

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Bishops Green Village Hall on

Wednesday 8th February 2023, commencing at 19:30 hours

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

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), Borough Cllr Izett (part), County Cllr Mellor (part), 0 members of the public (part)

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bayliss.</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 11th January. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair. Under matters arising, the allotment tree that Vivid has identified as on their land has not been surveyed or worked on so the clerk will contact them to see what progress is being made.</p>	SJ
4	<p>Public participation There were no members of the public present.</p>	
5	<p>Borough Councillor's Report Cllr Izett advised that there is an EPH meeting taking place on 09.02.23 that Cllrs may want to attend as it will include interesting information relating to the Levelling Up discussion and proposed planning changes, specifically relating to the issues BDBC are facing.</p> <p>Cllr Izett advised he has followed up the discussion which took place at last month's meeting with the school Governors and possible funding available. He advised it has been ascertained that the proposals do not meet the current criteria for grants as they do not benefit the further community but options are being looked into to try and make this the case, such as IT equipment which can also be used to help members of the community learn new skills. Cllr Izett advised he has challenged the outcome and asked what would be sufficiently 'community wide' and will continue to seek answers. Cllr Mellor advised the small grant could meet certain criteria with HCC but the large projects such as bathroom refurbishments would not.</p> <p>Cllr Izett advised the LIF has been approved to be reinstated and this will mean available monies borough-wide of £1.5m over 3.5 years for specific projects.</p> <p>The issues relating to a complaint from a resident to WBC in relation to the roads from the A339 to Bishops Green was raised. This is an item under Correspondence in Section 9 of the agenda. Cllr Izett has supported the resident's comments. WBC have responded that they will be carrying out works, but it is not clear what works will be done. Geese on the road are causing concern both for road safety and the potential spread of avian 'flu'. The resident has attempted to contact DEFRA but has been unable to register his concern. Cllr Mellor advised he would contact them and see if he can assist.</p> <p>Cllr Izett advised he will see what works WBC carry out and see then if there is anything else BDBC can do to assist.</p> <p>The BDBC budget for 2023/24 has been approved and council tax will be frozen. Part of the budget includes funding for a Green Team, a group of 6 who will advise communities and businesses on sustainability, grants available etc.</p> <p>Cllr Dain asked if Cllr Izett could provide any assistance with the Neighbourhood Plan which will be ready to go to referendum shortly but could take several months to reach referendum. Cllr Izett advised he will do all he can to help speed the process.</p>	

	<p>There may be funding available for the Coronation celebrations but there will be further information at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Izett asked for an update on BGCA and Cllr Dain advised the BDBC consultant has reviewed the centre to see if the income is sufficient to warrant a centre co-ordinator. Progress with is being made on funding from Sovereign Housing and Greenham Trust but there is nothing further to report as yet.</p>	
6	<p>County Councillor's Report.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor reported that the HCC budget has been approved for £2.6bn. There are various projects planned over the next few years. Ministers are meeting regarding Levelling Up and there has been discussion relating to a combined authority including Portsmouth and/or Southampton bur nothing is decided as yet.</p> <p>Council tax will be subject to a 4.99% increase.</p> <p>Re signage, HCC are looking to WBC to put warning signs near the A339 relating to the bridge in Ecchinswell. The clerk confirmed she has spoken to HCC and been advised accordingly, as per Item 9 of the agenda.</p> <p>The current weather conditions have caused problems with the roads and backlogs in fixing potholes as they can't be fixed when the roads are freezing. HCC anticipates it is currently 8 weeks behind schedule but hopes to get up to date soon and strategic roads such as the A339 are being fixed quickly.</p> <p>The 20mph project showed very little difference with the signage as there is no enforcement. Traffic calming measures may be needed as rural areas are hard to police. There is expected to be Cabinet approval by June/July this year for extending the 20pmh zones with implementation taking place by 2025/26.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor asked how the speeding group in Ecchinswell was progressing. Cllr Stamp responded ESG is awaiting delivery of the SID and HCC to install the poles for the SID, which has been paid for this month. Cllr Dain mentioned that the Neighbourhood Plan has details for traffic calming measures written into it.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor advised there are 2 funds; the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund which can be applied to for to financial help with these projects.</p> <p>There being nothing further to report, Cllrs Izett and Mellor left the meeting at 8.10pm.</p>	
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning applications:</p> <p>22/03413/HSE 3 Quarry Cottages Sydmonton Road Burghclere RG20 9NL Removal of existing conservatory and infill with new single storey extension with associated internal works No objections</p> <p>b) Decisions:</p> <p>22/03220/HSE 5 Woodleys Ecchinswell Newbury Hampshire RG20 4UE Erection of a single storey rear extension and front porch. Decision: Granted</p> <p>22/02005/FUL Land at Clere House Farm Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Hampshire Change of Use of agricultural building to dwelling, associated external and internal changes and creation of curtilage land; creation of new access drive and modification of existing highway access; associated landscaping works Decision: Granted</p>	

