

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on

Wednesday 13th October 2021, commencing at 19.30 hours

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

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), County Cllr Mellor (part), 1 member of the public.

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Borough Cllr Izett.</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 public meeting held on 8th September 2021. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.</p>	
4	<p>Public participation 1 member of the public advised she was interested in joining the parish council. She has sent a review of her skills and it was agreed she would be a good fit and helpful to the council. Cllr Dain proposed, Cllr Coward seconded she be co-opted onto the council and Cllrs agreed unanimously. Cllr Caroline Parkes was invited to join the council at the table.</p>	
5	<p>Borough Councillor's Report Borough Cllr Izett was unable to attend the meeting however he had contacted Cllr Dain and raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDBC are aware of the disruption to the waste collection services and are trying to resolve the issues. They have stated they know it is unacceptable. The complaint procedure was raised by Cllrs as it does not appear to be working correctly which is making it difficult to report problems. • There is a new grant scheme with funding up to £2000 per Council available. Further information from BDBC will follow. This information will be shared with the school and other local community groups. Councillors were encouraged to consider possible projects. • Cllr Dain had discussed the recent BDBC LPU meeting with Cllr Izett and he supported the parish proposals (discussed under item 12b). 	
6	<p>County Councillor's Report. County Cllr Mellor reported the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He reminded the PC that county councillors also have grant money they can award, similar to that from BDBC. He asked us to encourage local groups to apply. • Schools are performing well within the county. At present, the Headteacher at Ecchinswell is also interim Head at Ashford Hill. • A passenger transport forum will be taking place. Public transport demand and provision are both low within the parish but if anyone has any suggestions for improvements, they can contact Cllr Mellor. • Cllr Stamp raised the bus stopping in Bishops Green on the bend in the road which is dangerous. This has been looked into previously, but Cllr Mellor advised he will look into if any action can be taken (ie asking the bus to stop further down the road) and report back. • Cllr Mellor is meeting with the police inspector next week. There are a number of PCSOs working in the area and responses from the police have improved. PCSOs do not work at night when most incidents occur. • Cllr Dain raised HGVs driving through the area, particularly at night. This has been raised by numerous members of the public and has caused damage, noise and disruption. More signage is needed; Cllr Dain asked who should speak to West Berks Council as the HGV/20 foot restriction signage is needed off the 	

