

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on

Wednesday 12th January 2022, commencing at 19.30 hours

Present: Cllrs Dain (Chair), Bayliss (Vice Chair), and Parkes.

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), Borough Councillor Carr, County Councillor Mellor, 1 member of the public present, 9 listened in via Zoom.

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Stamp and Borough Cllr Izett. Cllrs Debenham and Coward attended the meeting via Zoom but did not participate in any decisions.</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 8th December 2021. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.</p>	
4	<p>Public participation The member of the public attending was interested in Item 7 but had no comments to make.</p>	
5	<p>Borough Councillor's Report Cllr Carr gave his report out of order, after Item 6, and reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget is being reviewed and the next meeting is on 28th January. There will be a review and an increase in headcount in 3 areas – Planning, Waste and Customer Services as these seem to have been the worst affected areas due to staff shortage etc. • Cllr Carr is on the Local Plan Committee. He attended a meeting on 6th January reviewing the rural parts of the borough and specific planning issues. There are several large planning applications within the borough at present. The 5-year land supply is the main protection against these kinds of developments and BDBC is working to secure this via the Local Plan Update (LPU). Most development is directed at larger areas; there is currently a plan for 945 houses at Tadley but the AWE proximity may mean a reduction to this figure and other locations will be sought for new homes to make up the shortfall. • The LPU is progressing well, and housing allocations will be reviewed. Parishes will be contacted and asked for their comments. • Cllr Carr commented on the LPU indicative number of new homes in ESBG is 15. It is hoped it would not go beyond that. • The Authority Monitoring Report is making good progress on housing affordability. The borough is hitting targets of affordable housing with 400 out of 1200 new homes being affordable. • Cllr Carr raised the current Bishops Green planning application as detailed under item 7. He advised there have been 129 responses, 122 objecting and 7 in support. • There is a meeting regarding the Woodside View proposal on 13th January. • Cllr Debenham raised First homes and Capped price levels. Cllr Carr reported the policy has been approved and will be in the Local Plan. He will circulate a copy of the policy. <p>There was nothing further to report.</p>	
6	<p>County Councillor's Report. The clerk advised the November minutes showed Cllr Mellor as reporting 'Although there have been a number of accidents, there have been no prosecutions so far.' This needs to be corrected as it was said by a member of the public present at the meeting, not Cllr Mellor.</p>	

	<p>County Cllr Mellor reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has written a report and submitted it to the clerk. • The main focus in ESBG at present is Highways, above general and usual maintenance. • The county is looking at electric car charging points; there are numerous issues with getting an adequate number of points available which need to be rectified. • 20 mph zones are being looked into; these are generally from an emissions point of view rather than the speeding. • The online reporting system for highways issues has been improved. • The waste recycling system is retaining the online booking system which has worked well. Resistance to this has come from commercial users rather than households. • There are numerous walking/cycling programmes being instigated. • Adult social care costs are increasing and are unsustainable. HCC need to review and investigate possible solutions. • Cllr Dain asked if there was any progress with speaking to West Berks Council re signage off the A339 into Bishops Green re the road being unsuitable for HGVs. West Berks have responded that they are considering this but there is no further information yet. • The drainage issue on the Ecchinswell Road which was drawn to the council's attention by residents was raised again as it is a perennial problem. There has been no further action yet. <p>Cllr Carr started his report after Cllr Mellor had finished.</p>	
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning applications:</p> <p>21/03598/OUT Land At Bishops Green Farm Ecchinswell Road Bishops Green Hampshire</p> <p>Outline application with all matters reserved except access for: up to 350 dwellings, up to 0.5 ha of land for community use; detailed means of access from Ecchinswell Road; landscaping; public open space; service infrastructure and associated works.</p> <p>Cllrs reported that so far there have been 129 responded (122 objections and 7 in support) to the planning application. There are other members of the parish who have not yet commented but are planning to. There is a way for a resident to object without giving their address out and the council will advise residents accordingly.</p> <p>The council have received a very well written objection letter from a resident which has been noted.</p> <p>ESBG PC is using a consultant and he has written a long draft letter detailing the parish council's objections. This has been reviewed.</p> <p>The main areas for objection were listed and discussed. Cllr Dain provided the summary and pointed out that local legislation says the development should not go ahead. Cllrs discussed any items of objection they felt were missing from the objection letter which will be reported back to the consultant for re-drafting.</p> <p>A discussion of the application took place. Cllr Carr advised he felt the size, scale, and number of objections means the planning application would go to committee. If the application is refused and this decision is appealed the application would be taken to the next stage. A planning inspector would be involved, and it would be a technical, not political decision.</p>	SJ

