

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on

Wednesday 9th July 2025, commencing at 19:30 hours

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

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), 0 members of the public.

Item		Action
1	Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Stamp.	
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 Wednesday 11 th June, and matters arising. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by Cllr Sadler. Matter arising include the request for a donation for the school playground upgrade which ESBG PC are keen to support and have asked HCC if there is a reason they are not allowed to donate to HCC property. No answer has been received so the clerk will continue to seek an answer as soon as possible.	SJ
4	Public participation There we no members of the public present.	
5	Borough Councillor's Report There was no report at the meeting as Borough Cllr Izett was not present, but a written report was sent in and circulated.	
6	County Councillor's Report. There was no report as County Cllr Thacker was not present.	
7	Planning a) New applications: 25/01237/HSE Primrose Cottage Cow House Lane North Sydmonton RG20 9AF Proposal: Erection of single storey garage and two storey extension to the garage with garden storeroom below with bedroom and bathroom above following demolition of existing car port. Addition of new canopy to east and south elevation. 25/01238/LBC Primrose Cottage Cow House Lane North Sydmonton RG20 9AF Proposal: Erection of single storey garage and two storey extension to the garage with garden storeroom below with bedroom and bathroom above following demolition of existing car port. Addition of new canopy to east and south elevation. Cllrs have OBJECTED to the following planning applications as they felt there was insufficient information to assess the application properly. It provides only descriptive detail of what is proposed. There appear to be no elevations provided of before and after, although the listing of attachments describes the elevations as existing. BDBC have been asked to clarify and provide more information. 25/01522/HSE Peake Gate Road To Watership Farm Sydmonton Ecchinswell Erection of single storey extension to existing dwelling Cllrs commented this is as per the submission in May, as follows, and their comments remain unchanged: 25/00966/LDPO Peake Gate Sydmonton Ecchinswell Newbury Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed erection of single storey extension to rear of existing detached dwelling ES&BG Parish Council is not opposed to a Certificate of Lawfulness being allowed for this proposed single-storey extension, as long as the future built extension fully matches the detail provided in this application T/00326/25/TCA Ratts End House Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell RG20 4TX We are seeking to remove the Roble Beech tree marked T1 on the	

	<p>attached Tree Protection Plan and Tree Report dated 2024. ESBG PC agree this decision should be made by the tree officer and have no comments to make.</p> <p>Further to the above planning applications, the clerk advised another planning application and a tree work application had been received, but not in time to be on the agenda and discussed at this meeting. An extra meeting will be required. Cllrs agreed this would take place on Wednesday 30th July at 6.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall.</p> <p>b) Decisions: none</p>	SJ
8	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>Email change update</u> The clerk needs to ascertain whether the new email domain can continue to be used with the new rules, and will report back once all the relevant information has been established.</p> <p>b) <u>2nd quarter safety review</u> Cllr Moneith has completed the quarterly safety review and gave a verbal report on the areas that need to be looked at; these are the Digweeds bench, the handrail at the bridge and the fence from the school to EVH. The allotments have a leaking pipe and the volunteers will be asked to look into this. A fencing panel from a private garden onto the allotments is broken and the resident will be asked to fix this.</p> <p>c) <u>CIL monies – project ideas</u> The list of project ideas have been compiled and Cllrs have looked into further projects. Public EV charging points have been investigated by Cllr Sadler and the cost would be approximately £2000 each. Cllr Debenham will get a re-quote for the EVH solar panels which include EV charging points as the current one has expired. Cllr Monteith has looked into static table tennis tables which cost approx. £3000 each. The full list of project ideas will be compiled and then decisions relating to spend can be agreed. Cllrs unanimously agreed that x2 Speed Indicator Devices should be purchased from TWM who have been recommended. The clerk was asked to ensure they will gather data and statistics which can be used.</p> <p>d) <u>Antisocial behaviour and police reports</u> There have been incidents of antisocial behaviour in the village and although reported to the police, there has been little action. Cllrs agreed these incidents need to be reported directly to Kit Malthouse and the Police Crime Commissioner. The clerk will do this.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>PD SL</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>
9	<p>Matters for Discussion:</p> <p>a) <u>Website upgrade progress</u> The website is moving forward but more photos are needed. There may be an issue as per the email and this is being looked into by the clerk. Cllr Sadler advised she had been able to identify, using the Merlin App, 70 different types of bird specie from her window. An article will be written for the website.</p> <p>b) <u>SID Business Plan review and purchase choices</u> This item was covered under 8c above.</p> <p>c) <u>Neighbourhood Plan Review Process</u> Cllrs agreed that a public meeting will be arranged for September to kick off the NP Review. Once the date is set, Oneill Homer will be asked to attend and then the public invited where it is hoped some volunteers will be found.</p> <p>d) <u>Kissing gate fund request</u> Cllrs agreed that they will give a donation of £500 towards the new kissing gate.</p> <p>e) <u>BDBC Call for Sites update</u> There is no further information on this item.</p> <p>f) <u>Sustainability and Environmental working party – survey outcome</u> Cllr Sadler will produce and circulate a report on the outcome of this survey.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>KS</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>KS</p>

