The monthly Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2015 was the first with Councillor Fabrice Vaisset as Chairman. He has been elected Chair for the year with Councillor Dani Court as Vice Chair. Following a recent resignation we now have two vacancies on the Parish Council and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining us. Please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk or just come to the next meeting to find out more about what we do.

After the May elections Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council now has a working majority so we have been informed that decisions should be easier to reach. North Hampshire continues to be well represented within the council committees so our voice will be heard. One of the Borough Council’s aims is to mitigate as much as possible the reduction in the services previously provided by Hampshire County Council, as the county faces cuts in spending. Our new MP, Kit Malthouse, will be involved in discussions with Hampshire County Council and BT about Superfast Broadband provision in North Hampshire. We look forward to hearing any news on this. The installation of a new cabinet in Bishops Green gives us hope that some of us might soon see a benefit from this scheme.

We are pleased to let you know that the up-dated local footpath map was made available at the May Fayre and the Annual Assembly. There were lots of takers and we hope you have enjoyed using it to explore the area now the weather has improved. If you did not manage to pick up a copy, we will be keeping a stock at the pub and the shop in Bishops Green. Do look out for it. The walks are well worth trying.

As we enjoy the warmer and drier weather most of us are not giving much thought to the flooding we suffered on the roads during the winter. It is pleasing to see that many landowners do take care to maintain their ditches but we would like to remind owners that ditches should be properly maintained during the summer to stop winter flooding.

There has recently been a traffic survey in Brock’s Green to look at the effectiveness of the new traffic calming measures. The results have not shown any significant improvement as there are still too many people who speed without thought to other road users, such as horse riders and cyclists. This is not just a problem for Brock’s Green but happens throughout the parish.

We are considering a scheme to plant bulbs in communal areas of our parish. Please let us know if you have a suggestion for a good location. The War Memorial, pond and Digweeds spring to mind but there might be others – just let us know.

We have one vacant allotment plot in Ecchinswell and anyone with green fingers would be welcome to contact our Clerk to take it on now, with a reduced rental for the remaining part of this year. If you have any other queries please do contact us through our Clerk or come to the next meeting where you will be most welcome. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 8th July at Ecchinswell Village Hall at 19:30.

Cllr Marian Dain