

Report From Ecchinswell, Sydmonton And Bishops Green Parish Council For November

The November meeting took place at Bishops Green Village Hall on Wednesday 9th. There were no members of the public present.

County Councillor Derek Mellor was unable to attend this time and sent his apologies.

Borough Councillor, John Izett, was in attendance and reported the following: -

1. The annual Budget Proposal for BDBC can be accessed on their website. The Council is in good financial shape and they are proposing to freeze their share of the 2023 Council Tax allocation.
2. There is to be no price rise to use the garden waste removal scheme.
3. Car parking charges in the Borough will not be increased.
4. Four new Planning Officers have been appointed to speed up planning applications.
5. A Green Team has been formed to encourage energy saving measures.
6. A Community Infrastructure Fund will be available from April 2023 to help improve facilities within the Borough.
7. A new draft Council Plan to cover 2023 through to 2027 is up for consultation and can be accessed via the BDBC website.

Following this the council discussed the latest consultation survey from the Police and Crime Commissioner. This invites all householders to provide their comments on issues such as anti social behaviour, improving police presence in rural areas and youth crime prevention. If you would like to express your views please visit <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90503016/Annual-police-budget-precept-consultation-have-your-say>. The Parish Council will be sending an independent response.

The kissing gates are proving a great success but can the PC please remind walkers to make sure that the latches on them are fully closed once they have passed through. This prevents the possibility of livestock straying. Should any gates become stiff to operate please report it to the clerk on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk to enable remedial action to be taken.

The annual pond clearance took place on the 16th October on a beautiful sunny morning. As anticipated the water levels were low and to avoid damage to the mud lining the main effort was concentrated on the island which is not usually accessible. We had a good number of volunteers including a team of young helpers pictured below. Our grateful thanks to the Basingstoke Volunteer Conservation Group, Eileen and Allan Unnuk for cooking the refreshments and sharing their facilities, Alan and Bernie Meredith for giving up their driveway for parking and to all those who helped on the day.

The Neighbourhood Plan has now reached Regulation 16 Stage. It is now in the hands of Basingstoke & Deane Council. We are pleased to report that we are still on target to have the plan made by early May 2023 at the latest.

Finally, the plaque commemorating the late Queen's Jubilee (pictured below) has been erected next to the tree opposite the Village Hall. Bulbs have been planted around it to enhance the area for next Spring.

Our next meeting will be on December 14th at Ecchinswell Village Hall. As always members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Cllr Jackie Bayliss