

The latest meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday December 9th at Ecchinswell Village Hall. With the council at only 5 members, the table in the Kingsmill Room is looking a little on the large side. We continue to seek 2 more volunteers to bring us up to our full capacity. New Year might just be the time to join us!

New Year is also a good time to look back over 2019 and forward to 2020. In January we enjoyed the panto at the Ecchinswell Village Hall and in December Santa's Sleigh Event at Bishops Green Village Hall. It is good to see community events continuing to happen in our parish throughout the year as well.

We are lucky to have a number of willing volunteers to get things done around the parish and there have been some notable successes in 2019.

The pond clearance event went well and the volunteers from outside the area were impressed by the number of locals helping. Apparently, this is not the case everywhere. Well done us!

At long last the area opposite the school is looking much better and I am looking forward to seeing what will come up in the flower beds in the spring. The herb collection in one bed is already growing. A large number of bulbs have been planted throughout the parish as well, so watch out for those blooms in the spring too.

There have been a number of improvements to footpaths in the parish in 2019 and we should see some stiles changed to gates in early 2020. Hopefully this will encourage more of us to get out and walk. We are lucky enough to live surrounded by beautiful countryside with lots of well-maintained rights of way. There is lots of information to get you started walking at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/row/row-maps.htm>

We have been fortunate to have had a number of our roads resurfaced over 2019 and we hope these surfaces will last well. If you do notice any problems please let the parish council know, or use the Hampshire website to report a problem directly at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems> If issues are reported we can follow up to ensure they are dealt with. Also please keep your ditches clear to ensure roads don't flood.

The issue of speeding in the parish was raised at the December meeting. Since the road resurfacing, more cars seem to be going far too fast. A number of 'near misses' have been reported to the council. We have a significant number of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders on our roads and they are very vulnerable. If you have had any dangerous experiences with traffic speeding please let us know. The more evidence we have, the more pressure we can put on our councils and the police to take action. Contact our clerk on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at Ecchinswell Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Happy New Year!

Cllr Marian Dain