

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held ONLINE

Wednesday 13th January 2021, commencing at 19.30 hours

Present: Cllrs Dain (Chair), Bayliss (Vice Chair), Hall, Kearney, Stamp, and Debenham.

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), County Cllr Mellor (part), Borough Cllr Izett (part), 2 members of the public.

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Coward.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising To receive and confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 9th December 2020, and the extra-ordinary meeting held on 15th December 2020. All Cllrs agree as the Chair cannot sign them, the clerk will pp them on her behalf, as a true record.</p>	
4	<p>Public participation 1 member of the public advised she was present only to observe and had no comments to make. A 2nd member joined late at 7.40pm and when asked if they had any comments advised they did not.</p>	
5	<p>Borough Councillor's Report Borough Cllr Izett reported that there is a new chief executive who is talking to his team and seems very able.</p> <p>Covid cases have increased countrywide and in the area. There have been 113 deaths in the borough. Overall, the borough is coping and seems to be on top of things. The vaccination centre at Basingstoke fire station will be up and running at the end of the month. 8 GP practices in this area have teamed together for the vaccination process which will be taking place at Newbury racecourse. Cllr Izett advised he will provide up to date figures and find out what the situation at the hospital is.</p> <p>Central Government's white paper on planning was negatively received and many were unhappy with it. Over the Christmas period the Government announced it was not going to use the algorithm from this paper to calculate future regional home building figures as it was biased towards building in the SE. The local plan will be out of date in May 2021. This suggested 850 new homes are needed within the borough, but a target of 884 looks likely to be set. This may change if new directives are introduced.</p> <p>Cllr Izett advised he has been in contact with the planning team re the planning application at Rooksfield from the December meeting. He feels it would be inappropriate for the land usage to change to static buildings from the traveller site it currently is, as traveller sites are in short supply. This was the basis of the parish council objection.</p> <p>Cllr Dain advised a response has been sent on the budget consultation, but the software created problems meaning she was unable to write from whom the response had come.</p> <p>The lack of consultation for the playpark charge was raised again. Cllr Izett will investigate why the consultation was not held.</p> <p>Cllr Dain asked Cllr Izett about the BDBC approach to Parish Plans. He said these have fallen out of favour because they carry no weight and Neighbourhood Plans are encouraged instead. Cllr Dain said she had been advised that starting a Neighbourhood Plan at this stage in BDBC's LPA cycle was not a good idea. Cllr Izett thought there were things that could be done towards a Neighbourhood Plan at this stage and would seek advice from the planning department about this.</p>	

	Cllr Izett has nothing further to report but stayed online for the Bishops Green development discussion (item 12a)																			
6	<p>County Councillor's Report.</p> <p>County Cllr Mellor advised the Covid data figures for HCC come from the NHS and the vaccine roll out is going well. It is anticipated all over 85's will be vaccinated by mid-February. Teachers and key workers are also being vaccinated. There are a number of cases of Covid in the area but there is positive data to show the county is moving forward.</p> <p>The roads have been impacted by the heavy rain in the past 2 weeks. Drains are looking in good shape and the reported pothole figure is low. This may be due to people staying home more.</p> <p>There is no progress on the missing signage in Bishops Green, but it is a legal requirement that they are in place and this will be sorted as soon as possible.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor asked the PC to consider responding to two of the HCC consultations – one on policing and one on the local transport plan. Cllr Dain will look into this.</p> <p>Finance – Cllr Mellor advised he had reported in December that HCC had incurred costs and overspend (due to the Covid situation) of £100m. They were hopeful promised funding from Central Government would be forthcoming to solve this issue and this has been the case.</p> <p>Cllr Dain suggested, whilst Cllrs Mellor and Izett, and one member of the public, are still on the meeting, Item 12(a) be dealt with next out of order.</p>	MD																		
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning applications: none</p> <p>b) Decisions: none</p> <p>Cllrs Izett and Mellor left the meeting at 8.25pm.</p>																			
8	<p>Finance</p> <p>Electronic Payments:</p> <p>(a) The following payments were agreed for December, and the bank reconciliations will be pp signed by the clerk:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (December)</td> <td>£585.87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (December)</td> <td>£218.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (December)</td> <td>£125.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE</td> <td>RW, DM, SJ</td> <td>£33.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Stream</td> <td>Allotment water</td> <td>£135.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£1,098.15</td> </tr> </table> <p>The clerk advised an invoice for £66 has been received on 13.01.21 from Vision ICT and requested that she can pay it before the next meeting. Cllrs were in agreement.</p> <p>Cllr Dain advised the £50 allotment land lease rent still cannot be paid as bank details haven't been received.</p> <p>(b) The actual/against budget for the period to the end of December 2020 was agreed.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (December)	£585.87	D McClelland	Litter warden – (December)	£218.00	R Wherry	Litter warden - (December)	£125.56	HMRC PAYE	RW, DM, SJ	£33.60	Business Stream	Allotment water	£135.12	Total		£1,098.15	
S Jones	Clerk's salary (December)	£585.87																		
D McClelland	Litter warden – (December)	£218.00																		
R Wherry	Litter warden - (December)	£125.56																		
HMRC PAYE	RW, DM, SJ	£33.60																		
Business Stream	Allotment water	£135.12																		
Total		£1,098.15																		

