

**ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Bishops Green Village Hall on  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022, commencing at 19.30 hours

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

**In attendance:** Sarah Jones (Clerk), Borough Councillor Izett, County Councillor Mellor, 3 members of the public

Item		Action
1	<p><b>Apologies</b> There were no apologies. Cllrs Debenham attended the meeting via Zoom but did not participate in any decisions.</p>	
2	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> Cllrs Parkes and Debenham advised they live close to the Woodside View planning application in item 7(a).</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising</b> To receive and confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 12th January 2022. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.</p>	
4	<p><b>Public participation</b> One member of the public attending wanted to discuss the 21/03412/ROC Hyde Lane Planning Application which was objected to by the parish council at the December meeting, as follows: <i>OBJECT as the planning application is not clear and there are concerns raised by what looks like a large raising of the roof level. More clarification is needed.</i> This was dealt with out of order before Item 5. Cllrs reviewed the plan and discussed the items at length with the member of public. Ceiling heights, gables and window height were clarified. They were advised the neighbours had expressed concern at the gable height and objected to the original application, but after positive dialogue the plans have been reviewed and it is understood the neighbours find the amended version acceptable. The parish council confirmed they now understand the plans, and if there is no concern raised by the neighbours, they have no further objections. BDBC will be advised accordingly. The member of the public left at 7.50pm.</p>	<p align="center"><b>SJ</b></p>
5	<p><b>Borough Councillor's Report</b> Cllr Izett reported that the Leader of BDBC, Ken Rhattigan, has resigned for family reasons. He was in the post for 2 years. The deputy leader is currently acting leader, and the aim is to appoint a new leader at the meeting taking place on 28<sup>th</sup> February.  Cabinet agreed a joint waste management project with HCC. There are preparations taking place to increase the range of plastic being recycled, and changes to the way collection is grouped. More information will follow on this.  The budget is due to be approved at the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February. There will be money made available for improved waste collection and more recycling crews.  The Local Plan update is progressing. There is lots of work taking place regarding the housing numbers, and the borough are keen to limit new house numbers going forward. Since 1980, 69 houses have been built to every 100 already existing within the borough, against a national average of 39, so it is hoped the allocated number can be reduced, and development in the borough can slow to enable local amenities to catch up with the existing growth.  Cllr Dain advised a resident has raised green field sites being car dependent. Cllr Izett reported the planning office are aware of this and the resident will be advised accordingly.  There was nothing further to report.</p>	

6	<p><b>County Councillor's Report.</b></p> <p>Cllr Mellor reported that the working group for potential 20mph zoning in residential areas is being set up and is expected to start work on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.</p> <p>The painted lines and improved chevron signs for traffic calming in Bishops Green have been finished. A traffic survey was carried out at the expense of the parish council before the lines were painted. Cllr Mellor confirmed he would make funding available for another survey to be carried out after all the traffic calming measures are in place, to see if they make any difference to the traffic speed.</p> <p>The HGV signage is not in place at the top of the road just off the A339. This is the responsibility of West Berks council. BDBC has requested they install the signs.</p> <p>HCC are looking at budgets and have an £80m overspend. There are some reserves, but HCC are reluctant to use them. HCC is still awaiting promised Government funding.</p> <p>Disposal of rubbish is a huge problem. There are currently three large projects in place to investigate possible solutions.</p>	
7	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>a) Planning applications:</b></p> <p><b>21/03840/HSE:</b> Dores Hill Cow House Lane North Sydmonton RG20 9AF Construction of a swimming pool and associated works. No objections.</p> <p><b>22/00174/OUT:</b> Woodview Farm – showing on BDBC website but not yet received by ESBG PC as at 03.02.22, nor received yet at the meeting (the BDBC website says it was received 24<sup>th</sup> January), 1 member of the public was present relating to this item. Cllr Dain explained it is a proposal for a 50-house development in Bishops Green, and applications have been submitted. Cllrs Dain and Debenham attended a meeting with Hathor and Turley, the developers, so are fully aware of the details of the application. The proposal goes against the BDBC Local Plan. Although this application is smaller than the Catesby proposal, it is still 50 houses which is a 20% increase in the size of the village of Bishops Green with no reference to any improvement to roads, schools or other amenities. Cllrs agreed unanimously that the application is outside the policy and emerging Neighbourhood Plan so it cannot be supported by the parish council. It was agreed that the public will be made aware of the planning application and advised they can send their comments to BDBC. A letter of objection will be drafted and agreed and sent to BDBC from the parish council. Hathor advised they are trying to work with the community and that this is a logical extension to the call for sites from the Neighbourhood Plan. However, it was pointed out that the call for sites was for much smaller sites.</p> <p><b>T/00647/21/TPO:</b> 62 Eagle Road Bishops Green RG20 4HR Proposal: Ash: prune No objections</p> <p><b>b) Decisions:</b></p> <p><b>T/00418/21/TPO</b> 58 Eagle Road Bishops Green RG20 4HR Cherry (T5784): Fell, Horse chestnut ( T5761): Fell, Oak ( T5767): Prune Cherry(T5753): Fell, Cherry(T5782): Fell. Decision: Granted</p>	
8	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>Electronic Payments:</b></p>	

