

# ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025, commencing at 19:30 hours

**Present:** Cllrs Stamp (Chair), Sadler (Vice Chair), Debenham, Parkes, Hardy-Giles and Monteith.

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

Item		Action
1	<b>Apologies:</b> There were no apologies as all Cllrs were present.	
2	<b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.	
3	<b>Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising</b> To receive and confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March and matters arising. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by Cllr Stamp.	
4	<b>Public participation</b> There we no members of the public present.	
5	<b>Borough Councillor's Report</b> Borough Cllr Izett was not able to attend the meeting but sent a written report which was circulated before the meeting.	
6	<b>County Councillor's Report.</b> County Cllr Mellor reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devolution is going to schedule. Boroughs and Districts have still not agreed how they will be formed. This should be resolved by June then the process can continue and Mayors will be sought. County elections have been postponed in view of this. There is likely to be sizable reductions in numbers of Cllrs depending on how the Unitaries are formed. Planning will still be centralised and planning should be devolved.</li> <li>HCC currently have an annual budget of £2.4bn.</li> <li>Highways have had a large grant and on the whole A and B roads are performing better, although rural roads remain a problem. There have been complaints regarding the number of road closures. On national league tables, local roads are performing well.</li> <li>All schools in the area have performed to a 'good' standard. The birth rate has dropped post COVID so there are low numbers at some schools. There were plans to build 12 new schools but this has been reduced to 10.</li> <li>The pothole audit was raised and that ALL potholes have been entered onto the HCC website reporting system.</li> <li>The clerk asked Cllr Mellor about the request for a donation to the school; Cllr Mellor said requests for money for schools should be sent to HCC.</li> </ul> There being nothing further to report, Cllr Mellor left the meeting at 8.05pm.	
7	<b>Planning</b> <p>a) <b>New applications:</b></p> <p><b>25/00636/HSE Brick Kiln Cottage</b> Cow House Lane Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 9AE Proposal: Two storey and first floor only front extensions, replacement porch to side elevation, new porch to front elevation and external alterations. ES&amp;BG PC remains supportive of this application with provision that the proposed extensions are relatively invisible to the community and landscape and is outside of the ECA. The dark skies situation needs to be taken into account.</p> <p><b>25/00543/TDC</b> Land South Of Darling Buds Of May Knightsbridge Lane Headley Application for Technical Details Consent for the erection of 8 dwellings; with access, parking, landscaping, private amenity space and associated infrastructure in accordance with Permission in Principle 20/02209/PIP</p>	

	<p>ES&amp;BG PC would like revision of the housing design to be more in keeping with its rural location. Additionally the dark skies situation, and zero carbon design needs to be taken into account.</p> <p><b>25/00514/RET</b> Chalkpit House Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 4UQ Retrospective application for change of use of stables to residential annex with associated works. ES&amp;BG PC Supports this application given the maintenance of rural external styling. However, it is important that this support is only provided on the basis that this new dwelling remains part of the Chalkpit House accommodation, and is not an indirect step towards establishing a new independent dwelling in this rural setting.</p> <p><b>b) Decisions:</b>  <b>24/02963/HSE</b> Brick Kiln Cottage Cow House Lane Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 9AE Ground floor front and rear extensions, first floor front extension and exterior alterations. Decision: Application Withdrawn Tue 18 Mar 2025</p> <p><b>25/00042/HSE</b> The Cottage Ecchinswell Road Bishops Green Hampshire RG20 4HS Proposed single storey rear extension with associated alterations and alterations to existing conservatory Decision: Granted Thu 06 Mar 2025</p> <p><b>24/01780/LBC Mill Lane Barn Mill Lane Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 4UD</b> The refurbishment and change of use of a Listed Building (Mill Lane Barn) into a 3 bedroom dwelling with associated frontage parking and rear amenity areas. Decision: Granted Thu 20 Feb 2025</p> <p><b>24/01779/FUL</b> Mill Lane Barn Mill Lane Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 4UD The refurbishment and change of use of a Listed Building (Mill Lane Barn) into a 3 bedroom dwelling with associated frontage parking and rear amenity areas. Decision: Granted Thu 20 Feb 2025</p> <p><b>c) Unauthorised planning update</b> Planning application 25/00514/RET above.</p>	
8	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p>a) <u>S106 monies – spend discussion</u> Cllrs agreed that they will create a 'wishlist' of possible projects the monies can be used for. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>Financial Regulations review and sign off</u> Cllrs requested clarification or rules relating to relatives being on the parish council at the same time and possible. The clerk will look into this and respond with the outcome.</p> <p>c) <u>HCC Future Services Consultation review</u> Cllrs agreed the consultation will be circulated to the resident's email list and Cllrs will respond as individuals.</p> <p>d) <u>Final AGM/Annual Assembly arrangements including Chair/Vice Chair nominations</u></p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>SJ</b></p> <p><b>SJ</b></p>

