

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Bishops Green Village Hall on
Wednesday 28th September 2022, commencing at 19.30 hours

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

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), County Councillor Mellor (part), 2 members of the public

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Borough Cllr Izett, and Cllr Debenham.</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 20th July 2022, and the extra-ordinary meeting held on 24th August 2022. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.</p>	
4	<p>Public participation The 2 members of the public present raised the issue of speeding on the lanes around Rooksfield. They commented on some use of excessive, dangerous speed. Cllrs introduced them to Cllr Mellor who went into detail in his report, and the Speeding Group working party advised they have more information on this in Item 12(d).</p>	
5	<p>Borough Councillor's Report Cllr Izett was not present so there was no report.</p>	
6	<p>County Councillor's Report. Cllr Mellor reported that he is Chair of the Transport Environmental Committee which has been reviewing speeding limits and working on this over the past 6 months. He reported that between specific times periods up to 2015, 155 speed limits were reduced but this made very little impact on the number of accidents. Policy from 2015 therefore was that no speed limit reductions would be put in place unless there was a proven need. Throughout 2018-2021 the accident ratio was good but there is still pressure to improve. The information gathered has been reviewed with other working parties and a report is being put together. Accidents in rural areas often relate to damage to property ie speeding cars hitting fences etc. The main issue is the few who use excessive speed in rural areas; all present agreed this is a massive problem. Cllr Mellor advised there was a huge response to the survey put out regarding this matter and many members of the public are obviously very concerned. There will be a further report in November.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor asked the clerk to send him details of the damage to the bridge and the bollards opposite the school, both of which have been reported to HCC, and he will try and help find a resolution.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor advised he would like to hear the report from the Speeding Working Group, and he will be sent these minutes so he can see the progress being made.</p> <p>There being nothing further to report, Cllr Mellor left the meeting at 7.57pm.</p>	<p align="right">SJ</p> <p align="right">SJ</p>
7	<p>Planning a) Planning applications: 22/00174/OUT Land West Of Ecchinswell Road Bishops Green Newbury Hampshire Outline application for up to 42 dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated open space and vehicular access off Ecchinswell Road, Bishops Green. All matters reserved except for access</p>	

