

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held ONLINE

Wednesday 14th April 2021, commencing at 19.30 hours

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

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), County Cllr Mellor (part), 0 members of the public.

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies There were no apologies as all Cllrs were present.</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 10th March 2021. All Cllrs agree as the Chair cannot sign them, the clerk will pp them on her behalf, as a true record. The clerk advised she would put all minutes that she has pp signed over the last lockdown period to the Chair to be signed by her as they have all been agreed.</p>	
4	<p>Public participation There were no members of the public present.</p>	
5	<p>Borough Councillor's Report The borough councillor was not present so there was no report.</p>	
6	<p>County Councillor's Report. County Cllr Mellor reported that Operation Resilience which works on the resurfacing of roads has taken up lots of time and been successful. There has been a strong push on the countryside roads. There has been a substantial increase in budget as the council try and keep up with the damaged countryside roads and footpaths,</p> <p>Cllr Mellor is happy to report that the county is in good shape relating to Covid. The R rate is half the national average.</p> <p>Schools have returned and with a few minor issues, often relating to false positive tests, they are settling down and the return to school has generally been successful.</p> <p>2 large meetings are taking place in the next few days, which Cllr Mellor will be attending. One is for Highways and the other relating to Pensions. The pension surplus has grown over the past year which is good news.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor, along with Cllr Thacker and Borough Cllr Izett, will not be able to attend the Annual Assembly and AGM as he is in purdah for the elections, but he will provide a report which can be read out.</p> <p>Cllr Dain raised the issue of the drains and problems HCC may have had with contractors. Cllr Mellor advised he will look into what has happened and why the drains are still blocked and some unable to be opened.</p> <p>The cut back to the verges was raised. This was highlighted by a resident. As per last year, they have been cut back severely at an inappropriate time of year causing potential long-term damage to vegetation on the verges. This was raised last year when it happened, and it had been expected that it would not happen this year. The issue raised by the resident was based on nature and wildlife; Cllr Mellor advised it is a big issue but there are huge amounts of verges to be cut and the work needs to start early in order for the schedule to be completed. He will however investigate if timings have changed and/or can be changed so the cut happens later in the year. Cllr Dain stated that cutting at this time of year served no useful purpose as vegetation was just emerging and not obscuring sight lines. She felt that cutting in April is a waste of HCC funds and should not go ahead.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Bayliss advised Newtown PC has kindly allowed ES&BG PC to use their SID to assess traffic. She asked if permission would be needed for this and Cllr Mellor advised she would need to contact BDBC.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor advised he had nothing further to report.</p>																			
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning applications: 21/00719/LDEU Withey Copse Farm Hyde Lane Ecchinswell RG20 4UN Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for the continued occupation in excess of 10 years as a dwelling not related to BDB/56947 condition no.3 (limited solely or mainly working, or last working in the locality in agriculture) PC response: Cllrs feel there is no option to object as the deadline of being able to do so has already passed. Whilst Cllrs understand this, they do want to raise this as an issue; as no Cllrs were in position 10 years ago when this was initially sought, there was no prior knowledge and therefore the first Cllrs knew of it, it was already too late to send in comments. This has raised concerns relating to this type of application; how many more are there and how can we find out about them?</p> <p>T/00097/21/TPO Timberline Rooksfield Bishops Green Newbury Hampshire Proposal: 1 Horse chestnut: remove. PC response: Cllrs object to the tree being felled.</p> <p>b) Decisions: 20/01852/FUL The Stables at Bishops Green, Ecchinswell Road, Bishops Green Proposal: Change of use of existing rural building to 1 no. two bedroom dwelling and formation of replacement access Granted</p> <p>Cllrs have established that conditions cannot be put on any planning applications by the PC. Any that have been suggested in the past will not have been taken into account. The PC will need to find an alternative way to engage with building projects to ensure sensible access routes etc. A record of decision conditions will be kept going forward.</p> <p>Cllrs also raised weight limits on roads. Some very small roads are being used by large vehicles which cause damage and potentially get stuck. Cllr Mellor advised he would help with any specific examples.</p>	SJ																		
8	<p>Finance</p> <p>Electronic Payments:</p> <p>(a) The following payments were agreed for March, and the bank reconciliations will be pp signed by the clerk:</p> <table data-bbox="300 1653 1181 1854"> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (March)</td> <td>£588.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's expenses (March)</td> <td>£118.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (March)</td> <td>£218.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (March)</td> <td>£156.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE</td> <td>RW, DM, SJ</td> <td>£31.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HALC</td> <td>Annual subscription</td> <td>£401.46</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Total £1,514.44</p> <p>The clerk advised her expenses this month include 2 online courses booked for Cllrs.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (March)	£588.07	S Jones	Clerk's expenses (March)	£118.75	D McClelland	Litter warden – (March)	£218.00	R Wherry	Litter warden - (March)	£156.96	HMRC PAYE	RW, DM, SJ	£31.20	HALC	Annual subscription	£401.46	
S Jones	Clerk's salary (March)	£588.07																		
S Jones	Clerk's expenses (March)	£118.75																		
D McClelland	Litter warden – (March)	£218.00																		
R Wherry	Litter warden - (March)	£156.96																		
HMRC PAYE	RW, DM, SJ	£31.20																		
HALC	Annual subscription	£401.46																		

