

ES&BG News – April 2018

April's meeting was held on Wednesday 11th at Ecchinswell Village Hall. We were light on numbers for our meeting owing to planned absence and the fact that some councillors weren't able to complete their re-nomination/election process in time. This is a process that takes place every three years and requires Parish Councillors to be proposed, seconded and re-elected every three years. We now have a space following the resignation of Councillor Bate who will shortly be moving out of the Parish – if you are interested in applying to be a Parish Councillor and make a contribution to our villages, please make contact with the Clerk. Our thanks go to Stephen for his assistance over the last year.

As I write this, we are coming out of the back of the wettest March for over 12 years (since my Ecchinswell rainfall records began) with 114mm of rain and snow recorded. All this rain and snow has taken its toll on our roads and, at our meeting, County Councillor Derek Mellor reported that Hampshire's roads have suffered badly with the number of potholes being reported at more than double the normal level. The Government has granted an additional £100m to councils specifically to aid with road repairs. £3m of this funding has come to Hampshire to help with pothole busting and hopefully will drive a significant increase in repair activity.

By the time you read this in early May our annual assembly will shortly be happening. We'd very much like to see you on Wednesday 9th May at 7.30pm in Ecchinswell Village Hall. On the agenda we will have speakers covering the results of the affordable housing survey and a brief talk on the history behind some of the names on our war memorial which will be an appropriate reminder of events a hundred years ago. In addition, you will hear from our County and Borough Councillors plus our local police officer – come and see us and share your feedback with us. There will be refreshments and drinks served afterwards as normal.

Many of you will have heard of the new EU data protection regulations coming in during May. Known as GDPR, this regulation affords individuals much greater protection over the privacy and use of their personal contact data. To that end, if your email address is on the Parish Council distribution list, you will receive an email from the clerk confirming how we will protect and use your email address, plus asking you to confirm whether you'd like to stay on the mailing list. Please will you respond when you receive her email. Many thanks.

I hope we will see many of you on 9th May for our annual assembly. 7.30pm in Ecchinswell Village Hall.

Cllr Tim Hall