

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on
Wednesday 10th January 2024, commencing at 19:30 hours
Present: Cllrs Dain (Chair), Stamp (Vice Chair), Debenham, Parkes and Sadler.
In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), County Cllr Thacker, 0 members of the public.

Item		Action
1	Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Borough Cllr Izett.	
2	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3	Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising To receive and confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 13th December 2023. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by Cllr Dain.	
4	Public participation There were no members of the public present.	
5	Borough Councillor's Report There was no report as Borough Cllr Izett was not present.	
6	<p>County Councillor's Report. County Cllr Thacker advised that he had emailed a report to councils, but he wanted to highlight the Future Services Consultation which is being sent out at present and contains details of HCC services which will be cut. He urged the parish council to respond because although the cuts will definitely happen, the consultations responses will contribute to HOW the cuts are made. A second consultation about Local Nature Recovery is also being circulated and both will be sent out on the residents' email and put onto the website. Cllr Thacker advised that specific areas are costing more and at present if no extra funding is received, the county council will have eaten into all their reserves by the end of the financial year 2024/2025. Cllr Thacker advised if any members of the public have questions relating to this, they can contact him at tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk. Cllr Thacker advised he felt raising awareness of the situation through the consultations is positive and necessary.</p> <p>Cllr Dain thanked Cllrs Mellor and Thacker for providing funding for the laptop which was purchased for the BGCA co-ordinator who has been appointed and is now in position.</p> <p>Cllr Thacker advised he still has funding in his personal budget which can be applied for. EVH and the school will be advised accordingly.</p> <p>The flooding in the local area was discussed as it has been problematic. Cllr Thacker asked if full details can be provided as there may be issues which may be able to be improved. Once he has details, he will report to the Highways department. He suggested seeing if a volunteer can be found to measure the water table on a regular basis. Highways are clearly affected by the adverse weather and less money is available. HCC has a 3 stage strategy for pothole fixing and maintenance.</p> <p>There being nothing further to report, Cllr Thacker left the meeting at 7.55pm.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SJ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PD/SJ</p>
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) New applications: 23/03036/AGPD Bishops Green Farm Ecchinswell Road Bishops Green Newbury Proposal: Erection of a steel portal framed barn No action is required from ESG other than acknowledgment of the application.</p> <p>b) Decisions: None.</p>	

8	<p>Finance</p> <p>(a) Electronic Payments made in January:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>S Jones</td><td>Clerk's salary (Dec)</td><td>£863.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td><td>Clerk's expenses (Dec)</td><td>£24.37</td></tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td><td>Litter warden – (Dec)</td><td>£233.30</td></tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td><td>Litter warden - (Dec)</td><td>£166.60</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td><td>PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td><td>£77.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td><td>Expenses</td><td>£20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sydmonton Estate</td><td>Allotment lease rental</td><td>£50.00</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total</td><td>£1,434.77</td></tr> </table> <p>(b) The actual/against budget up to end of January was agreed.</p> <p>(c) The unavoidably delayed 3 year forecast will be presented at the February meeting.</p> <p>The clerk advised the Bishops Green litterwarden has recovered from his injury and is back to work.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (Dec)	£863.50	S Jones	Clerk's expenses (Dec)	£24.37	D McClelland	Litter warden – (Dec)	£233.30	R Wherry	Litter warden - (Dec)	£166.60	HMRC	PAYE – RW, DM, SJ	£77.00	D McClelland	Expenses	£20.00	Sydmonton Estate	Allotment lease rental	£50.00	Total		£1,434.77	
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9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>31.12.23 – Royal Oak response to PC's suggestions of help that can be given. The parish council responded and will advertise the Quiz Night, which is a community event, on the noticeboards.</p> <p>05.01.24 – BDBC</p> <p>24/00001/HSE Elderfield Mill Lane Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 4UD</p> <p>Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension.</p> <p>No objections.</p> <p>A second planning application has been received and responses need to be in to BDBC before the next meeting on 14th February, so Cllrs agree to hold an extraordinary meeting on 23rd January at 7.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall. Details and the agenda will be put on the website and emailed to the residents' email list.</p>	SJ																								
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>The flooding was raised under Item 6 above.</p> <p>Hyde Lane and the continual problems were mentioned again.</p>																									
11	<p>New Business</p> <p><u>a) Discussion of Agenda Order</u></p> <p>Cllrs had raised the issue with items at the bottom of the agenda often being rushed as the meeting time runs out. It was suggested that the agenda order could be altered on occasion to alleviate this problem.</p> <p>All agree that items 1-7 remain as they are but there is a 3 monthly rotation, where Items 8 to 10, Item 11 and Item 12 are moved each month so they should all get enough time to be discussed.</p> <p>This was proposed by Cllr Dain, seconded by Cllr Sadler, agreed unanimously and the clerk will action from the February meeting.</p> <p><u>b) National Grid: Bramley to Melksham overhead line upgrade project</u></p> <p>Pylons in the parish which need upgrading are having work carried out on them. This will cause some minor roads to be closed. The clerk will regularly check the website to see when the roads will be closed and post the information on the ESBG website.</p> <p><u>c) 1st Quarter Safety review</u></p> <p>Cllr Parkes has carried out the walk and safety review.</p> <p>She reported that the tree is still down by the pond; volunteers will be dealing with this shortly.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>																								