	(b) The annual accounts were circulated, reviewed and will be signed by the clerk and the Chair.	
9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>22/03/21 – Resident, fence built in AONB – resident reported to BDBC who have said the fence is fine and no further action will be taken.</p> <p>29/03/21 – Resident, Open Reach works leaving debris in the ditches; 30.03.21 same resident confirming Open Reach had cleared the ditches.</p> <p>07/04/21 – CPRE Hampshire Annual meeting; this will be attended by Cllr Kearney who will report back.</p> <p>11/04/21 – Resident, HCC verge cutting complaint (as per last year) – discussed under Item 6 above with Cllr Mellor.</p>	
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>The drain issue was discussed with Cllr Mellor under Section 6 above.</p> <p>Cllr Debenham confirmed there is a new 30 mph sign in Ash Road.</p> <p>The Ratts Wood pathway has had works carried out which have been completed, this makes the pathways safer for walkers as they can go safely through the cattle.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor advised he would send details of grants available relating to rights of way.</p> <p>The issues of Hyde Lane were raised again as it is in a terrible state. It was agreed after discussion that a better solution than just filling the holes is needed. Cllrs Mellor will pursue this.</p> <p>The bus is regularly parking for several minutes at the bus stop between Eagle and Ash Roads in Bishops Green again; this was raised last year and will be looked into again as it is potentially dangerous because it is on a blind bend between two junctions.</p> <p>Cllr Bayliss reported that the bin in EVH was overflowing a potential hazard. A message had already been received from the litterwarden confirming he had emptied the bin but this was an issue last year; the clerk will contact BDBC again and make sure it is on the list to be emptied on the regular rounds.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor left the meeting at 8.30pm</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>
11	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>1st Quarter risk assessment</u></p> <p>The risk assessment was circulated prior to the meeting. The pine trees between EVH and the road have been assessed and will now be checked every quarter as part of the risk assessment. Cllr Dain thanked Cllr Kearney for an excellent job.</p> <p>b) <u>Review of Clerk's salary</u></p> <p>It was agreed to postpone this item until the June meeting.</p> <p>c) <u>Remote meetings survey response</u></p> <p>Cllrs discussed and agreed the responses to the survey, which will be sent in by Cllr Dain.</p> <p>d) <u>Cllrs areas of responsibility</u></p> <p>The document was reviewed and discussed, and Cllrs agreed the areas they wish to cover. The clerk will update the form and circulate.</p> <p>e) <u>Website Mission Statement – update of progress and sign off</u></p> <p>Cllr Kearney was thanked for her efforts on this document. Cllrs agreed to remove the church image as this can cause confusion with the church council.</p> <p>The mission statement can now go on the website.</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>SJ</p>
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Bishops Green development update</u></p> <p>No further information has been received or sent on this issue at present.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan and Planning – working party update</u></p> <p>The steering group has been put into place and the first meeting will take place on 20th April. The group is a wide spread of residents which will be very helpful to provide a good round of opinions. The plan is that the first consultation for residents' views will take place at the end of June/beginning of July. Further details will be sent out. The next stage is to sort out the finances.</p> <p>c) <u>Parish Broadband audit survey</u></p>	

	<p>Cllr Stamp has circulated the survey and is waiting for responses and/or comments. Once these have been received, he will put the survey on the website.</p> <p>d) <u>Speeding working party update; SIDs details</u> Cllrs Bayliss and Stamp are to liaise to get the working party details sorted out and contact them all. Plans are in place to borrow the Newtown SID and this costs £120 for three weeks. Cllrs agreed unanimously these monies can be spent.</p> <p>e) <u>S106 monies works update – quote from Village Maintenance</u> An updated quote is required and has not been received yet so this item will roll over until next month.</p> <p>f) <u>Abandoned cars in Bishops Green – police update</u> Unfortunately, the police have not responded yet, so there is no update on this item.</p> <p>g) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> A BGCA meeting took place on 13th April, Cllr Dain reported that monies being received from the grant are going to be spent on repairs and quotes are being received at present. Cllr Bayliss advised there has not been an EVH meeting as yet, however she is meeting with members of the EVH committee on 15th April due to concern about the safety of the gate which needs urgent attention.</p> <p>f) <u>AGM and Annual Assembly update</u> Items for the AGM/Annual Assembly were confirmed, this will include: Cllr Dain’s Chair report Clerk’s financial report Cllr Bayliss will read County Cllr Mellor’s report Cllr Kearney will read Borough Cllr Izett’s report. Cllr Debenham will give an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. It is as yet unconfirmed whether the police will attend.</p> <p>g) <u>Communications – newsletter (Cllr Coward) and other media output</u> Items for the magazine were agreed and Cllr Coward will write the article this month.</p>	
13	<p>Date of next meeting: AGM/ Annual Assembly: Wednesday 5th May 2021 ONLINE at 7.30pm. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.34pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

Cllrs have established that conditions cannot be put on any planning applications by the PC. Any that have been suggested in the past will not have been taken into account. The PC will need to find an alternative way to engage with building projects to ensure sensible access routes etc. A record of decision conditions will be kept going forward.

The bus is regularly parking for several minutes at the bus stop between Eagle and Ash Roads in Bishops Green again; this was raised last year and will be looked into again as it is potentially dangerous because it is on a blind bend between two junctions.

Cllr Bayliss reported that the bin in EVH was overflowing a potential hazard. A message had already been received from the litterwarden confirming he had emptied the bin but this was an issue from last year; the clerk will contact BDBC again and make sure it is on the list to be emptied on the regular rounds

Cllrs discussed and agreed the responses to the survey, which will be sent in by Cllr Dain

The Cllrs areas of responsibility form was reviewed and discussed, and Cllrs agreed the areas they wish to cover. The clerk will update the form and circulate.