

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018, commencing at 19.30 hours

**Present:** Councillors Hall, Dain, Bayliss, Bate, Owen, Wander, Sparrow, Borough Cllr Izett, County Cllr Mellor

**In attendance:** Sarah Jones (Clerk), 4 members of the public

Item		Action
1	<p><b>Apologies</b> There were no apologies as all members were present.</p>	
2	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> Cllr Owen advised he would not participate in the discussion re parking in Oakfields Close as he is a resident.</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising 16/18 Resolved</b> To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Signed by the Chair (Cllr Hall) as a true record.</p> <p><b>Actions arising:</b> The actions have either been addressed or are dealt with under Agenda items below, or as detailed below:</p>	
4	<p><b>Public participation</b> 4 members of the public attended the meeting.</p> <p><b>Agenda Item 12(f) taken out of order in view of resident's participation on the section of the meeting:</b> A resident from Oakfields Close advised of the extremely difficult parking conditions within the close, which has 32 houses and garages and a total of 64 cars. Vehicles are often parked on grass verges and pavements and this causes problems, particularly in bad weather. The resident advised he was on the Parish Council in 2002 and the parking was raised as an issue then. BDBC advised the PC at that time that the Close was 29<sup>th</sup> on the priority list, it is now placed at 39<sup>th</sup>. Refuse lorries have issues accessing the area and there are concerns about emergency vehicle access. BDBC advise the PC this is a police issue. The resident advised that when a survey was carried out in 2002 to suggest solutions to the problem the residents voted in favour of changing the grass area to parking. This would also help with maintenance costs. The PC need to establish who owns the land as the first step, and then work towards a resolution to this issue working with BDBC or the housing association.</p> <p>Another resident advised she wanted to raise awareness regarding the excessive traffic driving at speed through the village due to the roadworks at Headley. Not only is the speeding an issue but the verges of the roads are being badly damaged.</p> <p>The Volunteer group have been litter picking. They feel they have made good headway and cleared enormous amounts of litter. They advised the area around the school remains problematical and it was confirmed the school have been contacted and a request for careful disposal of litter will be included in this month's school newsletter. The next step is a co-ordination of the litter pickers so the same areas are not covered to the exclusion of other areas.</p>	<p><b>SJ</b></p>
5	<p><b>Borough Councillor's Report</b> Borough Cllr Izett advised the budget has received Cabinet approval. The budget is balanced and there will be no cuts in services. Council tax will increase by 4.5%. The new homes budget is being reduced and so the Council will receive £1.8m less than in 17/18.</p> <p>Money is being spent on services and staff salaries will increase by 2% which equates to £580,000 per annum.</p> <p>£20m is being invested in Commercial property which results in a return of 8% rather than 1.5% on cash investments.</p> <p>The LIF amount is confirmed as £2.5m between 17/18 and 21/22.</p>	

	<p>The business partner for the housing development at Manydown has been chosen. The Government require houses to be built quickly so grants are being given to Boroughs to develop housing. The Manydown development works start in 2019.</p> <p>The St Mary Bourne Neighbourhood Plan is moving forward.</p> <p>£300m update on the leisure park near Milestones Museum is in place. It is hoped the ice rink will be replaced since it has a lot of public support.</p>																						
6	<p><b>County Councillor's Report</b></p> <p>County Cllr Mellor advised the council tax rise includes 3% social care funding. The level of council tax is the second cheapest in Britain.</p> <p>No cuts are happening that should impact ES&amp;BG.</p> <p>There is a cut back of 8% on highway maintenance however the partnership with Skanska is going well and efficiency is improving.</p> <p>The Lengthsman duties are being looked at with a view to possibly extending the activities. Cllrs raised the issue of road edges and whether these could be managed by the Lengthsman or the volunteers, however this raises issues with insurance and health and safety so it was agreed to not pursue this at this stage.</p>																						
7	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>17/18 Resolved</b></p> <p>a) <b>TPO/BDB/0651 Land at Timberline, Bishops Green.</b></p> <p>No objections</p> <p>Correspondence Item taken out of order:</p> <p>Email from resident re tree works, BDBC ref <b>T/00003/18/TCA</b> Application for works to trees growing in a conservation area.</p> <p>No objections.</p> <p><b>b) Decisions</b></p> <p>No decisions.</p>																						
8	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>18/18 Resolved</b></p> <p>a) Financial Report and Payments</p> <p>Payments for December:</p> <p><b>Cheque payments:</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>Electronic payments:</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (January)</td> <td>£403.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerks Expenses (January)</td> <td>£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (January)</td> <td>£146.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (January)</td> <td>£108.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td>£131.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">EVH Grass cutting grant</td> <td>£550.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£1,339.16</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>19/18 Resolved</b></p> <p>b) The actual/against budget for Sept-Dec 2017 was agreed. Cllr Hall requested an actual/against budget every month. This was agreed by council.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (January)	£403.36	S Jones	Clerks Expenses (January)	£0.00	D McClelland	Litter warden – (January)	£146.60	R Wherry	Litter warden - (January)	£108.00	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ		£131.20	EVH Grass cutting grant		£550.00	Total		£1,339.16	<b>SJ</b>
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9	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>20/18 Resolved:</b></p> <p>Email 22/1/18 – resident requesting input re parking at Oakfields Close. Included in discussion under Item 4. The resident has been advised to contact the housing association but more information will be provided once the PC know who to contact. Cllr Hall will draft a letter to Oakfields residents regarding the overall parking issues once ownership of the land has been established. Once agreed, Cllr Owen is happy to deliver the letter.</p> <p>Email 30/1/18 – resident advising of tree maintenance. Dealt with under Item 7.</p> <p>Letter 31/1/18 – BDBC re no projects submitted for S106 contributions. Noted.</p>	<b>TH</b>																					