	<p>A339 at Bishops Green roundabout. Cllr Mellor advised he will speak to HCC/WBC and look into this more.</p> <p>There being nothing further to report, Cllr Mellor left the meeting at 8pm.</p>																						
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning applications:</p> <p>T/00418/21/TPO 58 Eagle Road Bishops Green RG20 4HR Proposal: Cherry (T5784): Fell. Horse chestnut (T5761): Fell. Oak (T5767): Prune. Cherry(T5753): Fell Cherry(T5782): Fell. Response: Cllrs agreed the tree officers are the best people to make these decisions but requested that any trees with TPOs are not felled unless they are dangerous.</p> <p>b) Decisions:</p> <p>21/00719/LDEU Withey Copse Farm Hyde Lane Ecchinswell RG20 4UN 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) Granted</p> <p>21/01367/LBC Woodside Farm Cow House Lane North Sydmonton RG20 9AE Replacement of 6 no. windows and structural repairs Granted</p> <p>20/01380/HSE Lane End Farm Featherbed Lane North Sydmonton RG20 4UW Conversion and alterations of stables and storage building to form ancillary annexe accommodation to Lane Farm House Granted</p> <p>21/01764/ROC The Hollies Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell RG20 4TU Variation of conditions 1 and 3 of permission 18/01294/HSE for erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and detached garden Loggia, to allow change of external materials (part retrospective) Granted</p> <p>20/02693/OUT Land Rear Of Bishop's Green Cottage Ecchinswell Road Bishops Green Hampshire Outline application (with all matters reserved) for demolition of timber stables and erection of four dwellings (Class C3), access from Ecchinswell Road, landscaping and associated development Granted</p>																						
8	<p>Finance</p> <p>Electronic Payments:</p> <p>(a) The following payments were agreed for September, and the bank reconciliation was signed by the Chair:</p> <table data-bbox="300 1720 1181 1953"> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (Sept)</td> <td>£602.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's expenses (Sept)</td> <td>£42.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (Sept)</td> <td>£222.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (Sept)</td> <td>£142.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td></td> <td>£35.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Premier Grounds</td> <td>Village maintenance</td> <td>£331.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zoom</td> <td>Annual renewal</td> <td>£143.99</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Total £1,521.49</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (Sept)	£602.77	S Jones	Clerk's expenses (Sept)	£42.78	D McClelland	Litter warden – (Sept)	£222.55	R Wherry	Litter warden - (Sept)	£142.60	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ		£35.60	Premier Grounds	Village maintenance	£331.20	Zoom	Annual renewal	£143.99	
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	(b) The actual/against budget for September 2021 was circulated and agreed. (c) Cllrs agreed to join CPRE at the cost of £38.00 per annum.	SJ
9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>21/09/21 – road closure notice, Fox’s Lane Kingsclere up the Ecchinswell Road</p> <p>21/09/21 – resident; HGVs on Hyde Lane overnight, damage to trees and the ‘no HGVs sign’ has been knocked off its pole.</p> <p>Various residents/various dates: HGV issues throughout the parish.</p> <p>1/10/21 – Greenham Trust are offering free trees; the council have applied for 5.</p> <p>7/10/21 – HALC, annual conference Sat 6th Nov. If any Cllrs are able and want to attend, they can let the clerk know. She will book them in.</p> <p>12/10/21 – Parking by the school – there is a problem around the school at drop off and collection times. A member of the PTA is requesting more signage and if there is anything the parish council can do to help. The council will speak to HCC re any suggestions to alleviate the problem.</p> <p>12/10/21 – Magazine distributor needed – we have been asked to publicise that the News from the Villages magazine needs a distribution co-ordinator. This will be mentioned in the newsletter and on Facebook, and via word of mouth,</p> <p>12/10/21 – Trees at 9 Woodleys are hanging over into the allotments and branches have fallen on the path there; this has been reported to VIVID.</p> <p>Cllr Stamp raised the issue of using the proposed new ES&BG logo. Cllrs agreed unanimously to use the tree logo going forward.</p>	SJ
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way/</p> <p>The 40mph sign near Rooksfield has been knocked down. This will be reported to HCC.</p> <p>There are a number of hedges and boundaries which are very overgrown. Land and boundary owners will be approached and asked to cut them back as necessary. The clerk will write to North Sydmonton Farm as some of their hedges are so overgrown, they are obscuring roads signs.</p> <p>We are hoping to start the next phase of improving access to footpaths as a donation has been promised to cover more stile replacements.</p> <p>Residents need to be reminded to remove dog waste which has been bagged up.</p>	SJ SJ
11	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>Allotment maintenance and volunteer update, and review of the annual rent</u></p> <p>2 allotment holders have come forward and volunteered to help with maintenance. Final timescales etc will need to be sorted out. A quote has been requested from the village maintenance team for a twice yearly cut to the hedge at the allotments. Once the costings for this have been received, the annual rent can be reviewed.</p> <p>An allotment holder has requested a tap fitting; the lease agreement needs to be reviewed to ascertain if the parish council are responsible for providing this.</p> <p>b) <u>Discussion re the need for signage by the pond re no public to trim.</u></p> <p>A polite notice will be put at the pond reminding the public that the pond is a wild area with a full maintenance schedule. It should not be trimmed and/or cut by anyone else. The clerk will draft a sign.</p> <p>c) <u>3rd Quarter risk assessment, and decision regarding Cllr to take responsibility of this going forward</u></p> <p>The 3rd quarter risk assessment was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The map board at Digweeds has been fixed and expenses of £36.98 have been claimed which all Cllrs confirmed can be paid.</p> <p>The allotment water butts showed some azolla; the clerk wrote letters to the allotment holders and the butts have been emptied.</p> <p>A volunteer has kindly offered to look at the Bishops Green noticeboards, both of which are very difficult to open and damaged. Cllrs agree that any expenses incurred will be reimbursed.</p> <p>In view of Cllr Kearney leaving, a Cllr is needed to take responsibility for this role. It was agreed, in view of Cllr Parkes joining the council, the Cllrs Areas of Responsibility form will be reviewed at the November meeting.</p> <p>d) <u>Pond clearance day arrangements</u></p>	SJ SJ SJ SJ SJ SJ

