

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on

Wednesday 12th November 2025, commencing at 19:30 hours

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

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), 1 member of the public, Borough Cllr Izett and County Cllr Mellor.

Item		Action
1	Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Monteith.	
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 8 th October, and matters arising. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by Cllr Stamp.	
4	Public participation The member of the public present advised he was attending to view the process at a parish council meeting and listen to discussion relating to planning in the parish, as this was causing him concern. He also wanted to volunteer to help with the Neighbourhood Plan review; he was thanked for this.	
5	Borough Councillor's Report Cllr Izett reported that there was a full Borough Council meeting on 11.11.25 during which spatial strategy was discussed in view of the 40% increase in housing by 2042, imposed by the Government. A consultation will be sent out which the parish council will share with members of the public. It will be an opportunity to discuss areas and proposals but there will be an allocation of houses to the borough. ESBG Parish is assigned a small number of houses so far but this could change and Catesby Estates have recently put in a development proposal for 60 houses in Bishops Green. The BDBC Local Plan is expected to be finished by Autumn 2027. The budget has been approved and is balanced for the next 2 years. Antisocial behaviour has increased slightly. Cllr Izett was made aware of the police meeting with the local community, which is taking place at EVH on 15.11.25. The pub is closed and there is no further information on this at present. S106 and CIL monies have been distributed; ESBG PC being in receipt of a large CIL payment. Cllr Izett was advised by the parish council that the Neighbourhood Plan review process is starting and this should help protect against developments like the Catesby proposal. There being nothing else to report, Cllr Izett left the meeting at 8.12pm.	
6	County Councillor's Report. County Cllr Mellor reported that new equipment and Speed Indicator devices are being installed in various areas but some have been vandalised. The budget is being prepared and a consultation on services and spend will be circulated. At present finances are looking healthy with a budget of £2.6bn for the next financial year. Costs have increased and Central Government need to match these increases to cover the shortfall of £137m. School meals are being outsourced to a new provider. HCC has an 'outstanding' rating for child services. 1 school will be closing next year due to small numbers of children. Cllr grants were frozen but have now been put back in place and can be applied for as needed. Cllr Mellor advised that S106 monies can be used to help rights of way, roads in developments and gates etc. Speeding remains a problem but it is hoped that the purchase of 2 speed indicator devices will help with this. Local Government reorganization is going ahead, with the local mayor already elected. There is no confirmation that county elections will go ahead next year. There being nothing further to report, Cllr Mellor left the meeting at 8.12pm.	

6A	<p>2 items were now dealt with out of order:</p> <p>12(g) Cllrs discussed whether a public meeting was needed for the new Catesby Estates proposal of 60 houses. ESG PC have contacted Catesby and advised their stance for the new proposal will remain to object, as per the previous larger proposal. It was agreed at present there is no further information so no public meeting will be called at this stage.</p> <p>8(d) The Neighbourhood Plan Review needs to move forward and the following needs to happen: The clerk needs to finalise and circulate the planning application spreadsheet as this is required for future discussion. The volunteers need to be contacted and reminded that they offered their help, and an initial meeting set up. The Neighbourhood Plan Annual Monitoring report has been returned and reviewed by Cllr Debenham. He has raised some questions which will be referred to BDBC.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>PD</p>
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) New applications: 25/02459/HSE Withey Copse Farm Hyde Lane Ecchinswell Newbury Hampshire Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension No objections</p> <p>It was agreed at this point that Cllr Letch will take over completing the Neighbourhood Plan review forms in conjunction with each planning application.</p> <p>b) Decisions: 25/02228/FUL 22 Beech Road Bishops Green Hampshire RG20 4AD Replacement of 2 no windows to front and side elevation Decision: Granted 25/02065/HSE Ashley Warren Farm Ashley Warren Ashley Warren RG28 7QH 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 Decision: Granted 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. Decision: Granted</p>	<p>SL</p>
8	<p>Matters for Discussion:</p> <p>a) <u>Website upgrade progress</u> Photos were taken and will be sent in so the new website can be finalised and launched.</p> <p>b) <u>CIL money project ideas</u> After reviewing the CIL project ideas spreadsheet, Cllrs agreed that the following projects will take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 references have been sought and received, so the x2 Speed Indicator Devices will be ordered and installed. • Funds will be put aside for any costs incurred for seeking professional help in dealing with the large development proposals that are received now, and in the future. This will be added to the spreadsheet. • ESG PC agreed unanimously to contribute £50k towards the building and installation of new parking spaces at Bishops Green Village Hall. Cllr Sadler will advise BGCA accordingly. 	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>KS</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hardy-Giles will, with help from the clerk, continue looking at solar panel costs with a view to making a donation to EVH to enable this work to be carried out. • Cllrs agreed there would not be a donation to the playground at Bishops Green as this is owned by BDBC and is there responsibility to maintain. <p>Other project ideas will be emailed to the clerk and added to this list as needed.</p> <p>c) <u>SID purchase choices</u> Agreed under Item 8(b) above.</p> <p>d) <u>Neighbourhood Plan Review Process</u> Discussed and actions agreed under the additional Item 6A above.</p> <p>e) <u>Email changes update and progress</u> The domain owner needs to be established, no response is being received from the relevant party so Cllr Stamp will contact them to try and move this forward.</p> <p>f) <u>Sustainability and Environmental working party update</u> Cllr Sadler reported there are no volunteers at present. The bird survey in the area earmarked for the Catesby proposal has now has 84 different varieties of birds spotted on it, some of which are on the red list.</p> <p>Litter has been an issue. The clerk requested that item 12(b) be brought forward and discussed now. She advised that the litterwarden has started working in Bishops Green and kept her abreast of the situation. Due to the time lag between the old warden leaving and the new warden starting, the rubbish had increased. The litterwarden has been paid for x8 hours of work so far. Cllrs agreed he could increase his hours to get the area back up to a good level, and would then need to restrict his hours to 4 per week as per the grant received. The clerk will advise him accordingly.</p> <p>g) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> Cllr Sadler reported that there have been a few issues with antisocial behaviour over the half term holiday but things have quietened down now the teenagers are back to school.</p> <p>BGCA ran a Talent Show which was a huge success and took £680.</p> <p>The Bingo and children's Bingo events were both very well received, and £1k was taken over the 3 events.</p> <p>New youth workers have been employed and are doing well, re-energizing the youth club.</p> <p>EVH continues to run well and has good income from various contracts for the football fields.</p> <p>A new project is moving forward to get the alarms and CCTV up to a good standard.</p> <p>Events have run well</p>	<p>JHG/SJ</p> <p>MS</p> <p>SJ</p>															
9	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Electronic payments made in November :</p> <table> <tr> <td>S Jones</td><td>Clerk's salary (October)</td><td>£817.75</td></tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td><td>Litter warden – (October)</td><td>£277.68</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td><td>PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td><td>£189.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td><td>Expenses</td><td>£20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total</td><td>£1,304.43</td></tr> </table> <p>b) 3 Year Forecast The 3 year forecast is being reviewed and updated and will be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>c) Actual/against budget The actual/against budget will be presented at the next meeting along with the annual budget.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (October)	£817.75	D McClelland	Litter warden – (October)	£277.68	HMRC	PAYE – RW, DM, SJ	£189.00	D McClelland	Expenses	£20.00	Total		£1,304.43	
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10	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Various dates in October: Community Whats App group and various correspondence directly to Cllrs with details of the situation at the Royal Oak and community discord.</p> <p>21.10.25 – BDBC; Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Neighbourhood plan monitoring 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025</p>																

