

The latest meeting of the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Parish Council took place on Wednesday 13th of December at the Ecchinswell Village Hall.

Many thanks again for the public attendance which was understandable quite low, most likely due to the terrible weather we have been having lately.

May we also wish everyone in the Parish and all your family and friends a very happy New year for 2018.

This month we received a letter from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council headed “**New Central Heating Scheme – Funding Available**” which may be of interest to some of the parishioners. The draft version of this letter can be found on the Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Parish Council web site (<http://www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk>) and is essentially offering eligible people the chance to receive up to 100% funding to “**upgrade your heating facilities through our new Warm Homes scheme**” to quote part of the letter. As mentioned, this is a draft version so the final release might differ slightly.

Our footpaths have always been a keen topic for the Parish and some concerns and observations were raised once more. We are frequently told of broken signs and styles, typically through wear and tear but troublesome for those who enjoy the benefits. Typically, we can arrange to have such problems put right but often we don't find out about the issue for months so the situation can remain for a long while.

If you do see broken signs or worn out gates or just see that the path is suffering from neglect then please do let us know as you might be the first to highlight the issue. All correspondence is treated in confidence and can be addressed to us using any of the means given at the end of this newsletter.:

The allotments were discussed again in this month's meeting where we explored what could be done to improve the amenity and make them attractive to a bigger audience. Several suggestions were put forward and we have set a task for ourselves to see if funding may be available. Putting aside costs at this stage, having an idea of what we want is very important so we would appreciate the views and suggestions you may have. On a related note, plots on the allotment are available if you fancy growing your own.

In the last meeting, Councillors questioned why the Parish no longer appears to have **Neighbourhood Watch** or similar scheme in place. An action was taken to investigate this but so far, we have not yet had a suitable response. In the meantime, you might find it useful to register with the Hampshire Alert service provided by the Hampshire Constabulary. There is dedicated web site for this at <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/> which typically takes just a few minutes to set up.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 8th of January at the Ecchinswell Village Hall and as always members of the public are very welcome.

#### Contact information

**Email:** clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk  
**Post:** The Old Orchard, Garrett Close, Kingsclere, RG20 6SD  
**Phone:** 01635 297421

These can be used to contact the Parish Council on all matters.

Councillor Nick Owen