9	<p>Correspondence 06/01/2021 – Litterwarden asking if it is legally permitted to carry on working. Cllrs were in agreement that the Ecchinswell litterwarden could be told he can carry on working providing he is given an up-to-date list of the Covid do's and don'ts in case he gets approached by a member of the public. The Bishops Green warden is shielding, and Cllrs agree he will be paid in full during this period.</p>	SJ
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way The drains have all been rodded and are clear. The clerk advised the lengthsman was working on a drain outside EVH and unfortunately the rod broke in the drain. HCC have been asked to assist in clearing the drain. All the footbridges now have handrails and the parish council have been thanked for getting this work done so quickly. 5 incidents of fly tipping have been reported and cleared. If any others are spotted, they need to be reported to BDBC, not cleared by individuals. There is no update on the stiles to gates project. Residents at Ratts Cottages have asked for a mirror – the clerk has looked into whether planning permission is needed, and it does not seem to be the case, she will have a final check with BDBC and then confirm to the residents that they just need permission from the landowner. Hyde Lane was again raised; despite being reported some time ago it is still in a terrible condition. This will be raised with HCC again.</p>	SJ SJ
11	<p>New Business a) <u>Police meeting report</u> Cllr Hall reported that the meeting was interesting. Rural crime issues include theft of plant and machinery, including quad bikes. The police recommend trackers are fitted. Any suspicious vehicles need to be reported. This can be done via the clerk. 2 extra police are being recruited which should improve their presence in the local areas. There is a speed watch team, the clerk will ask Cllr Izett for contact details for this. b) <u>EVH committee meeting report</u> Cllr Bayliss reported she had attended the EVH committee meeting on 10th December. The hall's current bank balance (at 10th December) was £13,589 which is very good in the current time. It has been enhanced by another grant. All maintenance is up to date including fire alarms and extinguishers, and the hall alarm. Football has been suspended for the foreseeable due to lockdown. EVH have agreed that the parish council can use their address as the official address which is very much appreciated. The clerk will change the addresses on everything. Cllr Bayliss can collect the post 3-4 times a week. Cllr Bayliss advised she has discovered that by being the parish council's representative on the EVH committee, she automatically becomes a trustee which is something to bear in mind when the position is transferred to another Cllr. The representative role does not give any voting rights but does include responsibility for maintaining the hall. <i>POST MEETING AMENDMENT 08.02.21: Since the meeting, Cllrs have established that the information reported is incorrect and the parish council representative on the EVH Committee does have voting rights.</i></p> <p>The playpark inspection training needs to take place before the end of the financial year. This is to be carried out by BDBC and the clerk will let the EVH committee know when the dates come through. EVH have asked if playpark expenses can be met 50/50 by EVH and the parish council going forward? Cllrs agreed they did not want to commit to this as it was an unlimited commitment, but they will look at each case individually. There are adequate funds so EVH can meet the full cost of the annual check this year.</p>	SJ SJ

