields Close and he has agreed to prepare a letter which each of the residents can email or write to Vivid to ask for action. One possible option would be to replace the grass with "grasscrete" which keeps the area looking green but is suitable for parking on. There is obviously a cost for this sort of change and Vivid say there isn't any budget for this, but we may be able to request a grant from HCC.

Hampshire County Councillor Tom Thacker reported that HCC have got to find another £140m of savings in their budgets next year and that the council tax increase was 6%. He also mentioned that the recent weather has taken its toll on our roads with an epidemic of potholes and damaged road edges. This is something of a national crisis and has been raised by our MP, Kit Malthouse.

With the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War coming up we have decided to have the war memorial professionally cleaned so that it is restored to pristine condition in readiness for the commemoration activities in November. Some of the lettering also needs to be repaired and we will aim to do this at the same time.

I'm conscious that we'd planned to do some planting and tidying up in the area around the phone box opposite the school – and we've had funds donated from the May Fayre Committee to put towards this. However, we're somewhat hampered by BT's delay in removing the old phone box. We will get this attended to as soon as BT have removed it - which we were told back in November was due before the end of the year. (we thought they meant 2017...but perhaps we should have asked "which year"?)

Our next PC meeting is on Wednesday 11th April at 7.30pm in Echinswell Village Hall – I hope you will come and see us if you have anything you'd like to discuss.

Cllr Tim Hall - Chairman