	<p>There is a rusty iron stand by Mill Lane, the clerk will report this as fly tipping.</p> <p>The sand box in Bishops Green has been knocked over again.</p> <p>The hawthorn hedge by Digweeds has been cut back but has not been cut enough. The maintenance team will be advised accordingly.</p> <p>The full report will be circulated.</p> <p>d) <u>Allotment renewals and lease payment</u></p> <p>The clerk advised the allotment renewals, with the new lease agreement, will be sent out over the next week.</p> <p>The lease payment has been made to the landowner.</p> <p>The change in water provider is under review.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>PD/SJ</p>
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Local Government Complaint Progress</u></p> <p>The clerk will contact HALC to find out if there has been a response from NALC. If there has been no response ESG will contact NALC directly.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan update</u></p> <p>Cllr Dain reported that the NPPF update (Dec 2023) gives Neighbourhood Plans weight in planning deliberations for 5 years not 2 years.</p> <p>The LPU Regulation 18 was passed by BDBC cabinet, and the consultation will soon be open. Cllrs need to review the document to discuss how the parish council want to respond. The Neighbourhood Plan will need to be updated once the LPU update is in place.</p> <p>c) <u>CIL monies – clarification of website as viable expense</u></p> <p>Cllr Dain had circulated a document prior to the meeting with various ideas in line with statements made in the NP. The first proposal for use of the CIL monies is putting measures in place to try to alleviate the speeding issues within the parish. HCC will be approached, and permission sought to extend the existing 30mph speed limits throughout the parish.</p> <p>Cllr Dain will finalise the proposal and the clerk will check current CIL/S106 funds.</p> <p>d) <u>Tree surgeon progress and report</u></p> <p>The report has been received and will be fully reviewed. The tree reported by a resident as a problem is unfortunately missing from the report and the clerk will speak to the tree surgeon urgently and ask him to go and review the tree to assess what work needs to take place.</p> <p>e) <u>Solar Farm Proposal</u></p> <p>There is no action on this item other than changes to the area of the proposed farm which means it would no longer be in ESG Parish.</p> <p>f) <u>Speeding working party update</u></p> <p>A letter has been sent to the manufacturers asking for a full refund; and a response is awaited.</p> <p>g) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u></p> <p>Cllr Dain reported that BGCA has a new coordinator who is doing an excellent job and planning new activities, so all very positive.</p> <p>Cllr Debenham reported that EVH have been looking into a solar panel project. This project will need extensive funding and a variety of grants will be sought. The parish council may be able to help with a small amount of funding from CIL monies.</p> <p>The Panto preparation is in full swing, and tickets are on sale.</p> <p>h) <u>Communications – newsletter (Cllr Debenham) and other media output</u></p> <p>It was agreed the draft minutes do not need to be published this month.</p> <p>Items for the magazine were agreed.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>MD/SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>PD</p>
13	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday 23rd January for the extra-ordinary meeting, at 7.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall, and Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.04pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

Clerk to circulate information about HCC surveys via residents email list and website

Cllr Thacker advised he still has funding in his personal budget which can be applied for. EVH and the school will be advised accordingly

All agree that Agenda items 1-7 remain as they are but there is a 3 monthly rotation, where Items 8 to 10, Item 11 and Item 12 are moved each month so they should all get time to be discussed.

Pylons in the parish which are in need of upgrading are having work carried out on them. This will cause some minor roads to be closed. The clerk will regularly check the website to see when the roads will be closed and post the information on the ESG website.

There is a rusty iron stand by Mill Lane, the clerk will report this as fly tipping.

The hawthorn hedge has been cut back but has not been cut enough. The maintenance team will be advised accordingly

The full 1st Quarter Safety report will be circulated

The clerk advised the allotment renewals, with the new lease agreement, will be sent out over the next week.

The clerk will contact HALC to find out if there has been a response from NALC. If there has been no response ESG will contact NALC directly.

Cllr Dain will finalise the proposal and the clerk will check current CIL/S106 funds.

The tree reported by a resident as a problem is unfortunately missing from the report and the clerk will speak to the tree surgeon urgently and ask him to go and review the tree to assess what works needs to take place.