	<p>g) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> Cllr Sadler reported that 2 jobs have been offered to 2 new youth workers and 1 has been accepted. It is hoped they will be in place for September but there won't be any Youth Club over the summer holidays. There has been some antisocial behaviour which escalated, but has now gone quiet. Cllr Debenham reported there has not been an EVH meeting so no update. The next meeting will take place on 15.7.25.</p> <p>h) <u>Village maintenance and watering of raised flower beds</u> The lengthsman has carried out maintenance work on the raised flower beds and they are looking better. The school have been asked if they can organize watering the flower beds going forward. An answer is awaited.</p>																												
10	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Electronic payments made in July:</p> <table> <tr> <td>S Jones</td><td>Clerk's salary (June)</td><td>£817.75</td></tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td><td>Litter warden – (June)</td><td>£248.25</td></tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td><td>Litter warden - (June)</td><td>£175.78</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td><td></td><td>£225.80</td></tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td><td>Expenses</td><td>£20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td><td>Repay overpayment</td><td>-£10.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td><td>Expenses - bin liners</td><td>£19.94</td></tr> <tr> <td>HALC</td><td>Training x3</td><td>£385.20</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total</td><td>£1,882.72</td></tr> </table> <p>b) Actual/against budget The actual against budget needs to be reviewed and will be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>c) External Audit submission and conflict of interest form signing The external audit has been submitted. The Conflict of Interest form, was signed and will be sent in by the clerk. There are no conflicts.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (June)	£817.75	D McClelland	Litter warden – (June)	£248.25	R Wherry	Litter warden - (June)	£175.78	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ		£225.80	D McClelland	Expenses	£20.00	R Wherry	Repay overpayment	-£10.00	R Wherry	Expenses - bin liners	£19.94	HALC	Training x3	£385.20	Total		£1,882.72	
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9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>11.06.25 – BDBC; Have your say on a draft updated climate strategy survey</p> <p>19.06.25 – HCC; Learn more about Local Government Reorganisation (LGR): Two forthcoming events A Cllr is needed to keep a watching brief on this, the clerk will re-distribute the email.</p> <p>01.07.25 – BDBC Leaders; invitation to their online workshop to update you on proposals being developed for local government reorganisation on 15th July</p>	SJ																											
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>The next pothole audit will be carried out in August by Cllr Sadler.</p> <p>The lengthsman was asked to cut foliage and clean the roadsigns so this should have been done.</p> <p>There are no signs in North Sydmonton, the clerk will look into this</p>	SJ																											
13	<p>Communications – newsletter (Clerk) and other media output It was agreed the draft minutes do not need to be published this month. Items for the magazine were agreed.</p>																												
14	<p>Review of calendar items Calendar items for August and September 2025 were noted.</p>																												
15	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm at Bishops Green Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.58pm.</p>																												

ACTIONS:

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