



## **Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council**

The first item on the Parish Council's agenda on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October was planning. Over the past couple of years we have campaigned for a more timely turnaround of planning applications by BDBC, an activity which has often been compared to glacial movement. Happily with the support of our Borough councillor Mr John Izett and the lighting of blue touch paper, the situation is improving dramatically.

The fallen BT telegraph pole together with its cables, opposite St. Lawrence's church, which was felled by a speeding motorist, before the green shoots of spring, has been resurrected. Our last call to BT was to say that a gang, armed with axes was on the way to free the cable from its resting place by the gravestones and exchange it for Bitcoins from a scrap metal dealer. Surprisingly, having carbon-dated our original request, BT sprang into action.

The government has recently agreed that Parish Councils could enter the 21<sup>st</sup>. century and move from making payments by cheque to electronic banking. We are now wading through the bureaucratic caveats which accompanied the declaration to find an acceptable and secure method of achieving this aim.

The excessive speed of some vehicles through our Parish has always been and I am sure will remain, a hot topic. As a consequence, we are always in a round of meetings and communication with the police and the Highways department, battling with all other villages in Hampshire for an unequal share of an ever diminishing financial and human resource. The police would like to see a "Community Speed-watch" in place, but to date, there are no willing volunteers. Details can be requested from [abbey.carpenter@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:abbey.carpenter@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

Our request for a modest sum of money from the Infrastructure Levy to clear ditches and thus alleviate flooding on our roads has been turned down. Anglers are delighted! We have therefore turned our attention back to the Highways department who are now promising to clear our clogged road drains. We will not let this go.

On the subject of highways, there are some land owners whose hedges, particularly at a high point, encroach onto the highway, thereby forcing vehicles into the centre of the road. This is a safety issue. Therefore we have asked Hampshire CC to cut neglected hedges and pass the full charge of this work to the appropriate owner. Obviously DIY is more economical.

We have just signed next year's maintenance contract at zero percent increase for the second year running. Well done to our hard working Clerk for her endeavours.

Finally and most importantly the annual **Village Pond Clearance will take place on Sunday 2nd November** starting at 09:30. We need as many volunteers to help as possible, in order to maintain the pond and make sure that the wildlife thrives for years to come. All involved have a vital role to play, including the Parish Council Chairman who will be in the thick of it as both foreman and Master Chef. Hot dogs and soup will be organised for all the volunteers to enjoy and we hope to see as many people as possible.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the next Parish Council meeting, which will be held at the Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 7.30pm.

Cllr. Fabrice Vaisset