	<p>A letter of objection has been written, circulated, and was proposed by Cllr Dain. All Cllrs agreed unanimously, and the clerk will send the objection to BDBC on 29th September.</p> <p>22/02511/HSE Woodley Cottage Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 4UB</p> <p>Proposal: Demolition of conservatory and construction of a two storey extension at the rear of the property.</p> <p>Cllr agreed they have no objections, and the heritage officer will negotiate materials to be used with the owner.</p> <p>T/00358/22/TPO 22 Eagle Road Bishops Green Hampshire RG20 4HR</p> <p>Proposal: T1 Ash - prune.</p> <p>No objections, the tree officer will make the correct decisions.</p> <p>b) Decisions:</p> <p>21/01307/FUL: Darling Buds of May Newbury Road Headley RG19 8LA Change of use from horticultural business of part of land to dog exercise paddock (Retrospective). Decision: Granted</p> <p>22/01758/HSE: Springbourne Stud Farm Brocks Green Ecchinswell RG20 4UJ Conversion of workshop area and loft area into living accommodation. Decision: Granted</p> <p>22/01691/LDEU: Dores Hill Cow House Lane North Sydmonton RG20 9AF Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of land for residential amenity/garden purposes in connection with Dores Hill, and retention of agricultural outbuildings for domestic use Decision: Granted</p> <p>22/01347/PIP: Land adjoining Royal Oak Hydes Platt Ecchinswell Permission in principal for the erection of no. 1 dwelling to replace demolished building Decision: Refuse</p> <p>22/00813/LDPU: Land at Clere House Farm 450107 159482 Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed use for Change of Use of 1 no. Agricultural Building to 1 Dwelling house (Use Class C3) and Associated Building Operations Decision: Granted</p>	SJ																				
8	<p>Finance</p> <p>Electronic Payments:</p> <p>(a) The following payments were agreed for August:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>S Jones Clerk's salary (August)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£825.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones Clerk's expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£14.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland Litter warden – (August)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£111.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry Litter warden - (August)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£136.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£117.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland Litterwarden expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PKF Littlejohn External audit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vision ICT Operation London Bridge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£42.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Premier Grounds Maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£483.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,991.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The clerk advised she has reclaimed expenses of £21.99 for a purchased book of condolence. The book is not needed and will be returned so she will take the monies off her next expenses claims including for the purchase of the wreath in October.</p>	S Jones Clerk's salary (August)	£825.20	S Jones Clerk's expenses	£14.40	D McClelland Litter warden – (August)	£111.80	R Wherry Litter warden - (August)	£136.80	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ	£117.20	D McClelland Litterwarden expenses	£20.00	PKF Littlejohn External audit	£240.00	Vision ICT Operation London Bridge	£42.00	Premier Grounds Maintenance	£483.60	Total	£1,991.00	
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	<p>The clerk advised the VAT refund for the Neighbourhood Plan has been sent in but the monies not received as yet. A bill needed to be paid so the PC have funded £687.49 which will be repaid once the VAT refund is received.</p> <p>(b) The actual/against budget to July 2022 was circulated and agreed.</p>	
9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>25.07.22 – Resident, thank you for installation of gates 04.08.22 - South Central Probation UPW Consultation Survey 02.09.22 – Whitchurch PC; Letter from on recent EPH meeting 07.09.22 – BDBC, Announcement on housing figure and Local Plan Update – the change of BDBC leadership has meant the Local Plan is being amended regarding housing numbers. 08.09.22 – BDBC, more disabled bays including at Oakfields Close 14.09.22 – BDBC - Darling Buds of May planning appeal complaint response. BDBC sent a response to the parish council advising the lack of information received was due to 'human error'. ESG PC are going to respond to BDBC and ask what procedures and/or checklists have been put in place to ensure this cannot happen again. The clerk will draft a complaint and email to all Cllrs for comments before sending to BDBC. 21.09.22 – HALC - AGM taking place on 20th October.</p>	SJ
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>It was re-confirmed HCC have been contacted by the clerk regarding the broken and dangerous bridge over the stream in Ecchinswell and the bollards opposite the school. As the only way to contact HCC now is via the website, Cllr Mellor confirmed under Item 6 that he will look into this.</p> <p>The clerk will contact Ecchinswell House again about the damaged wall which looks dangerous. Recently they had advised the wall would be fixed but this has not happened and needs to be chased up.</p> <p>2 potholes on Mill Lane have been reported to HCC.</p> <p>Cllrs asked the clerk to write to the landowner requesting permission for wooden steps to be put at the gate into Ratts Wood. A working party is set for 12th October, so permission is sought prior to this date. Cllr Dain will ask HCC to do a line search before the work is undertaken.</p> <p>The Old Sun House gate project is complete and the final gate has been installed.</p>	SJ SJ MD
11	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>BDBC Representative, anti-social behaviour in Bishops Green</u> Due to the meeting being postponed the representative was unable to attend but it is hoped he will be able to join the October meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>Raised bed area – bulbs for planting</u> Cllr Bayliss requested she use ESG funds to purchase 2 bags of bulbs at approximately £8 per bag, to plant in the raised beds. Cllrs were unanimous in their agreement and said any extra bulbs could be planted by the war memorial or pond.</p> <p>c) <u>Replacement of sapling discussion</u> After discussion, it was agreed not to replace the saplings.</p> <p>d) <u>Operation London Bridge – policy and website</u> This policy will be drafted and signed off at the October meeting.</p> <p>e) <u>Pond clearance day arrangements</u> Pond clearance day will take place on 16th October. Concern has been expressed that the water level is very low and there may have to be a reduced operation this year due to this. The pond water levels will be assessed again in 10 days or so, so a decision can be made, as there may not be a need for so many volunteers. Catering arrangements</p>	MD/SJ SJ

