

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall

Wednesday 8 February 2017, commencing at 19.30 hours

Present: Councillors Bayliss, Dain, Hall, Keyse, Lowrie, Owen

In attendance: Borough Councillor John Izett, 3 members of the public, Doreen Gascoine (Parish Clerk)

Item		Action
	<p>Apologies None received.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests The Chairman (Cllr Hall) declared an interest in the planning application at Ashland House; he took no part in the discussion of that application and Cllr Dain acted as Chairman during that item.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising 68/16 Resolved To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2017. Signed by the Chairman (Cllr Hall) as a true record. Actions arising: With regard to the historical WI documents, Cllr Dain reported that investigations were ongoing with long-standing parish residents. The Clerk has applied for the precept for the coming financial year and has circulated details on viewing planning application comments online. The broadband summit details have been sent to the contacts list and put on the website. Cllr Bayliss has contacted the resident who expressed an interest in joining the PC but he is not putting himself forward at the present time. The Clerk has sent a list of regular website tasks to Cllr Owen. All others are agenda items.</p>	
4	<p>Public participation Alex Keyse was present to advise Cllrs that a “May Fair” will be held again this year, on 30 April. This year it has been decided that the money raised will be for something for the parish; some £3,800 was raised last year and Cllrs were asked to think of any possible projects so the money raised could be used for the benefit of residents. He also asked if the Cllrs would consider making a grant this year, to cover the insurance for the event. The Clerk will send a grant application form, which will be considered by Cllrs once completed. Two residents were present regarding their planning application for a family home to be built on the site of the Old Post Office. (This application has already been considered by the PC.) They have addressed the issues raised previously concerning access etc and have been advised by the planning officer that they need to demonstrate local need for the home. They explained that it was a modest family home and that villages need new people to come in, to maintain a viable population. The proposed dwelling will fit with the character of the parish and isn’t isolated. They would ideally like a letter from the Parish Council confirming that there is a need for this family home. The Clerk will send a copy of the Cllrs response to the applicant. The Chairman (Cllr Hall) then asked Cllrs to consider this application – out of agenda order. See agenda item 7 below.</p>	<p>ALL DG DG</p>
5	<p>Borough Councillor’s Report Borough Cllr John Izett reported that the Borough’s waste contract ends in October 2018 and they are starting to go out to tender for the new contract, which will run for 8 years. There are two possibilities. Either leave the contract as at present or change to alternative weekly collections – household waste collected one week and recyclable waste the following week. It is estimated that the latter would bring savings of between £500,000 and £1,000,000. This system would also mean there would be a different way of calculating recycling rates, which would show an increase of some 10% in those rates. The Cabinet will make the decision in September 2017 and residents’ views will be sought beforehand.</p>	

6	<p>County Councillor's Report No report, as County Cllr Tom Thacker not present.</p>	
7	<p>Planning 69/16 Resolved a) New applications 16/00894 The Old Post Office, Ecchinswell. Outline planning permission for the demolition of side extension and out buildings, relocation of existing garage, erection of one dwelling house and double garage, and change of use of land to residential, including access, layout and scale. (Proof of need for this dwelling.) After discussion, the Cllrs are unable to comment on actual local need, as there is no data on this, but they have no objection to the application and feel that a limited number of new families moving in to the parish would be a good thing for maintaining a viable community. 16/04657 Hare Warren Farm, Ashley Warren, Hare Warren. Removal of feed store and erection of a horse walker. No objection. 17/00283 Ashland House, Featherbed Lane, North Sydmonton. Erection of side extension to provide garage, storage and home office above with single storey utility room link. Demolition of existing garage. No objection but there should be “before and after” photographs of the surface of Featherbed Lane and it should be re-instated to its original condition once the work has been completed. The reason being that this is a narrow single track country lane.</p> <p>b) Decisions 16/04287 The Adbury Nursery, Adbury Road, North Sydmonton. Extension to existing building to create additional store. Granted with conditions.</p> <p>The Clerk then made the following statement, which she wished to go on the official record in view of comments put on the BDBC website by Fabrice Vaisset relating to the way the Parish Council handled the recent planning application for Lake House: That he lived nowhere near the site of the application. That he has produced no evidence of any “bullying” or “coercion” with regard to this application. That he has no direct personal knowledge of what happened at the January 2017 PC meeting, since he was not present at that meeting. That he was himself Chairman of the PC when the Cllrs considered this application at their meetings in November and December 2015. At those meetings, the Cllrs unanimously objected to the application; he himself therefore objected to it. And there was no talk of bullying or coercion after those meetings. That this application has been considered several times by the PC with different Chairmen and Cllrs present. That on all occasions residents were present to object to the application. That on all occasions, if the Chairman had an interest in the application, he stood down and took no part in the discussions of the application. That on all occasions residents, including the applicant, were given the opportunity to speak, without interruption. That on all occasions Cllrs considered the application they unanimously objected to it – on the same grounds as at the January 2017 meeting. That on no occasion, except when he was Chairman, was Fabrice Vaisset present when the application was being considered. And that on no occasion was the question of bullying or coercion raised at the relevant meeting. That this application has been treated in the proper way by the PC whenever it has been considered. And that to imply otherwise is incorrect and contrary to the facts of the various PC meetings, which are a matter of public record.</p>	
8	<p>Finance a) Financial Report and Payments 70/16 Resolved Payments for January Cheque payments: Basingstoke Cons Vols Donation for help at pond clearance £ 50.00</p>	

