

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 10th September 2025, commencing at 18:30 hours

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

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), Borough Cllr Izett, County Cllr Mellor, 8 members of the public (part).

Item		Action
	At 6.30pm a public meeting was held to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan review process and ask for support: Cllr Debenham started by explaining that the current plan is 2 years into it's 5 year lifespan, and explaining possible issues if the current plan goes out of date. It is important that the plan remains robust so it can continue to protect the parish from unwanted development. He advised that Local government's developments plans have changed and ESG need to keep up to date, ensure they recheck what the community want and keep up to date with changes such as environmental change and the introduction of more solar farms etc, so the review is important. Members of the public raised the Rooksfield planning application; this was discussed and ESG PC continued to confirm their position of having objected to the application on 8 different counts, this was now in the hands of BDBC for decision. Regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Review, community engagement meetings will need to be carried out and a full review of all policies. 4 members of the public came forward and advised they would offer support and help with the review. They were thanked and will be contacted. There being nothing further to discuss, this part of the meeting closed at 7.14pm	
1	Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Letch.	
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 9th July, and the extra-ordinary meeting held on 30th July, and matters arising. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by Cllr Stamp.	
4	Public participation There were no members of the public present for the ordinary meeting.	
5	Borough Councillor's Report This item was dealt with out of order after Item 6. Cllr Izett reported that he was pleased to see the planning application for the pub has been granted. He asked about the antisocial behaviour in that area and was advised the police attended a coffee morning recently and were aware of the situation. The solar farm application and DCC meeting took place on 6th August. Despite the planning officers recommendation for approval, local opposition was strong and the decision on this has been deferred and there is no further news at present. The revised Draft Local Plan has been published and there has been an overall 35% increase in housing allocation. Ecchinswell have been allocated 5 new houses, and Bishops Green 0. Cllr Izett has no further information on the Rooksfield application. The Local Government Reorganisation has been agreed by 12 councils and will be going to the Secretary of State in September. There will be further news after this. There being nothing further to report, Cllr Izett left the meeting at 8.01pm.	
6	County Councillor's Report. This item was dealt with out of order after Item 4. Cllr Mellor reported that HCC is able to set a proper budget each year so their financial position is in good shape. Expenditure cannot be reduced and the highways budget and social care remain huge expenses but are being met.	

	Children's Services are being looked at with increased costs annually. 3 new SEN schools have been opened in the county. The new School Meals Breakfast Club has been instigated. There being nothing further to report, Cllr Mellor left the meeting at 8.01pm.																						
7	Planning a) New applications: 25/02065/HSE Ashley Warren Farm Ashley Warren Ashley Warren RG28 7QH Proposal: Alterations to roof including the creation of two new bedrooms and part raising of the roof and new windows and dormers; demolition and rebuilding of single storey rear extensions, including new garden room / dining hall and guest accommodation and replacement of conservatory with two storey extension ES&BG Parish Council does not object to the proposed detail of an already approved building extension. b) Decisions: 25/01576/ROC Land At Clere House Farm 450107 159482 Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Hampshire Variation of condition 1, to amend the plans and condition 12, parking of 25/00802/ROC to allow for the enlargement of dwelling to rear along with other fenestration changes Decision Granted 25/01522/HSE Peake Gate Road To Watership Farm Sydmonton Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 4UR Erection of single storey extension to existing dwelling Decision Granted 23/03165/FUL Royal Oak Hydes Platt Ecchinswell Newbury RG20 4UH Two storey side extension and a single-storey front extension to the public house for increased capacity and to provide C1 overnight accommodation, single storey rear extension to public house, car park extension and a single storey outbuilding equipped for catering and WC facilities. Decision Granted T/00342/25/TCA Ecchinswell House Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Newbury Hampshire RG20 4UA Tree work as per Tree Survey dated 29th April 2024 Decision Raise No Objection 25/00543/TDC Land South Of Darling Buds Of May Knightsbridge Lane Headley Hampshire 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 Decision Refuse																						
8	Finance a) Electronic payments made in August: <table> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (July)</td> <td>£817.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (July)</td> <td>£199.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (July)</td> <td>£156.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td>£208.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Expenses</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flexinet</td> <td>23.06.25</td> <td>£98.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Stream</td> <td>23.06.25 Allotment water</td> <td>£15.86</td> </tr> </table>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (July)	£817.75	D McClelland	Litter warden – (July)	£199.40	R Wherry	Litter warden - (July)	£156.36	HMRC	PAYE – RW, DM, SJ	£208.60	D McClelland	Expenses	£20.00	Flexinet	23.06.25	£98.04	Business Stream	23.06.25 Allotment water	£15.86	
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	Less payment to Watership Down Partnership (kissing gate) £500.00 Less bank charges 11.07.25 £8.00 TOTAL £2024.01 Electronic Payments made in September: S Jones Clerk's salary (August) £817.75 D McClelland Litter warden – (August) £199.40 R Wherry Litter warden - (August) £156.16 HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ £208.80 D McClelland Expenses £20.00 Premier Grounds Maintenance inv 3274 £152.40 Premier Grounds inv 3211 - June work £967.20 Flexinet 05.08.25 £62.04 HMRC NI underpayment £349.10 BGCA for room hire £108.00 ICO Data protection subscription £47.00 Less bank charges 10.08.25 £8.00 TOTAL £3095.85 b) Actual/against budget The actual against budget to September 2025 was reviewed and agreed. c) 3 Year Forecast The 3 year forecast is being reviewed and updated and will be presented at the next meeting. d) External Audit update The external audit has been submitted; questions raised by the auditors have been answered and it is hoped it will be signed off shortly.	
9	Correspondence 04.08.25 – BDBC Cllr - Important New National Energy Data Relevant to Solar and Battery Planning Applications in Basingstoke and Deane 08.08.25 – HCC; Local Government Reorganisation Parish and Town Council Briefings – information from the sessions 18.08.25 – HALC; AGM information for 22nd October. 28.08.25 – Oneill Homer; From Guesswork to Game Plan: Free planning policy and development training for parish clerks and councillors 04.09.25 – BDBC; Notification of Publication of the Overton Neighbourhood Plan 2025-2040 05.09.25 – Rockstone Communications; Bewley invite to open the show home in Bishops Green. Cllr Sadler reported she will attend the opening taking place on Saturday 13th September and also advised there is advertising for 5 bedroom houses which were not on the original application so this will be investigated. 07.09.25 – BDBC Tree officer; T/00442/25/TPO 22 Eagle Road Bishops Green Hampshire RG20 4HR T1 - Oak, Cut back lower canopy of large oak tree by approximately 3m over garden/towards house. Remove deadwood over lawn area The decision on this will be left to the tree officer.	KS

