**ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

May’s meeting was the Parish Council AGM which took place at the Ecchinswell Village Hall on 11th May at the earlier time of 7pm. It was a shortened version of the usual meeting due to the Annual Assembly which followed at 7.30pm.

The first item on the agenda was the election of the Chairman for the coming year. Tim Hall was unanimously elected for a further term by all of the councillors. Further to this, two new councillors were co-opted onto the Council. A big welcome was extended to Sam Keyse from Ecchinswell and Lissa Tanner from Bishops Green. Both ladies are very enthusiastic and have a lot to offer to the community. This still leaves one vacancy so if anyone else would like to join our happy team please contact our clerk on **clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk**

The Parish Assembly commenced at 7.30 and was well attended. The Chairman welcomed everyone and expressed his thanks, on behalf of the Parish Council, to our clerk for all her hard work and support. He also highlighted the good work that has been undertaken during the year which includes the refurbishment of the village hall car park, the positive input from the lengthsman scheme which enables jobs to be undertaken that are not included in the usual budget as well as the native daffodil planting project in conjunction with the local primary school.

The first speaker was Borough Councillor John Izett who gave a talk on current and future developments in Basingstoke and Deane. One of the most exciting projects is the proposed complete rebuild of the Leisure Park which will be bigger, have more attractions and include a retail outlet. Basing View will also benefit from a facelift which will attract new business and boost employment. Further to this the council is working on assisting first time buyers onto the property ladder as well as providing housing at affordable rents.

One issue that he emphasised is the importance of the local Parish Councils who represent their communities at grass roots level and also the advantages of residents compiling a local Neighbourhood Plan to help influence and provide a framework for future development in their areas. This task cannot be undertaken by the PC and anyone who has some time to spare and would be interested in learning more about this worthwhile project please contact the clerk.

Following this talk, our County Councillor Tom Thacker spoke about the proposed boundary changes between the wards of Tadley, Kingsclere and Whitchurch which will take Bishops Green and Brocks Green into the former area. This change will not impact on the formation of the Parish Council as it stands at the moment or the residents’ current representation. Also, he confirmed that he is aware of the ongoing issues relating to Broadband in rural areas and gave assurance that talks are ongoing with B.T to try to improve the situation. Councillor Thacker also outlined plans for remedial road work to be undertaken during 2016 to the areas of Cow House Lane, Hydes Platt, White Hill, Well Street and Hyde Lane which is very welcome news.

Finally, the Chairman, thanked everyone for attending what was an interesting and informative meeting and all those present adjourned for refreshments.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday June 8th and members of the public as always are very welcome to attend.

Councillor Jackie Bayliss