	<p>Electronic payments:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>D Gascoine</td> <td>Clerk's salary (January)</td> <td>£436.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D Gascoine</td> <td>Clerk's expenses (January)</td> <td>£ 43.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden – (January)</td> <td>£ 92.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (January)</td> <td>£142.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE – DG, RW, DM</td> <td>£134.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Premier Grounds Maint</td> <td>Hire of digger</td> <td>£ 70.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jez Stamp</td> <td>Planting oak tree</td> <td>£165.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Clerk also circulated copies of the agreed budget, which the Chairman (Cllr Hall) signed. Plus copies of actual spending against budget to the end of the third quarter of the financial year.</p>	D Gascoine	Clerk's salary (January)	£436.44	D Gascoine	Clerk's expenses (January)	£ 43.20	R Wherry	Litter warden – (January)	£ 92.20	D McClelland	Litter warden – (January)	£142.00	HMRC	PAYE – DG, RW, DM	£134.20	Premier Grounds Maint	Hire of digger	£ 70.00	Jez Stamp	Planting oak tree	£165.00	
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9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Greenham Common Trust – invitation to 20th anniversary celebration. S Water – re change of provider for water and waste water; Business Stream taking over from 1 April. BDBC – consultation on east of Basingstoke and Redlands Development Brief SPD. John Murray – re audit process. To discuss.</p> <p>71/16 Resolved</p> <p>After discussion, to opt in to the new audit scheme and to retain John Murray as the internal auditor.</p>																						
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>a) Survey of paths and stiles Cllr Dain reported that the stile by Ratts Wood has now been fully repaired.</p> <p>b) C57 The Chairman (Cllr Hall) advised that he has told the resident who raised the issues on the C57 of the response received from Highways, which was not very encouraging, and that Cllrs will consider if there is any way in which they can offer help in resolving the issues.</p> <p>72/16 Resolved</p> <p>After discussion, that the Chairman (Cllr Hall) and the Clerk will contact Highways to discuss the issue and clarify what measures the PC are able to take.</p> <p>c) New issues None raised.</p>	TH/DG																					
11	<p>New business</p> <p>a) <u>WW1 commemoration</u> Cllrs reported that Ladle Hill – the local high point and therefore logical site for a bonfire – is not in our parish. Cllrs also discussed the question of car parking at other potential sites, assuming landowner permission could be obtained.</p> <p>73/16 Resolved</p> <p>After discussion, that it would be more practical to join with a neighbouring parish to commemorate the event. The Clerk will approach Kingsclere PC with a view to holding a joint event.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> This was also discussed under agenda item 5 above, when Cllr Dain sought Borough Cllr Izett's views on the feasibility of producing a Neighbourhood Plan, given that the parish has not been allocated additional housing; such allocation usually being the motivating force for producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Borough Cllr Izett advised that locally St Mary Bourne had produced a Plan, with no housing allocation imminent, and that such a Plan was of intrinsic value anyway, being a "vision for the future" for the development of the parish in all areas, not just housing.</p> <p>74/16 Resolved</p> <p>After discussion, that the Clerk will contact BDBC for advice on the bare minimum that would need to be included in a Plan and to obtain a speaker for the Assembly. She will also approach Kingsclere and St Mary Bourne PCs regarding a speaker. The issue will be discussed again at the next meeting, and responsibilities will be allocated regarding publicity etc for the Assembly, with publicity materials to be produced for the April PC meeting.</p>	DG																					