	<p>T/00358/22/TPO 22 Eagle Road Bishops Green Hampshire RG20 4HR T1 Ash - prune. Decision: Granted</p> <p>T/00461/22/TPO 78 Eagle Road Bishops Green Newbury Hampshire RG20 4HR 2 Oaks: fell. Decision: Refuse</p> <p>22/03071/FUL The Adbury Nursery North Sydmonton Newbury Hampshire RG20 4UL Extension of existing storage facility Decision: Granted</p>															
8	<p>Finance Electronic Payments:</p> <p>(a) The following payments were agreed for January:</p> <table> <tr> <td>S Jones Clerk's salary (Jan)</td> <td>£825.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones Clerk's expenses (Jan)</td> <td>£16.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland Litter warden – (Jan)</td> <td>£118.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry Litter warden - (Jan)</td> <td>£121.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td>£107.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allotments Lease payment</td> <td>£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HCC Posts for SID</td> <td>£760.40</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Total £1,999.37</p> <p>Further to the above, the clerk advised Cllrs that one litterwarden has had an accident and will be unable to work until mid-March. Salary and expenses will be paid during January when he was able to work and thereafter his full salary until he returns to work. Cllrs agreed to let residents know of the situation in case there are any volunteers to do some litter picking.</p> <p>The clerk advised that the internal audit has been booked for Monday 8th May.</p> <p>HCC has been paid for erecting the poles and the manufacturer has been paid for the SID but the clerk advised she is having some difficulty getting in touch with the manufacturing company and has not received any communication from them. She will continue her efforts.</p> <p>(b) The actual/against budget up to February 2023 was agreed.</p>	S Jones Clerk's salary (Jan)	£825.20	S Jones Clerk's expenses (Jan)	£16.97	D McClelland Litter warden – (Jan)	£118.00	R Wherry Litter warden - (Jan)	£121.60	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ	£107.20	Allotments Lease payment	£50.00	HCC Posts for SID	£760.40	
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9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>20.01.23 – East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan referendum results 20.01.23 – WBC Consultation on the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 Proposed Submission 24.01.23 – Resident, issues with road out of Bishops Green reported to West Berks Council, dealt with under Item 6. The clerk will request Cllr Mellor follows up with DEFRA, 03.02.23 – BDBC T/00408/22 Timberline Rooksfield Bishops Green Hampshire RG20 9JJ 1 Horse chestnut: prune Cllrs agreed to leave this to the tree officers to decide on the best course of action but would like it noted that they would like to ensure the tree's continued well-being. 03.02.23 – Whitchurch PC NPPF Government Consultation.</p>	SJ														

