

ES&BG Parish Council News

The Parish Council met in remote format on October 14th with a full agenda covering 20 items for consideration. Below are a number of key points arising from the meeting:

- We welcome our new chair Marian Dian and appointed a new deputy chair Jackie Bayliss. These will now lead the Council until new elections **in May next year.**
- In recent weeks damage to a number of road signs has been noted in Bishops Green and more widely in the Parish. Photographic evidence is to be reported to our County Councillors who will follow up with the Highways Agency and the Police as this is considered a criminal offence.
- Attention was raised with respect to online grant opportunities for homeowners or landlords to help pay for green opportunities including home insulation, low carbon heating, draft proofing, double glazing etc. (Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>)
- The Remembrance Day service on Sunday 8th November will start at the Ecchinswell War Memorial at 9.30 am. The service will then continue at the church. The British Legion will be in attendance.
- A review of the rental charges for the Parish Allotments in Ecchinswell decided to keep the annual charge at £30. There are currently two allotments available and anyone interested to rent one of these should contact the clerk on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk.
- The Council agreed to set up two working parties to look in depth at two key issues:
 - (1) Speeding. This is a socially unacceptable problem across the Parish and resulted in a recent accident in Ecchinswell. The working party will explore evidence gathering, social communications strategies and possible deterrent approaches including cameras and/or speed humps.
 - (2) Local Planning. With the Government proposing changes in planning regulations, and a rise in areas being put forward for housing in the Parish, it is becoming increasingly important that the Council understands how to best prepare for these developments to serve the interests of the community. In the first instance expert advice will be sought from the County Council as well as neighbouring Parish Councils.
- An update from the Bishops Green Community Association advised that there is a new CCTV installation at the village hall. The BGCA is looking for a new Treasurer and Secretary and anyone interested to help the BGCA in these roles, or any other ways, should contact -----.
- The Council is actively exploring ways to increase community awareness and engagement with the work of the Council. A key action will be to look into how to improve outreach communications either through the 'News from the Villages' magazine, or through promotion of our web site (www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk), or our Facebook page.

Paul Debenham

Parish Councillor