	<p>The EVH committee suggested that the trees at the front of the EVH on the road may need attention as they have been untouched for years; The clerk will approach BDBC tree officers for advice on how often roadside trees need inspecting. This will go on next month's agenda.</p> <p>c) <u>EVH lease agreement payment</u> The annual rental lease payment has been paid by EVH to the parish council.</p> <p>d) <u>Facebook and website postings – PC policy</u> Cllrs agree that with the increased use of Facebook etc, a social and/or electronic media policy needs to be in place. A document has been circulated which needs to be finalised and signed off at the next meeting, along with a Complaints Procedure. Each post needs to be assessed and proof read by 2 Cllrs, unless it is a direct report from the news etc which can just be published as is. Cllr Stamp will review the document and add comments then circulate so it can be signed off at the February meeting.</p> <p>e) <u>4th quarter risk assessment</u> Cllr Kearney had circulated this prior to the meeting, and all Cllrs were happy with the contents.</p> <p>f) <u>Pond clearance day</u> Possible dates given were 10th or 17th October. Cllr Bayliss will refer to the Basingstoke Volunteers and advise at the next meeting,</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>JB</p>
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Catesby Estates</u> This item, whilst titled Catesby Estates, is regarding the potential development of 400 houses at Bishops Green. A summary of responses has been compiled and circulated; 149 people responded with 80 from Bishops Green and 69 from the rest of the parish. Cllrs wanted to agree what should be put on the website. It was agreed the Catesby Estates reference should be removed as there is more than 1 potential development although Catesby Estates is the main one. Cllrs agreed small changes should be made to the wording; 'serious' to 'potentially' on the environmental item. It was agreed the report for the website should show only the facts. Cllr Dain agreed she would review the document and change it, so it only reports the facts, results and a summary of the objections raised by parishioners. The parish council will then advise on the way they plan to move forward. Cllr Dain advised she will circulate a wording to be agreed which can then be used on the website. Catesby was advised of the outcome of the Zoom meeting in December. One member of the public advised she understood work on the proposal for the site is continuing but there is no timeframe on a next stage. John Izett and 1 member of the public left the meeting at 8.24pm. Cllr Dain added that Cllr Izett has suggested the parish council consider using some surplus to pay for a planning expert to assist if this proposal moves forward. Cllrs agreed this would be beneficial and a good use of the surplus finds at present. Any decisions relating to this will be made as necessary.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan and Planning – potential reforms review and working party</u> Cllr Dain advised an informal talk with a local PC was taking place on 14th January regarding how to move forward and start a Neighbourhood Plan. A working party has been put in place.</p> <p>c) <u>Speeding issues – questionnaire and working party</u> The speeding watch group needs to be contacted via Cllr Izett. The questionnaire has been finalised and will be distributed during the spring, once the results are collated, they will be published and the working party set up.</p> <p>d) <u>S106 monies and works update</u> Cllr Bayliss has met with the village maintenance contractor to discuss improving areas around the War Memorial and in front of EVH, as well as discussing with the EVH committee ideas to enhance the area. Once the S106 monies statement has been received and the council know what may be available, the project can move forward.</p>	

	<p>e) <u>BGCA update</u> Cllr Dain reported that the youth club has restarted but is outside because of the Covid restrictions. The first event took place on 12th January.</p> <p>f) <u>Parish Magazine</u> Items for the magazine were agreed and Cllr Kearney will write the article this month.</p>	
13	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th February 2021 ONLINE at 7.30pm. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

Cllr Mellor asked the PC to consider responding to two of the HCC consultations – one on policing and one on the local transport plan. Cllr Dain will look into this.

The litterwarden is to be given an up-to-date list of the Covid do's and don'ts in case he gets approached by a member of the public.

Residents at Ratts Cottages have asked for a mirror – the clerk has looked into whether planning permission is needed, and it does not seem to be the case, she will have a final check with BDBC and then confirm to the residents that they just need permission from the landowner.

Hyde Lane was again raised; despite being reported some time ago it is still in terrible condition. This will be raised with HCC again.

There is a speed watch team, the clerk will ask Cllr Izett for contact details.

The playpark inspection training needs to take place before the end of the financial year. This is to be carried out by BDBC and the clerk will let the EVH committee know dates.

The clerk will approach BDBC tree officers for advice on how often roadside trees need inspecting

Possible dates for pond clearance day were 10th or 17th October. Cllr Bayliss will refer to the Basingstoke Volunteers and advise at the next meeting.