	<p>(a) The following payments were agreed for January, and the bank reconciliation was signed by the Chair:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (Jan)</td> <td>£602.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's expenses (Jan)</td> <td>£38.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (Jan)</td> <td>£178.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (Jan)</td> <td>£113.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td></td> <td>£28.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Premier Grounds</td> <td>Rubbish removal</td> <td>£40.80</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Total £1,003.12</b></p> <p>(b) There was no actual/against budget presented this month.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (Jan)	£602.77	S Jones	Clerk's expenses (Jan)	£38.79	D McClelland	Litter warden – (Jan)	£178.20	R Wherry	Litter warden - (Jan)	£113.96	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ		£28.60	Premier Grounds	Rubbish removal	£40.80	
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9	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>14.01.22 – Resident, antisocial behaviour on the Kingsclere Road; this has been reported to the police who have confirmed they will check the area on their rounds.</p> <p>19.01.22 – Resident, thanking efforts regarding the new HGV sign on Hyde Lane</p> <p>20.01.22 – Greenham Trust, Queens Green Canopy – the youth club in Bishops Green are planting the trees on 10<sup>th</sup> February. The council discussed getting plaques for all the trees and the clerk will look into the cost of this.</p> <p>24.01.22 – Resident, motorbikes on the EVH pitches (and 04.02.22). The damage has been repaired by the EVH committee.</p> <p>03.04.22 – BDBC, leader Ken Rhattigan has resigned (per item 5 above).</p> <p>04.02.22 - Resident, Hyde House Planning application (per item 4 above).</p> <p>07.02.22 – BDBC Planning <b>22/00096/FUL</b> Malthouse Farm Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell RG20 4TT  Proposal: Demolition of a modern extension of a Grade II listed timber-framed thatched barn, and erection of detached ancillary cottage.  <b>No objections</b></p> <p>08.02.22 – BDBC Tree works application <b>T/00048/22/TCA</b> at Ecchinswell House , Ecchinswell Road, Ecchinswell  Application for works to trees growing in a conservation area  Proposal: 339 - field maple - reduce canopy and main stem to a height of approx 6m where a retrenched new canopy is starting to form.  342 - field maple - remove ascending stems supported by defective cavity back to point of origin.  348 - common oak - reduce two largest ascending laterals over highway back to point of origin.  349 - ash - remove to ground level  351 - ash - prune out dying limbs to healthy growth. sever ivy at 1m, strip to ground level and re-inspect lower stem.  356 - ash x3 - remove all three stems to ground level  362 - ash - remove defective limb to point of origin.  <b>No objections</b></p> <p>Cllrs Izett and Mellor and 1 member of the public left the meeting at 8.15pm, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> member of the public left at 8.25pm.</p>	SJ																		
10	<p><b>Highways and Rights of Way</b></p> <p>Cllr Dain was pleased to report that the funding is in place and the kissing gate project in Ecchinswell can be undertaken. There may be a small surplus on the funding which can be used on other gates and/or village works. This will be included in the newsletter to ask members of the public if they have any ideas for projects for any remaining funds.</p>	MD																		

