

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council.

After the lovely summer break, Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Parish Council held their September meeting on 10th at Bishops Green Village Hall.

The meeting started earlier at 6.30pm with the first hour being a public meeting to make people aware of the Neighbourhood Plan Review and muster up some volunteers to help with the process. The review needs to take place so the Neighbourhood Plan remains robust and protects the community against unwanted development. The meeting was very positive with a number of residents offering their help. They are all thanked and the process will begin imminently.

We were joined by both County Cllr Mellor and Borough Cllr Izett. Both spent some time talking about the Local Government Reorganisation; the proposal has been sent to the Secretary of State and all parties are in agreement for the plans moving forward.

Cllr Mellor reported that Hampshire County Council's finances are in good shape with a proper budget being set each year. 37% of their funding comes from council tax. Expenses such as children's social care and highways continue to increase. The county have opened 3 SEN schools.

Cllr Izett reported that the revised draft Local Plan has been published and the housing allocation in our parish is 5 in Ecchinswell and 0 in Bishops Green. It is hoped this will not change.

We are pleased to report that the summer has been quieter in terms of antisocial behaviour in some areas and we hope that remains the case. The local police attended a coffee morning at Ecchinswell Village Hall recently and were keen to get local people's views on the area and what might be needed in terms of police presence and help. It is hoped this might become a regular visit and the Parish Council will be inviting the police to attend a meeting in the future to keep them up to date. We'll keep you posted on when that might take place.

Pond clearance day will be taking place on 5th October, provided there is enough water in the pond by then! The levels are very low after our very dry summer so it is hoped the day will go ahead, and that the weevils are still active and present, and that the azolla has gone.

The CIL monies projects are still in the pipeline with the 2 new speed cameras and new website taking longer than hoped but they will be in place soon! Other projects are being discussed and it is hoped the monies can be put to good use to make improvements to the community. We'll keep you posted on any projects, and do let us know if you have any ideas.

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 - ESGP Parish Council