10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>The clerk reiterated her comment from Section 6, that HCC are looking into improving the signage in the parish relating to the bridge warnings and will be in contact with WBC relating to a sign nearer the end of the A339. She has been advised by HCC that the sign at Featherbed Lane was removed as lorries were getting that far down the road and having to turn round at the narrow junction there which was causing problems. The top of the road next to the A339 is agreed as the best place for a new sign and it is hoped WBC will assist HCC with this.</p> <p>The 40mph sign is still down but has been reported.</p> <p>There is another sign down near Court Farm.</p> <p>The shop sign has been twisted and needs to be reported to HCC.</p> <p>There is a new community ranger called Corinne Davis-Cook.</p>	
11	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>Department for Levelling Up, proposed planning changes</u> Cllr Debenham has reviewed the information and summarized responses. These were discussed by Cllrs and it was agreed the clerk would use Cllr Debenham's responses to fill in the online survey, The clerk will also let Cllr Izett know the responses will be as per Cllr Debenham's emailed answers.</p> <p>b) <u>Rural Cost of Living Survey</u> Cllrs agreed to circulate the survey to the residents' email list and put on the website and Facebook.</p> <p>c) <u>Allotment renewals and lease payment</u> The clerk reported that the £50 lease payment has been paid to the landowner and the allotment renewals notices have been sent with 5 renewals so far.</p> <p>d) <u>Gravel at the war memorial</u> Baikie have responded with comments relating to the suggestion made by Cllr Bayliss and this will be followed up on her return.</p> <p>e) <u>AGM and Annual Assembly arrangements</u> It has been confirmed that Greenham Trust will be giving a presentation, and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will also give a talk. The clerk will approach the BDBC Community Safety Patrol officer to see if he will be able to give a short speech. The usual refreshments will be provided.</p> <p>f) <u>Coronation arrangements</u> It is understood that the village halls are likely to hold events and the parish council will listen to any financial requests made. The Monday is going to be a volunteer day and Cllrs are requested to think of potential projects. The clerk will add this to the March agenda.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>ALL</p>
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Bishops Green planning application update</u> There is nothing new to report on this item.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan update</u> Cllr Dain reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Examiners report has been circulated to all Cllrs. The Steering Group met on 7.2.23 and resolved to ask the parish council to accept the examiner's report and put the Neighbourhood Plan up for referendum as soon as possible. The Steering Group then signed off for the last time. The examiner required changes to the maps submitted at Reg 16. This will be completed by the consultants, Oneil Homer. The cost for this is £390. Cllrs agreed to all of the above and the parish council, as qualifying body, agree to the letter being sent to BDBC. Cllr Dain will write the letter to be sent.</p> <p>c) <u>Tree survey update and alternative quotations received</u> The clerk has spoken to various tree surgeons regarding the requirements and Cllrs agreed to proceed with James George who does similar work for Burghclere Parish Council.</p> <p>d) <u>Speeding working party update</u> Cllr Stamp reported that the SID has been ordered but per the clerk's comments earlier there has been difficulty contacting the company. The clerk will continue to try to get in touch.</p>	<p>MD</p>

	<p>e) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> Cllr Dain reported that regarding BGCA, there is progress in getting funding for the co-ordinator. There are 2 potential new trustees, one helping with the Youth Club. Regarding EVH, Cllr Dain has discussed play park costings with the new treasurer and established that the play park inspections cost them £500 per year. She proposed the £250 in the 2023/24 budget be donated to EVH towards the annual costs of the inspections. Cllrs agreed unanimously.</p> <p>f) <u>Communications</u> – newsletter (Cllr Debenham) and other media output Items for the magazine were agreed and Cllr Coward will write the article this month.</p>	
13	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.01pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

The allotment tree that Vivid has identified as on their land has not been surveyed or worked on so the clerk will contact them to see what progress is being made.

Resident, issues with road out of Bishops Green reported to West Berks Council, dealt with under Item 6. The clerk will request Cllr Mellor follows up with DEFRA,

Cllr Debenham has reviewed the information and summarized responses. These were discussed by Cllrs and it was agreed the clerk would use Cllr Debenham's responses to fill in the online survey. The clerk will also let Cllr Izett know the responses will be as per Cllr Debenham's emailed answers

Cllrs agreed to circulate the survey to the residents' email list, and put on the website and Facebook

The clerk will approach the BDBC Community Safety Patrol officer to see if he will be able to give a short speech

The Monday is going to be a volunteer day and Cllrs are requested to think of potential projects. The clerk will add this to the March agenda

Cllrs were in agreement to all of the above and the parish council as qualifying body in agreement to the letter being sent to BDBC. Cllr Dain will write the letter to be sent.