	<p>The police have been invited and confirmed they will attend. The clerk will organise refreshments. The resident email list will be emailed an invitation, and the notices put up by the pond. The clerk requested Chair and Vice Chair nominations.</p> <p>e) <u>Review of clerk's salary and annual appraisal</u> The annual appraisal will take place over the next month. The clerk was given an inflationary payrise of 3%.</p> <p>f) <u>Review of Assets Register</u> The assets register was reviewed and discussed. The clerk will find out where the wheelbarrow, forks, waders and bulb planters are being stored at present and report back . The Assets register was signed off.</p> <p>g) <u>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Safety Review</u> The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter safety review was carried out and circulated. Issues raised are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fence and bench at Digweeds are both wobbly and need attention.</li> <li>• The fence at the village hall is rotten; HCC need to be contacted</li> <li>• The raised flower beds need attention, and weeding needs to take place around the bus stop. The lengthsman will be asked to carry out these tasks in his next tranche of hours.</li> </ul> <p>h) <u>Neighbourhood Plan review process</u> Members of the community who had been involved in the Neighbourhood Plan have been asked to give a short presentation at the Annual Assembly; they have agreed on the proviso that it is made clear they will not be running the review. Whitchurch Town Council have been asked if they have any information relating to review process but no response has been received as yet. Oneill Homer will be contacted regarding the review process.</p> <p>i) <u>Community Impact Statement</u> An issue taking place in the parish, which involved some degree of harassment and unpleasant behaviour to another individual has been raised with the parish council. It is understood this situation has been reported to the police and there has been resulting action. The parish council have been asked by 3 members of the public if they will raise a Community Impact Statement. The clerk is seeking advise from HALC as to whether this is something a parish council can or should do. Legal advice is required.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>
9	<p><b>Matters for Discussion:</b></p> <p>a) <u>Website upgrade progress</u> The update is still in hand. Photos including head shots of the Cllrs and clerk are required.</p> <p>b) <u>School lighting request update</u> This was discussed and decided under Item 6 above.</p> <p>c) <u>SID purchase update</u> The business plan will be presented at the June meeting.</p> <p>d) <u>Sustainability and Environmental working party</u> The survey is ready to be circulated and will be sent out in the next few days.</p> <p>e) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> Cllr Sadler reported the following re BGCA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bingo night took place which went well.</li> <li>• There has been a series of low level acts being carried out, including fires being set in the woods. Arrests have taken place. BDBC are helping by sending the CSPO who is visible and around in his van more often.</li> <li>• The village hall has been broken into once and the alarm is being set off at night. The culprits are known to BGCA.</li> <li>• 2 youth workers are being sought. At present there is no youth club, as there is only 1 member of staff who felt unsafe working alone.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Debenham reported that the EVH AGM took place on 8<sup>th</sup> April. The hall is running well with lots of events and activities taking place. VE Day celebrations will be taking place and advertised. This is a similar time as ESG PC will want to advertise their AGM and Annual Assembly but the timings should work out.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>

	f) <u>Allotment renewals</u> All renewal payments have been received.	
10	<b>Finance</b> <b>Electronic payments made in April:</b>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>S Jones Clerk's salary (March)</div> <div>£795.90</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>D McClelland Litter warden – (March)</div> <div>£232.80</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>R Wherry Litter warden - (March)</div> <div>£164.92</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</div> <div>£213.40</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>D McClelland Expenses</div> <div>£20.00</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>S Jones Microsoft Office annual subscription</div> <div>£104.99</div> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"><b>Total £1,532.01</b></div> <b>b) Actual/against budget</b> The actual against budget needs to be reviewed and recirculated. <b>c) End of year accounts sign off</b> The end of year accounts were agreed and signed off. <b>d) Audit booking confirmation</b> The clerk confirmed the internal audit has been booked for 8 <sup>th</sup> May.	
11	<b>Correspondence</b> 17.03.25 – Hampshire County Council; changes to reporting of Highways issues, 'roads' email no longer in use 02.04.25 – Resident, confirmed they are willing to cater on pond clearance day for which they are thanked. 01.04.25 and 08.04.25 – Residents, unacceptable diversion route in Bishops Green The clerk advised she has contacted Southern Water, who are the contractors who have closed the road, and put up a diversion through Hyde Lane. The route is not fit for any volume of traffic and the clerk has advised them accordingly. No response has been received so far.	
12	<b>Highways and Rights of Way</b> There was nothing to add other than the pothole audit (Item 6) and unacceptable diversion (Item 11) already discussed	
13	<b>Communications</b> – newsletter (Cllr Sadler) and other media output It was agreed the draft minutes do not need to be published this month. Items for the magazine were agreed.	
14	<b>Review of calendar items</b> Calendar items for May 2025 were noted.	
15	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025, Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm and Annual Assembly at 7.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.04pm.	

## ACTIONS:

Cllrs agreed that they will create a 'wishlist' of possible projects the monies can be used for. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Cllrs requested clarification or rules relating to relatives being on the parish council at the same time and possible. The clerk will look into this and respond with the outcome

Cllrs agreed the consultation will be circulated to the resident's email list and Cllrs will respond as individuals

The clerk will organise refreshments. The resident email list will be emailed an invitation, and the notices put up by the pond.

The clerk will find out where the wheelbarrow, forks, waders and bulb planters are being stored at present and report back .

The fence and bench at Digweeds are both wobbly and need attention

The fence at the village hall is rotten; HCC need to be contacted.

The raised flower beds need attention, and weeding needs to take place around the bus stop. The lengthsman will be asked to carry out these tasks in his next tranche of hours.

Oneill Homer will be contacted regarding the review process

The clerk is seeking advice from HALC as to whether this is something a parish council can or should do. Legal advise is required

Photos including head shots of the Cllrs and clerk are required.

The survey is ready to be circulated and will be sent out in the next few days.