



Ecchinswell Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council

Our monthly meeting took place on the 12th March with 7 members of the public in attendance.

Two people have shown an interest in the vacancy on the Parish Council and this is election year for Parish Councils (which may change the previously published dates of some Parish meetings). If anyone is interested in joining, full details of the election on May 22nd will be published in due course by the BDBC.

During our Borough Councillor's report we heard that the council budget was passed and for a fifth year in succession there will be no increase in the borough's council tax. BDBC spend £181 per head of population on services which is the highest in Hampshire and ninth highest in England.

Borough council officers are urgently looking into the cause of the central heating problems at the hall in Bishop's Green, and the next meeting of the Bishop's Green Community Association will be held at 7.00pm on 7th May.

Councillors continue debating how we should spend the £32,972 allocated to the Parish under the Community Infrastructure Levy. This money can be spent on the built environment, the natural environment or time-limited revenue programmes. The Parish Council would welcome suggestions from local people on any projects they would like us to consider so please write to our Clerk clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk but decisions need to be made soon.

We have a new Police Officer in the communities of Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green to help keep them safe places to live and prosper.

Richard Baldwin has joined forces with Abbey Carpenter as a replacement for PC Matt Deery who is currently on secondment at Police Headquarters until June 2014 and this position could become permanent. Richard has been a policeman for twelve years and was previously the beat officer for the Overton area for eight of those years. Based at Whitchurch Police Station with a forward operating base over at Highclere Castle, Richard will be concentrating his efforts on being seen 'out and about' on the beat, either in a police vehicle or on a Police mountain bike to deter any would be criminal activity. He will also be looking at road safety throughout the parish by enforcing the speed limits, which remains a matter of concern to many local residents.

After recent thefts locally, I would like to remind people about leaving valuable garden tools and cycles in sheds or outbuildings that are either unlocked or poorly maintained, as tools such as lawn mowers, strimmers, hedge cutters, power tools and bikes are expensive items to replace and may incur the victim extra insurance premiums.

Councillor Mike Sparrow has become our Roads Officer and will start by tackling the problem with potholes throughout the area. By the time you have read this we will probably be experiencing rat-running again through the village during the road repair work on the A339 between Headley and Kingsclere, which is expected to last up to four weeks.

The Parish Council asks that everybody supports the excellent May Fair starting at 1.00pm on Sunday May 4th at the Royal Oak. With live music throughout, a great mix of activities for young and old, craft stalls, including "Build-a-Beast" and the popular "Bake Off", it promises to be a wonderful day. If anyone has any ideas or would like to get involved please contact the organisers: ecchinswell.may.fair@gmail.com

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at the Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday 9th April at 7.30pm.

Alan Meredith
Vice Chairman