	<p>c) <u>Pond clearance risk assessment</u> Cllr Dain had circulated a proposed risk assessment form. Cllr Owen suggested that hand sanitiser and the risk of water borne diseases from sctarches be added. Cllr Dain will add these and circulate the final version. Item to be taken off the agenda.</p> <p>d) <u>Review of Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment</u> 75/16 Resolved After review, to agree the current Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment. The Clerk will send a copy of the Risk Assessment to all Cllrs.</p> <p>d) <u>EVH Committee meeting</u> Cllr Bayliss reported on the recent EVH Committee meeting. The pantomime made a profit of £3000 and the Trustees propose to use this money to purchase a defibrillator; further details to be agreed in due course. Any surplus profit will be used for the benefit of the village hall. A new caretaker has been appointed – Jake – and his wife will be in charge of the cleaning of the hall. The current finances stand at £13,335, with further money to be banked. They have obtained a LIF grant of £35,000 for new windows, doors and flooring and it was agreed that the hall urgently needs redecoration. There has been a decline in football bookings – reason unclear. They have obtained planning permission for the installation of al all-weather cricket square. They are seeking advice from BDBC on how to deal with overhanging trees. They asked that the Parish Council take permanent responsibility for the new oak tree, planting of which was arranged by the Parish Council. Cllr Bayliss did not give a commitment on this and the Clerk will look in to this matter further and report back to Cllrs..</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>DG</p> <p>DG</p>
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Parish Lengthsman</u> The Clerk had advised that there were 13 hours work still to be allocated and this needed to be done at the present meeting. 76/16 Resolved After discussion, to ask the Lengthsman to carry out the following tasks: Manual ditch clearance along the Ecchinswell Road, to clear the existing culvert, allowing the water to drain away. The remaining hours to be used litter picking along Hyde Lane from Bishops Green to the Darling Buds of May. Also to litter pick along the C57 if there are any hours left.</p> <p>b) <u>Pond clearance day</u> See also agenda item 11c above, Cllr Dain had circulated a time table for organising the event, which was agreed. Item to be removed from the agenda until further discussion at the July meeting.</p> <p>c) <u>Digweeds</u> The Chairman advised that the clearance work has now been completed and the contractor has done a great job. Item to be removed from the agenda.</p> <p>d) <u>Vacancy on the PC</u> Stephen Bate has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. He was unable to attend this meeting, due to illness, but intends to be at the March meeting.</p> <p>e) <u>Village maintenance</u></p> <p>i) Planting of oak tree Cllr Bayliss reported that the tree has now been planted. 77/16 Resolved After discussion, to send a photo of the tree to the resident who made the donation, advise her that the NWN have expressed an interest in doing an article on the matter, and ask if she would be happy with this. Cllr Bayliss raised the issue of damage to the Ecchinswell phone box, with one of the panels having come out; this is an obvious health and safety hazard. The Clerk advised that, since the phone box is being removed by BT at some point, they are unlikely to carry out repairs, the panel will be removed from the site by Malcolm Jones</p> <p>f) <u>Allotments</u> The Clerk advised that there will be about 5 plots not rented for the coming year and these will need to be covered in black plastic, to prevent weed growth. 78/16 Resolved That Cllr Hall should spend up to £100 in purchasing more black plastic.</p>	<p>DG</p> <p>DG</p> <p>DG</p> <p>TH</p>

	<p>It was also confirmed that recent bonfires on the site had been lit by Malcolm Jones, who has permission to do so.</p> <p>h) <u>Parish website</u> Cllr Owen advised that the Financial Regulations on the website are not the currently signed ones. The Clerk asked him to send a list of the dates of the various documents posted on the website and she will send him more recent versions to upload, where appropriate.</p> <p>i) <u>Litter wardens</u> The Clerk read a report from the Ecchinswell Litter Warden about various issues he'd noticed while doing some "deep cleaning" in the parish. The issue of the emptying of car ash trays in the parking area opposite the school will be highlighted to the head teacher, though it is accepted that this parking area is used by other people than those associated with the school. With regard to the increased litter in Digweeds, the police are keeping an eye in this area. The Chairman thanked the Litter Warden for the very useful report he had sent. He would like to arrange to meet both Litter Wardens at some point, just to make himself known to them. No new issues.</p> <p>j) <u>Parish Magazine</u> Items for inclusion in the parish magazine were agreed.</p>	<p>NO/DG</p> <p>DG</p>
13	<p>Date of next meeting Wednesday 8 March 2017 at Ecchinswell Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.</p>	