10	<p><b>Highways and Rights of Way</b>  <b>21/18 Resolved</b>  Cllr Hall reported that there is a large rut in the road on the way out of the village in the direction of Kingsclere. He will report this.  Cllr Sparrow reported 2 fly tipping incidents earlier in the month. Both were dealt with very swiftly.  Cllr Bayliss has reported another incident of fly tipping today and it will be monitored to see if it gets dealt with as quickly as the previous incidents.  The road to Peat Gate Cottage is in very bad condition and waterlogged. Cllr Hall will report this.</p> <p><b>Rights of way</b>  Cllr Dain and some volunteers will be clearing paths on Sydmonton Common on 23<sup>rd</sup> March starting at 10am. Any further volunteers should contact her. Full details will be published in the Parish magazine.</p>	TH  TH
12	<p><b>New Business</b>  a) <u>May Elections</u>  The clerk advised Cllrs that Councillor elections will be taking place in May this year.  b) <u>Review of Cllrs Responsibilities</u>  <b>22/18 Resolved</b>  The list was reviewed and responsibilities re-assigned in view of the changes to the Council members.  c) <u>EVH Committee Meeting Report</u>  Cllr Bayliss attended the meeting, however it was not quorate and so no decisions were made. The next meeting will be in April.  d) <u>Agreement for signs at Parish Sites</u>  <b>23/18 Resolved</b>  EVH and the PC will continue to liaise about signs being put up on PC land before being displayed.  e) <u>Lengthsman</u>  The clerk advised that she has confirmed ES&amp;BG wish to remain in the Lengthsman scheme. The Council requested that he clear the road signs, starting in Bishops Green.  f) <u>Allotment Renewals</u>  <b>24/18 Resolved</b>  The allotment renewals have been done. All bar 2 have renewed although final confirmation of non-renewal is required from one of these.  Cllr Bayliss has looked into the possibility of a grant for deer fencing. Quotes are extremely high at nearly £1000 plus labour costs. Grants may be considered if there is an allotment association which there isn't in ES&amp;BG.  Cllr Hall asked if the empty allotments have been tended? Is there a way to attract more interest? Cllr Bate will advertise the empty allotments in the parish magazine, offering a free trial. The lengthsman could also be asked to tend the empty plots.  Cllr Bayliss asked if there are any rules regarding bee keeping on the allotments and the clerk is going to find out.</p>	SJ
12	<p><b>Matters for discussion</b>  a) <u>HARAH survey question</u>  The survey question has been amended and should be ready to be distributed after 12<sup>th</sup> February. HARAH will contact the PC regarding this.  b) <u>ESBG Parish Volunteer Group</u>  Individuals have begun to offer help and a number of projects are underway. Methods of coordinating the volunteers are under consideration.  c) <u>Update on the review of the maintenance contract</u>  Mike Norman from the Basingstoke Volunteers has looked at the area round the pond. He has advised nothing is being done incorrectly so he will observe for a year and see if he has any suggestions for improvements.  d) <u>Email addresses for Cllrs</u>  Cllrs Owen and Wander are going to look further into setting up dedicated emails and bring concrete proposals to the next meeting.</p>	MD  NO/KW

	<p>e) <u>Litter picking and new bins update</u>  The litter picking has been dealt with under Item 4 above. 1 bin is going to be replaced by BDBC and confirmation of 2 other new bins is being chased by the Clerk. MacDonalds at Newbury and Tot Hill have been emailed regarding any help they can provide as lots of litter appears to come from them. So far no response has been received.</p> <p>f) <u>Oaklands Road parking issues update</u>  Dealt with under Item 4 above.</p> <p>g) <u>Centenary celebrations and war memorial cleaning update</u>  Cllrs Wander and Bayliss will be attending the next Centenary celebration meeting in Kingsclere in April. Cllr Bayliss obtained 2 more quotes for the cleaning of the war memorial, both near £3000. The original quote from Spencer and Peyton, is the best one and this needs to be an agenda item for the next meeting.</p> <p>h) <u>Power cables around the pond</u>  SSE have been out to look at the cables and agree that works needs to be carried out to stop the trees getting entwined in the cables. The job is on a worklist and will be organised shortly.</p> <p>i) <u>S106 funds update</u>  There is no update as BDBC still need to advise when the funds may be received in light of the planning application received.</p> <p>j) <u>Pond Clearance</u>  The pond clearance date is confirmed as 7<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p>f) <u>Parish Magazine</u>  Content for the Parish Magazine article was agreed.</p>	<b>SJ</b>
13	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b>  Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Ecchinswell Village Hall at 7.30pm.  There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.</p>	

## ACTIONS:

The PC need to establish who owns the land in Oakfields Close as the first step, and then find a resolution to this issue working with BDBC or the housing association. SJ

Prepare an actual/against budget every month. SJ

Cllr Hall reported that there is a large rut in the road on the way out of the village in the direction of Kingsclere, he will report this. TH

The road to Peat Gate Cottage is in very bad condition and waterlogged, Cllr Hall will report this. TH

The Council requested that the Lengthsman clear the road signs, starting in Bishops Green. SJ

The allotment renewals have been done. All bar 2 have renewed although final confirmation of non-renewal is required. SJ

Cllr Bayliss asked if there are any rules regarding bee keeping on the allotments and the clerk is going to find out. SJ

Volunteer coordination to be arranged by Cllr Dain. MD

Cllrs Owen and Wander are going to look further into setting up dedicated emails and bring concrete proposals to the next meeting. KW/NO

War Memorial quote from Spencer and Peyton needs to be an agenda item for the next meeting. SJ