	<p>Cllr Dain will discuss the comments raised at the meeting with the PC consultant and agree any amendments to the letter. This will then be sent to BDBC Planning Office.</p> <p>b) Decisions: none</p> <p>Cllrs Mellor and Carr left the meeting at 8.20pm.</p>																						
8	<p>Finance Electronic Payments:</p> <p>(a) The following payments were agreed for December, and the bank reconciliation was signed by the Chair:</p> <table> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (Dec)</td> <td>£602.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's expenses (Dec)</td> <td>£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (Dec)</td> <td>£222.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (Dec)</td> <td>£128.38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td></td> <td>£32.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Stream</td> <td>Allotment water</td> <td>£80.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>£1,066.87</td> </tr> </table> <p>(b) The actual/against budget for December 2021 was circulated and agreed.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (Dec)	£602.77	S Jones	Clerk's expenses (Dec)	£0.00	D McClelland	Litter warden – (Dec)	£222.55	R Wherry	Litter warden - (Dec)	£128.38	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ		£32.20	Business Stream	Allotment water	£80.97		Total	£1,066.87	
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9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>21.12.21 – HALC, increased membership on PC's, change in rules Cllrs agreed this does not apply to ESG at present. Cllrs reminded the public attending the meeting that there is still a vacancy on the council.</p> <p>23.12.21 – BDBC Publication of Planning Policy Documents were circulated and noted by Cllrs.</p> <p>05.01.22 – Resident, difficulty in registering her objection to the Catesby development and requesting assistance which has been given.</p> <p>12.04.22 – Vivid (who own the car park in Bishops Green) have confirmed they will arrange for the fly tipping to be removed.</p>																						
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>The signpost in Hyde Lane from the Darling Buds of May has been reported but has not been fixed so the clerk will remind HCC.</p> <p>The kissing gates project has been chased and it is hoped will be finished soon.</p>	SJ																					
11	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>4th quarter safety walk</u> Cllr Coward has taken over responsibility for risk assessment and completed her first safety walk. There is a fallen tree on the footpath down to Digweeds and a volunteer has kindly agreed to move it. The hawthorn hedge on the same path needs cutting at the top and the clerk will approach the village maintenance team regarding this. A working party will need to be put in place for the straggly trees at the front of EVH by the noticeboard. The noticeboards in Bishops Green need the locks fixing and graffiti removed. The lengthsman will be asked to remove the graffiti</p> <p>b) <u>Lengthsman hours</u> The lengthsman will be asked to remove the graffiti from the Eagle Road noticeboard, litterpicking from the Darling Buds of May up to Rooksfield, trim the area in front of EVH by the noticeboard and will be reminded about the hawthorn hedge.</p> <p>c) <u>Allotment annual lease payment</u></p>	SJ MD SJ																					

	<p>The annual £50 rental for the allotment land will be paid to the landowner. The allotment renewal letters will be sent in the next few days.</p> <p>d) <u>Queen's jubilee celebrations; deals for events</u></p> <p>The first few ideas have been discussed and there are some residents who have discussed the idea and may be willing to form a working party for this. It is likely to be based around EVH although this needs to be discussed with the committee at EVH. It was agreed to try and get everyone involved, including the school, BGCA and the pub. Cllr Bayliss will continue working on this item.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>JB</p>
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Bishops Green development update</u></p> <p>This was discussed under item 7 above.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan and Planning update</u></p> <p>The Steering Group met on 10th January. Cllr Dain advised they have reached the stage where they will be making a 'call for sites' to local landowners. The consultant has drafted the letter which will be sent as soon as possible as this stage takes 1 month. The letter states the criteria for the sites and a copy will be put onto the website. A landowner is not required to provide land if a Call for Sites letter is received. ESG PC approved the letter to be sent.</p> <p>c) <u>Speeding working party update</u></p> <p>Members of the Speeding group have been disappointed to learn an accident which happened last year and to which the emergency services were called, has not been recorded by the police, who have no data on it. The residents are endeavouring to gather as much data and evidence as possible and setting up a Zoom meeting to discuss what further action can be taken.</p> <p>d) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u></p> <p>Cllr Bayliss reported there has not been an EVH committee meeting, but she will confirm the date once it is set. At present the pantomime is going ahead. There are still tickets available. The Panto Committee have suggested they may be able to make a donation to the play park.</p> <p>Cllr Dain reported the BGCA AGM is taking place on 27th January. The youth club is still active with funding coming in from Greenham Trust.</p> <p>e) <u>EVH Annual Lease payment</u></p> <p>The annual rent has been received by the clerk from EVH, with thanks.</p> <p>f) <u>War Memorial cleaning quotes update</u></p> <p>Cllr Bayliss reported she has received 2 quotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first from Spencer and Peyton for £350 but it is unclear if this includes VAT. • The second from Newbury Memorials for £518.40 but this includes re-writing some of the letters, <p>Cllrs discussed whether the lead letters need to be painted and Cllr Bayliss will seek guidance on this and clarity on the quotes, and advise at the next meeting.</p> <p>e) <u>Communications – newsletter (Cllr Dain) and other media output</u></p> <p>Items for the magazine were agreed and Cllr Dain will write the article this month.</p>	<p>JB/MS</p> <p>JB</p>
13	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 7.30pm at Bishops Green Village Hall.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.03pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

There is a way for a resident to object on planning to BDBC without giving their address out and the council will advise residents accordingly.

The signpost in Hyde Lane from the Darlign Buds of May has been reported but has not been fixed so the clerk will remind HCC

The hawthorn hedge at Digweeds needs cutting at the top and the clerk will approach the village maintenance team regarding this.

A working party will need to be put in place for the straggly trees at the from of EVH by the noticeboard

The lengthsman will be asked to remove the graffiti from the Eagle Road noticeboard, litterpicking from the Darling Buds of May up to Rooksfield, strim the area in front of EVH by the noticeboard and will be reminded about the hawthorn hedge.

The annual £50 rental for the allotment land will be paid to the landowner. The allotment renewal letters will be sent in the next few days.

Cllr Bayliss will work on suggestions for possible Jubilee celebrations

The residents are endeavouring to gather as much data and evidence as possible and setting up a Zoom meeting to discuss what further action can be taken.

Cllrs discussed whether the lead letters need to be overwritten and Cllr Bayliss will seek guidance on this and clarity on the quotes, and advise at the next meeting.