

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council.

Parish Council meeting report for the Annual General Meeting and Annual Assembly which took place on 14th May 2025 at Bishops Green Village Hall.

The Annual General meeting took place at the earlier start time of 7pm. During the meeting, both our Chair Mark Stamp and our Vice Chair Kathy Sadler advised they were happy to stand again, and they were unanimously voted in. All Cllrs and the clerk would like to thank both for their continued efforts and support which is very much appreciated.

The evening continued positively with the co-option of a new councillor, Simon Letch. He is warmly welcomed. This means for the first time in a while, we have a full council which is great news! The parish is a busy place so it is really helpful to have a full complement of councillors.

The AGM was followed by the Annual Assembly. We are so thankful for Bishops Green Village Hall for the use of their large hall. The Annual Assembly was attended by 9 members of the public who all took an active role and raised lots of questions. Our Chair, Mark Stamp gave an overview of the work and projects carried out of very past 12 months by the parish council. The clerk presented a financial review and was lucky enough to be able to advise that the parish council have received some funding from the development in Bishops Green. The money is called CIL money and amounts to £78,800. This gives the parish council scope to carry out numerous projects, within the parameters of what the money can be spent on. Any ideas are welcome, please email the clerk at the email below.

We were lucky enough to be joined by both the local CPSO Drew Mechen, and Borough Cllr John Izett. Drew detailed the geographical area he has to cover in his work which extends beyond our parish, and the number and type of crimes he deals with in our area. He is a busy man but he is often about and it is hoped his presence, and the antisocial behaviour contracts issued in the parish, will start to have an impact. Borough Cllr Izett presented next and thanked the outgoing Chair, Marian Dain, for all her hard work. He spoke about the BDBC Local Plan, housing and planning issues, anti-social behaviour, waste collection changes and devolution to name but a few! It was an interesting evening and both Cllr Izett and Drew Mechen are thanked for attending.

We then had a resident talk to the group regarding the Neighbourhood Plan review, timescales for this and why it is important. As always, a working party is needed for this review so if you have any time and can help out, please do contact the clerk at the email below.

Finally, Cllr Sadler discussed the Environment Survey which has been sent to resident and answers collated. The survey will be extended for another month to allow more people time to respond, however a few early indicators are:

- 33% have adopted EVs or hybrid vehicles with a further 47% planning an EV or hybrid as their next vehicle.
- Only 6% have installed solar panels so far but nearly half would consider them.
- Domestic heating appears to be the greatest challenge, with 86% of us still reliant on fossil fuels (gas or oil) for our heating, and few plans to switch to GSHPs or ASHPs.

The meeting closed at 9pm and was followed by refreshments and a chance to have an informal chat with those present.

ESBG PC will be holding an extraordinary meeting on 21st May at Ecchinswell Village Hall, and the next ordinary meeting will take place at Bishops Green Village Hall on Wednesday 4th June 2025.

If you have any enquiries about the above or other local Parish Council matters please contact Sarah Jones our Clerk (clerk@esbgpc.co.uk)

Sarah Jones

Clerk - ESBG Parish Council