11	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p>a) <u>Clerk appraisal form agreement and sign off</u> The form was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed it needs to be amended to have a section on resources and once this is done, all Cllrs agree it is finalised and can be signed off and used for the review.</p> <p>b) <u>Allotment renewals and lease payment</u> The clerk reported that the lease payment has been paid to Sydmonton Estate and they have acknowledged receipt. Most allotments have renewed and the final few should be confirmed by the end of February.</p> <p>c) <u>Pond clearance day – arrange date</u> The date agreed is 16<sup>th</sup> October but if the catering cannot be done on that date, it will move to 23<sup>rd</sup> October.</p> <p>d) <u>AGM/Annual Assembly initial ideas and arrangements</u> Cllrs agreed the Police and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be asked to present. Cllrs also discussed seeking residents who have lived in the parish for a long time so a presentation can be made relating to changes over the last 70 years to tie in with the Queens Platinum Jubilee.</p> <p>e) <u>Cllr Debenham authorised absence</u> Cllr Debenham has been recommended to shield and therefore has been unable to attend meetings in person since December 2021. He is attending meetings via Zoom, although not participating in decisions, and carrying out his usual parish council duties away from the meetings. Cllr Dain proposed that Cllr Debenham remain a member of the parish council, even if unable to attend meetings, up to and including September 2022. Cllr Parkes seconded, and Cllrs agreed unanimously.</p> <p>f) <u>Litter and litter picking review</u> Cllr Bayliss raised this as it is a perennial problem. The litterwardens work 9 hours a week and there are a number of volunteers but the rubbish remains a problem. The clerk will approach the local restaurants such as MacDonaldis to see if they can provide any help. An article will be put on Facebook and in the newsletter. Cllr Bayliss and the clerk will set up a meeting with the litterwardens to see if they have any specific issues or problems that the council can help with.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ/JB</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>JB/SJ</p>
12	<p><b>Matters for discussion</b></p> <p>a) <u>Bishops Green planning application update</u> A letter has been received from Kit Malthouse MP and circulated. The letter states support of the decisions made by BDBC, and in some circumstances, he can request an intervention by the Secretary of State if an application goes to appeal. At present there is nothing further to report other than waiting for BDBC's response to the planning application.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan update</u> All Cllrs confirmed they are happy the Vision Document is complete and there are no omissions. The Steering Group has engaged AECOM to provide a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the parish and potential development sites. Suitable potential sites will be subject to a community consultation process. The call for sites letters have generated a small number of responses so there will be options regarding land. Work on Design Codes has also been commissioned.</p> <p>c) <u>Speeding working party update</u> The working party are planning to meet up shortly and will report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>d) <u>Queens Jubilee celebrations update.</u> A number of ideas have been discussed and need to be raised at the next EVH committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February, before any decisions can be made. BGCA met on 8<sup>th</sup> February and there is support for a Jubilee event. Cllr Bayliss asked if there is any grant money available if the celebrations are held on parish council land; the clerk will look into this and report back.</p> <p>e) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u></p>	



## ACTIONS:

The parish council confirmed they understand the plans better now and if there is no concern by the neighbours, they have no further objections. BDBC will be advised accordingly.

Greenham Trust, Queens Green Canopy – the youth club in Bishops Green are planting the trees on 10th February. The council discussed getting plaques for the trees and the clerk will look into this.

The kissing gate project in Ecchinswell can be undertaken.

The form was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed it needs to be amended to have a section on resources and once this is done, all Cllrs agree it is finalised and can be signed off and used for the review.

Cllrs agreed the Police and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be asked to present. Cllrs also discussed seeking residents who have lived in the parish for a long time so a presentation can be made relating to changes over the last 70 years to tie in with the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

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Cllr Bayliss asked if there is any grant money available if the celebrations are held on parish council land; the clerk will look into this and report back.

Cllrs agreed unanimously that Thatcham Memorials should be appointed but they need to show they have the correct insurance in place prior to the works commencing. Cllr Bayliss will proceed with this