

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on
 Wednesday 14th January 2026, commencing at 19:30 hours
Present: Cllrs Stamp (Chair), Sadler (Vice Chair), Debenham, Hardy-Giles and Letch.
In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), 0 members of the public.

| Item | | Action |
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| 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 10 th December, and the Extra-ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 7 th January, and matters arising. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by Cllr Stamp. | |
| 4 | Public participation No members of the public were present. | |
| 5 | Borough Councillor's Report Cllr Izett was not present so there was no report. | |
| 6 | County Councillor's Report. Cllr Thacker was not present so there was no report. | |
| 7 | <p>Planning</p> <p>a) New applications:</p> <p>25/02680/VLA Land At Ecchinswell Road Bishops Green Hampshire Proposal: Variation of S106 agreement relating to 22/00174/OUT (outline application for up to 42 dwellings with associated open space and vehicular access) to allow the delivery of the affordable housing as 13 no. discounted market affordable homes at 25% discount to market value.</p> <p>ESBG PC Cllrs object to this as unable to comment until they understand what is happening with the affordable housing? 13 houses is not 40% and are the developers going to be held to S106 agreement of 40% affordable.</p> <p>25/02955/RET The Adbury Nursery North Sydmonton Newbury Hampshire RG20 4UL Proposal: Change of use of existing storage barns to Class E (light industrial) and Class B8 (storage) use (retrospective)</p> <p>ESBG PC have no objections.</p> <p>b) Decisions: none</p> <p>c) The Rooksfield development is going to the DCC on 11th February, the date of the next meeting. Cllrs are hoping to send a representative who can attend instead of going to the PC meeting, and will report back. The Clerk will resend the list of objections in the meantime.</p> <p>Catesby Estates were also raised as have been mentioned as a dissolved company. The clerk will look into this.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">SJ</p> <p style="text-align: right;">SJ</p> |
| 8 | <p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>Village Maintenance Contract Sign off</u> The Village Maintenance Contract has been agreed and signed by the maintenance company. There is no increase in prices for 2026. Cllrs agreed the contract to be renewed, and also agreed that the contract will go out for tender at the renewal in November 2026.</p> <p>b) <u>4th Quarter Safety Review</u></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">SJ</p> |

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|--------------|---|--|---------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|------|---------------|---------|--------------|----------|---------|--|--------------|------------------|--|
| | <p>Cllr Monteith was not present and the review was no circulated so this will be added to the February agenda.</p> <p>c) <u>Allotment renewals and lease payment</u> The allotment renewal notices will be send out over the new few days. Cllrs agreed that the 2 allotment holders who run the association and keep the common areas tidy will not be changed for their allotments, as per last year. The lease payment for the land will be organised by the clerk.</p> <p>d) <u>S106 monies discussion</u> Cllrs discussed uses for this money. Cllrs raised getting some seating in the green areas in Bishops Green. It was decided to continue the discussion when Cllr Monteith is present. This will be in the February agenda.</p> | <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | <p>Matters for Discussion:</p> <p>a) <u>Website upgrade progress</u> The final stages are taking place and it is hoped the website will be up and running shortly.</p> <p>b) <u>CIL money project ideas</u> Various ideas are still being looked at; warm boxes for defibrillators and seating in Bishops Green. The solar panels project for EVH needs to move forward and the clerk and Cllr hardy-Giles will seek quotes. The spreadsheet will be updated and recirculated, other project ideas will be considered as requested.</p> <p>c) <u>SID purchase progress</u> 2 SIDs have been ordered. The company have asked for the diameter of the poles which needs to be measured so the fixings can be made; Cllr Monteith will measure and confirm these whilst carrying out the safety review.</p> <p>d) <u>Neighbourhood Plan Review Process</u> The next meeting will be taking place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 11th February at Bishops Green. Cllrs discussed the requirements for seeking professional help; it was unanimously agreed by Cllrs consultants should be employed. The clerk will seek advice on any professional consultants who can be approached. Cllrs would like a meeting with BDBC Planning Officers as soon as possible and the clerk will organise this.</p> <p>e) <u>Email changes update and progress</u> The clerk has established that the domain is owned by the parish council. Next steps will be taken so the email addresses can be amended and made legal per the new rules. No action has taken place due to the Christmas break but this project will now move forward.</p> <p>f) <u>Sustainability and Environmental working party update</u> Cllr Sadler is establishing a remit for the project to define what areas will be covered; these were discussed by Cllrs and include a quarterly pothole survey, and contacting the local farms to establish who is responsible for what areas/hedges etc. Cllr Sadler and the clerk will draft an email to send to local landowners.</p> <p>g) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> Cllr Sadler reported that the solar panels are up and running and working well. 2 of the parking spaces are owned by VIVID who have advised they do not want to change their use, which could impact the project to create more spaces. Discussion are ongoing and a resolution is being sought. The next EVH meeting is taking place on 27.1.26 and Cllr Hardy-Giles is hoping to attend. The annual Race Night takes place on 24.1.27.</p> | <p>JH-G /SJ</p> <p>LM</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>KS/SJ</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | <p>Finance</p> <p>a) Electronic payments made in January:</p> <table> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (December)</td> <td>£817.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's expenses (December)</td> <td>£ 25.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (December)</td> <td>£375.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE – DM, SJ</td> <td>£213.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Expenses</td> <td>£ 40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>£1,472.52</td> </tr> </table> | S Jones | Clerk's salary (December) | £817.75 | S Jones | Clerk's expenses (December) | £ 25.99 | D McClelland | Litter warden – (December) | £375.18 | HMRC | PAYE – DM, SJ | £213.60 | D McClelland | Expenses | £ 40.00 | | Total | £1,472.52 | |
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| | <p>b) Budget and Precept form sign off The budget was agreed as per the attached form. Cllrs discussed increasing the precept to include funds for professional help in the Neighbourhood Plan review. After discussion, Cllrs agreed that any funds needed this financial year can be borne from council reserves, and this will be reviewed again in December when discussing the following financial year.</p> <p>The precept form was signed and will be returned to BDBC.</p> <p>c) Actual/against budget The actual/against budget was circulated and agreed by all.</p> | |
| 11 | <p>Correspondence 31.12.25 – Resident; Defibrillator heater suggestion; discussed under Item 9(b).</p> | |
| 10 | <p>Highways and Rights of Way Numerous road signs and potholes have been reported to HCC and it is hoped action will be taken shortly to correct these problems.</p> | |
| 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 February 2026 were noted.</p> | |
| 15 | <p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7.30pm at Bishops Green Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38pm.</p> | |

ACTIONS:

Cllrs agreed the contract to be renewed, and also agreed that the contract will go out for tender at the renewal in November 2026.

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The allotment renewal notices will be sent out over the next few days

The lease payment for the land will be organised by the clerk

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The solar panels project for EVH needs to move forward and the clerk and Cllr Hardy-Giles will seek quotes

Cllr Monteith will measure and confirm these whilst carrying out the safety review

The clerk will seek advice on any professional consultants who can be approached

Cllrs would like a meeting with BDBC Planning Officers as soon as possible and the clerk will organise this

Cllr Sadler and the clerk will draft an email to send to local landowners.