	Cllrs also discussed the pond clearance day at this time. The date is 5th October. The clerk will send an email asking for volunteers to help. Cllrs Monteith and Hardy-Giles will be there running the day. The risk assessment has been completed and the catering sorted. The Basingstoke Volunteers will be contacted to ensure the day can go ahead as the pond water levels are very low at present.	SJ
10	Highways and Rights of Way The school slow sign needs to be cleaned; Cllr Sadler volunteered to do this.	KS
11	New Business a) <u>Email change update</u> The clerk has ascertained that the new emails with the 'esbg.co.uk' will no longer be able to be used after April 2026. She is looking into possible other email providers and will report back at the October meeting. b) <u>Bank signatories mandate completion</u> The relevant forms to change the bank signatories have been completed; they will be signed and returned to the bank. c) <u>Strattons Farm (24/00852/FUL) update following DCC meeting on 6th August</u> This item was discussed under Item 5. d) <u>Local Plan Update</u> This item was to advise of the housing allocation as discussed in Item 5.	SJ
12	Matters for Discussion: a) <u>Website upgrade progress</u> The website is moving forward but photos are still needed. Cllrs were asked to provide headshots as soon as possible. b) <u>CIL money project ideas</u> The clerk will produce and circulate a spreadsheet of the ideas and spend discussed so far; then the final project list can be agreed. c) <u>SID purchase choices</u> The company chosen to provide the 2 SIDs was contacted by the clerk but no response received. The second company on the list have also been contacted and provided quotes and full information so they are now the preferred provider. They will be asked to provide references before the project moves forward. d) <u>Neighbourhood Plan Review Process</u> This item was dealt with at the 6.30pm meeting. e) <u>School playground donation finalisation</u> The clerk has sent various emails and received no response from HCC. As this donation is for an improvement to the playground, Cllrs agreed unanimously to make this payment from the CIL monies. The clerk will contact the school and arrange payment. f) <u>BDBC Call for Sites update</u> There is no further news on this item. g) <u>Antisocial behaviour and police reporting update</u> Cllr Debenham reported that the police had recently attended a coffee morning at Ecchinswell Village Hall and took some time discussion local issues with the people there. Antisocial behaviour in Bishops Green has been minimal over the summer. An incident in early summer involving the local special police constable meant numerous ASBOs have been issued which has resulted in less minor antisocial acts in the area. The situation at the pub is difficult with conflicting reports. There is a court case in December and it is hoped the outcome will resolve the ongoing issues. h) <u>Sustainability and Environmental working party – survey outcome</u> Cllr Sadler will produce and circulate a report on the outcome of the survey. i) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> Cllr Sadler reported that 2 new activities are underway; being a Talent Show and the Father Christmas Parade. There is a booking for the treatment room, for half a day a week. The bingo nights are running well. The committee have been asked to try and ascertain the affect additional parking spaces would have on footfall and bookings at the centre; once this is established, any commitments to spend can be decided by ESBG PC.	ALL SJ SJ SJ KS

	Cllr Debenham reported that the line dancing evening was successful. The football pitches have been hired out again. There is nothing further to report at present. h) <u>Village maintenance and watering of raised flower beds</u> The school have been asked if they can organize watering the flower beds going forward. No answer has been received as yet and this now may not be an issue until next Spring.	
13	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.	
14	Review of calendar items Calendar items for October 2025 were noted.	
15	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.	

ACTIONS:

Cllr Sadler reported she will attend the opening taking place on Saturday 13th September and also advised there is advertising for 5 bedroom houses which were not on the original application so this will be investigated

The clerk will send an email asking for volunteers to help. Cllrs Monteith and Hardy-Giles will be there running the day. The risk assessment has been completed and the catering sorted. The Basingstoke Volunteers will be contacted to ensure the day can go ahead as the pond water levels are very low at present.

The school slow sign needs to be cleaned; Cllr Sadler volunteered to do this.

The clerk has ascertained that the new emails with the 'esbg.co.uk' will no longer be able to be used after April 2026. She is looking into possible other email providers and will report back at the October meeting.

The relevant forms to change the bank signatories have been completed; they will be signed and returned to the bank.

The website is moving forward but photos are still needed. Cllrs were asked to provide headshots as soon as possible

The clerk will produce and circulate a spreadsheet of the ideas and spend discussed so far; then the final project list can be agreed

The second company on the list have also been contacted and provided quotes and full information so they are now the preferred provider. They will be asked to provide references before the project moves forward

Cllrs agreed unanimously to make this payment from the CIL monies. The clerk will contact the school and arrange payment

Cllr Sadler will produce and circulate a report on the outcome of the survey