	<p>The arrangements have all been made and the catering bought. The residents have been emailed and there are several volunteers.</p> <p>e) <u>Remembrance Day arrangements</u> Cllr Bayliss has spoken to the reverend and the service will take place at 9.15am. The clerk will apply for a road closure for the 10-15 minutes of the service, from HCC. The clerk will order the wreath and the soldiers put out by the war memorial. Malcolm Jones will be asked to lay the wreath. Cllrs Coward and Parkes volunteered to do road monitoring.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ/JB</p> <p>JB</p>
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Bishops Green development update including agreeing potential costs</u> Cllr Dain reported that 42 rural Hants Parish Councils are working together to try and convey the message regarding excessive development in rural areas to central government. ES&BG PC has commissioned a traffic census which will be very useful as objective evidence on traffic in the area. The spend for this is £364 which was agreed unanimously. It is not known when the Catesby Estates planning application will be received by BDBC. ES&BG PC has contacted a firm providing planning advice. Councillors agreed a spend of up to £500 initially for their advice to be sought as soon as the Catesby Estates application is made.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan and Planning update including report back from meetings with BDBC and CPRE</u> The finances for the NP are in hand. The community consultations were successful and approx. 140 residents took part. The summary of the results has been circulated, and published on the website, Facebook, and via email. Some members of the PC and NP steering group met with BDBC to discuss the BDBC Local Plan update. BDBC propose a housing allocation of 15 new homes for Bishops Green in their update. They also propose defining Settlement Policy Boundaries for both Bishops Green and Echinswell. First drafts have been circulated. In principle the PC welcomes these proposals but more work on details is needed. Cllr Dain proposed that the parish council appoints the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to liaise with BDBC on details and report back to the PC. Cllrs were unanimous in their agreement.</p> <p>c) <u>Speeding working party update including SIDs</u> Road markings - Cllr Bayliss advised the dragon's teeth are not feasible as the road is too narrow. The rest of the planned works will be carried out and some new SLOW signs have already been painted. This should result in a reduction in costs but is disappointing. The disabled bay by the school has been re-painted. The SIDs will be re-addressed in the spring.</p> <p>d) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> EVH – the Halloween Dance is taking place on 29th October. Tickets can be purchased from the pub. There will be an EVH committee meeting later in October. BGCA – a meeting took place on 12th October. There is a shortage of trustees. The youth club finances are stable, so the club is able to stay open; which is excellent news.</p> <p>e) <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>	<p>MD</p>
13	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 7.30pm at Bishops Green Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

Cllrs agreed to join CPRE at the cost of £38.00 per annum

Parking by the school – there is a problem around the school at drop off and collection times. A member of the PTA is requesting more signage and if there is anything the parish council can do to help. The council will speak to HCC re any suggestions to alleviate the problem

The 40mph sign near Rooksfield has been knocked down. This will be reported to HCC.

There are a number of hedges and boundaries which are very overgrown. Land/boundary owners will be approached to ask them to cut them back as necessary. The clerk will write to North Sydmonton North Sydmonton House as some of their hedges are so overgrown, they are obscuring roads signs.

A quote has been requested from the village maintenance team for a twice yearly cut to the hedge at the allotments. Once the costings for this have been received, the annual rent can be reviewed.

An allotment holder has requested a tap fitting; the lease agreement needs to be reviewed to ascertain if the parish council are responsible for providing this.

A polite notice will be put at the pond reminding the public the pond is a wild area and has a maintenance schedule and should not be trimmed and/or cut by anyone else. The clerk will draft a sign.

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