	have been made and the volunteers are thanked for their efforts. Notices will be put up the week before the event.	
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Bishops Green planning application update</u> There is nothing to report on this item at present, however it was agreed the clerk will write to BDBC Planning to ensure there is nothing currently to be done.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan update</u> Cllr Dain reported the Regulation 14 consultation is underway and numerous comments have been received but more are needed. Responses are needed, including from members of the parish council who have been consulted throughout the process. There will be a report from the consultation outcome at the next meeting. The Steering Group currently still use Zoom, which is due for renewal. Annual costs are £119.00 (approx.) so it was agreed not to renew and to use the 40 minute free option, as needed. Per the clerk report earlier re finances and cash flow, Cllr Dain reported there is very likely to be a short fall at the end of the process and the parish council may be asked to contribute a sum, likely to be around £1k. Cllr Dain also asked the clerk and Cllrs if they would be able to attend a meeting on Friday 21st October at 5.30pm, during which any alterations can be agreed and signed off. This meeting will only happen if the amendments to the plan can be done in time. Cllrs Bayliss, Stamp, Coward and Parke all confirmed they can attend, as can the clerk, so the meeting will be quorate and able to take place.</p> <p>c) <u>Tree survey update</u> The clerk is arranging various meetings with tree surgeons and will report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>d) <u>Speeding working party update</u> Cllrs Bayliss and Stamp reported that the information gathered has been reviewed and is all still relevant. They have spoken to HCC who can site and sell poles for SIDs to be located at various locations throughout the parish, the cost is £80 each and the working group think 5 is appropriate. The SID costs £2,155 plus VAT, and it is hoped that ultimately the parish council may be able to purchase more than 1. Cllr Bayliss will liaise with HCC and report back regarding the placing of the poles. HCC will also need to put the poles into the ground. Cllrs were unanimous that this was a good purchase and use of the monies available. The project can be moved forward.</p> <p>e) <u>Allotments and Gold Copse updates</u> The clerk reported that the allotments now all have numbered pegs. Cllr Stamp is thanked for providing these. Vivid have been contacted regarding the dead tree and the clerk will arrange to meet them to ascertain whose land the tree is on. She will report back. The Adbury Estate have been contacted regarding the dead tree in Gold Copse, a meeting will be set up between the resident who raised the tree and the estate manager to remove the tree.</p> <p>f) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> Cllr Dain reported that BGCA have lost 2 long term tenants. Weekend private hire is going well but current income is not enough to ensure viability of the hall long term. Bingo is starting on a Saturday night, and it is hoped this will raise extra funds. Cllr Bayliss reported that the EVH AGM took place, but she was unable to attend, and does not have any minutes at present, but she will circulate when she gets them. There is a new treasurer. The next event to take place at EVH will be the Quiz Night on 19th November.</p> <p>g) <u>Communications</u> – newsletter (Cllr Bayliss) and other media output Items for the magazine were agreed and Cllr Bayliss will write the article this month.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>
13	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

22/00174/OUT Land West Of Ecchinswell Road Bishops Green Newbury Hampshire

Outline application for up to 42 dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated open space and vehicular access off Ecchinswell Road, Bishops Green. All matters reserved except for access

A letter of objection has been written, circulated and was proposed by Cllr Dain. All Cllrs agreed unanimously, and the clerk will send the objection to BDBC on 29th September.

Cllr Mellor asked the clerk to send him details of the damage to the bridge and the bollards opposite the school, both of which have been reported to HCC, and he will try and help find a resolution.

Cllr Mellor advised he would like to hear the report from the Speeding Working Group and he will be sent these minutes so he can see the progress being made.

Darling Buds of May planning appeal complaint response. BDBC sent a response to the parish council advising the lack of information received was due to 'human error'. ESG PC are going to respond to BDBC and ask what procedures and/or checklists have been put in place to ensure this cannot happen again. The clerk will draft a complaint and email to all Cllrs for comments before sending to BDBC.

The clerk will contact Ecchinswell House again about the damaged wall which looks dangerous. Recently they had advised the wall would be fixed but this has not happened and needs to be chased up.

Cllrs asked the clerk to write to the landowner requesting permission for wooden steps to be put at the gate into Ratts Wood. A working party is set for 12th October so permission is sought prior to this date.

Cllr Dain to contact HCC re line survey

Operation London Bridge – this policy will be drafted and signed off at the October meeting

Bishops Green planning application - nothing to report on this item at present, however it was agreed the clerk will write to BDBC Planning to ensure there is nothing currently to be done.

Vivid have been contacted regarding the dead tree and the clerk will arrange to meet them to ascertain whose land the tree is on. She will report back.

The Adbury Estate have been contacted regarding the dead tree in Gold Copse, a meeting will be set up between the resident who raised the tree and the estate manager to remove the tree.