

ES&BG News – November 2018

November's Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 14th November at Ecchinswell Village Hall.

With the centenary of the WW1 Armistice on 11th November we were proud to be able to put right an omission from our parish war memorial. Private Frederick Allen, whose family lived in Bishops Green, died in Northern France in June 1916 and is commemorated in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery in Souchez near Arras. We're not sure how, but his name was not included in the names of the war dead shown on the Ecchinswell war memorial. After some excellent research from local resident, Adrian Wander - who spoke at our Parish assembly in May - the Parish Council was determined to get Pte Allen's name added to the memorial. We commissioned a local stonemason to get the name added and, at the Remembrance service held on Sunday 11th November, we were proud to hear Private Allen's name being read out along with the others in the roll of honour. A fitting tribute to his sacrifice. When you next pass the memorial do take a moment to see the new plaque which has been added at the base of the front façade.

At last month's meeting one of our councillors – Nick Owen – offered his resignation. We were sorry to see him leave and our great thanks go to him for his contributions during his time on the Parish Council. This month we were delighted to co-opt Elaine Kearney onto the team. Elaine has lived in the parish for the last 3 years and, as an advisor to small businesses in Hampshire and Surrey, we will hope to benefit from her expertise and local insight. We still have two vacancies for Parish Councillors so if you're interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you. You don't need any experience – just a desire to help your local villages and community.

With the upcoming building of hundreds of new homes in the Manydown area outside Basingstoke, there will inevitably be additional traffic pressure on the A339. This road is already very busy and therefore Basingstoke & Deane Council will be releasing a Transport Plan Consultation to look at what improvements/changes need to be made to this roadway to accommodate the expected increase in traffic. I would urge residents to take part in the consultation to ensure that your views are heard. We will advise you further on this, but please make contact with the clerk (clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk) if you'd like us to take your comments into consideration.

I hope you've been continuing to use the Newtown Road recycling centre with your passes – the good news is that our ability to use this facility has been extended to end of May 2019. This issue has been a thorny one between the West Berks and BDBC authorities, but at least we have a temporary extension. We'll keep you informed of any updates.

December's meeting is on Wed 12th at 7.30pm in the Ecchinswell Village Hall.

Cllr Tim Hall
Chairman