ES&BG

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

The first task at the AGM was to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year. Your scribe was elected Chairman, but the role was accepted solely to facilitate the following Annual Assembly, after which he tendered his resignation. Cllr Vaisset was elected Vice Chairman. The usual proceedings were dispatched with expedition prior to the Annual Assembly at 19:30 hours.

The chairman explained thatthe Parish Council is the first tier of local government although the councillors on ES&BG Parish were concerned solely with the community and local affairs, having no political bias in their decision making.

During this last year the council has obtained a grant from S106 money (house builders contribution for development) to repair the heating system at the Bishops Green Hall, given a grant to Ecchinswell Village Hall for grass cutting and made a donation to the May Fayre. Also used S106 money to help clear some ditches in order to stop flooding on the Highway. Ditch clearance is the responsibility of the Riparian Owner – but in most cases land owners fail to take on their responsibilities and therefore the problem is left for the Parish Council to tackle.

Also we have applied for a grant to resurface Ecchinswell Village Hall’s carpark and have helped them to gain a grant to upgrade their play park

It was also mentioned that some drivers, many of whom are local, travel through the village in their vehicles at injudicious speed. A reminder that 1½ tonne of steel moving at 40mph covers 18 metres every second. 40mph. If you drive the C155, please become a road block and travel at no more than the speed limit.

 Our Clerk gave the financial report, saying that our precept of £11,299 was the same as for the financial year 2011/12 and gave a detailed account of the council’s expenditure.

Our Borough Councillor reported that following the elections the Borough now has a conservative majority of 4 and would therefore be in a better position to allocate funds appropriately. Also BDBC was close to agreeing a local plan which would come into effect next year. The plan includes 3 identified sites for gipsy pitches. Whilst rates have remained frozen, it is expected that they will rise in the next financial year, albeit by less than 2%.

Our County Councillor said that he was looking into the distribution of superfast broadband and was hoping to establish a precise role out plan very soon.

PCSO Abbey Carpenter confirmed that we have 2 police officers based in Tadley covering an area from Baughurst to St Mary Bourne. Clearly a massive area to police effectively. She also recommended that by signing up to [www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk) you receive crime updates and community information where you live.

Briony Canning gave a very interesting summery on her research of local men who served in the First and Second World War

Hampshire County Council Highways manager, Steve Pellatt, gave a presentation on all areas of his department’s responsibility including road repairs. The department receives 70,000 enquires each year which are prioritised to make best use of their budget, being only £458.00 per km per year.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7:30pm on 10th June at the Ecchinswell Village Hall.

John Broxis