	<p>28.10.25 – BDBC - Members Allowances; Independent Renumeration Panel survey</p> <p>30.10.25 – HCC; Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme, Cllrs agreed the clerk should send in an application for this.</p> <p>06.11.25 – Resident; suggestion for CIL money spend</p> <p>06.11.25 – Resident; requesting details on large development proposal and offering NP help</p> <p>07.11.25 – WBC, Updated Stanford Dingley Parish Design Statement - Consultation Draft</p> <p>10.11.25 – BDBC tree office: T/00575/25/TCA</p> <p>Vine Cottage Mill Lane Ecchinswell Newbury Hampshire</p> <p>Proposal: T3 Eucalyptus: selective limb shortening to reduce. Cllrs agreed this should be decided by the tree officer.</p>	SJ
11	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>The next pothole survey will be carried out in the new couple of weeks and Cllr Sadler will report back with the outcome.</p> <p>The clerk advised a couple of issues had been reported to her, which she had then reported to HCC. A response from HCC in both instances advised her that the pothole and damaged sign 'could not be located' but she has since been advised that the pothole has been filled. The damaged sign will be monitored and HCC chased up if no action is taken.</p>	<p>KS</p> <p>SJ</p>
12	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>New CIL monies payment</u></p> <p>The clerk reported that a CIL payment has been received to the tune of £129,540.97</p> <p>Project ideas have been discussed under Item 8(b) above and further project ideas will be collated.</p> <p>b) <u>Litterwarden cover in Bishops Green</u></p> <p>As discussed under Item 8(f).</p> <p>c) <u>3rd Quarter Safety Review</u></p> <p>Cllr Monteith was not present so there was no report. This will be presented at the December meeting.</p> <p>d) <u>Review of allotment rent</u></p> <p>Cllrs discussed and agreed the allotment rent will remain at £42 per annum.</p> <p>e) <u>Grass cutting grant</u></p> <p>Cllrs agreed to give a grass cutting grant of £550 to EVH. The clerk will advise them accordingly and pay that amount.</p> <p>f) <u>2026 meeting dates</u></p> <p>The dates were set, circulated and booked with the village halls.</p> <p>g) <u>Catesby Estates proposal – next steps</u></p> <p>This was agreed under item 6A above.</p>	<p>LM</p> <p>SJ</p>
13	<p>Communications – newsletter (Clerk) and other media output</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>	
14	<p>Review of calendar items</p> <p>Calendar items for December 2025 were noted.</p>	
15	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 7.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.07pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

The clerk needs to finalise and circulate the planning application spreadsheet as this is required for future discussion.

The volunteers need to be contacted and reminded that they offered their help, and an initial meeting set up.

The Neighbourhood Plan Annual Monitoring report has been returned and reviewed by Cllr Debenham. He has raised some questions which will be referred to BDBC

Photos were taken and will be sent in so the new website can be finalised and launched.

Funds will be put aside for an costs incurred for seeking professional help in dealing with the large development proposals that are received now, and in the future. This will be added to the spreadsheet

ESBG PC agreed unanimously to contribute £50k towards the building and installation of new parking spaces at Bishops Green Village Hall. Cllr Sadler will advise BGCA accordingly.

Cllr Hardy-Giles will, with help from the clerk, continue looking at solar panel costs with a view to making a donation to EVH to enable this work to be carried out

The domain owner needs to be established, no response is being received from the relevant party so Cllr Stamp will contact them to try and move this forward

The litterwarden has been paid for x8 hours of work so far. Cllrs agreed he could increase his hours to get the area back up to a good level, and would then need to restrict his hours to 4 per week as per the grant received. The clerk will advise him accordingly

HCC; Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme, Cllrs agreed the clerk should send in an application for this

The next pothole survey will be carried out in the new couple of weeks and Cllr Sadler will report back with the outcome

The damaged sign will be monitored and HCC chased up if no action is taken.

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