Unfortunately the September meeting of the Parish Council had to be cancelled. Two members of the council were unable to attend so it would not have been possible to make any valid decisions as the meeting would not have been *quorate*. This is a very unusual occurrence, but we run the risk of this happening again if we cannot recruit more members to the council. We need three members of the council to attend a meeting but currently we only have four members in total, so a delayed train or traffic jam could cause a cancellation to happen again. There are seven seats on the council - with three vacancies your council is in jeopardy.

You may ask yourself whether it matters if the meetings run. What does your council do? What decisions does your council make? We would like to take this opportunity to explain a little bit about what the council does and what it has achieved for the parish in the past.

**What is discussed at Parish Council meetings?**

* Planning applications
* Allotments
* Footpaths and rights of way
* Roads and potholes
* Police liaison
* Community projects
* Applications for grants
* Information from Hampshire CC and Basingstoke & Deane BC
* Spending money from your council tax and grants

**What has the Parish Council achieved in the last few years?**

* A grant to renovate the Parish War Memorial
* A grant to repair the Ecchinswell Village Hall entrance.
* A grant to repair the wall round the old churchyard.
* A grant for renovation of the Ecchinswell play area.
* A grant for map boards showing local walks.
* Repaired and renovated the notice boards at Bishops Green.
* Repaired the heating at Bishops Green Village Hall.
* Replaced a damaged bridge on a footpath.
* Ensured footpaths are accessible and well signposted.
* Painted the railings on the bridge at Digweeds.
* Made donations to the May Fair and other parish events.
* Made regular contributions towards grass cutting at the playing fields and old church yard.
* Cleared ditches to prevent water flooding onto the road between Bishops Green and Ecchinswell.
* Obtained traffic calming measures at Brock’s Green.
* Ensured the parish roads are on the council gritting schedule.
* Maintained the pond
* Secured repairs to local roads

For the Parish Council to survive it needs to reflect the concerns and interests of the whole parish and have a range of parishioners represented. If no new people offer to take part, it may be necessary to consider merging with a larger parish. If this happened, our parish would lose its unique voice – a sad day indeed.

Do you drive on the roads? Do you walk the footpaths? Do you use the village halls? Do you have an allotment? Do you enjoy our green spaces? If you do, you have benefitted in some way from the work done by the Parish Council. We councillors would be the first to acknowledge that there is much more that could be done and things can always be improved.

If you are interested in joining the council please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk or attend our next meeting on Wednesday October 14th at 7.30pm in Ecchinswell village Hall.

**Please join us – you can make a difference!**