

July's meeting was very well attended, with 8 parishioners, our Borough Councillor John Izett and one of our two County Councillors, Derek Mellor. This was also Sarah Jones' (our Parish Clerk) first meeting in her official Clerk capacity.

John advised us of an ongoing consultation regarding refuse collection. Quite simply, the Borough needs to reduce costs and is considering a bi-weekly collection of black bins (similar to the bi-weekly collection of green bins that we have today). An official survey has been carried out by phone, but if you have an opinion on this and would like your voice to be heard, then please send your views directly to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – email customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk / phone 01256 844844.

We were fortunate to have representatives from the Ecchinswell Village Hall committee in attendance at the meeting. They informed us of the significant makeovers that have been taking place at the Village Hall. There is now a new, sprung floor in the main hall and new windows and doors. The village hall is such an excellent facility to have on our doorsteps, so please tell all your friends and colleagues and encourage them to make use of the hall. More information on the village hall can be found at www.ecchinswellvillagehall.com.

Finally, I am very excited to inform you that superfast broadband is now available across many parts of the Parish! Please speak to your service provider if you wish to place an order or enquire further. Sadly, there are still some parts of our Parish that we have been informed will not get superfast broadband in this phase (e.g. parts of Back Lane and Hyde Lane in Ecchinswell). As such, we are investigating other alternatives and have been discussing this with Kit Malthouse, our MP, who is taking a keen interest in supporting the digital needs of all our parishioners.

We take a break from meetings in August, so our next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th September at Ecchinswell Village Hall. Please do come along – it would be great to see you!

Cllr Samantha Keyse