

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall
 Wednesday 13th March 2019, commencing at 19.30 hours

Present: Cllrs Hall (Chair), Dain (Vice Chair), Sparrow and Kearney.

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), County Cllr Thacker, Borough Cllr Izett and 4 members of the public.

Item	Action
1	Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bayliss.
2	Declarations of interest Cllr Hall advised that he will not be involved in any discussion relating to Correspondence item 1 as he knows both parties involved in that planning item.
3	Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising 16/19 Resolved To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 th February 2019. Signed by Cllr Hall (Chair) as a true record. Actions arising: Cllr Bayliss had emailed prior to the meeting and advised, in relation to her continued work with the village pond, the maintenance contractor was shown the new cutting/clearing programme and agreed to follow it. She has received a donation of wild flower seeds which she suggests planting in the area behind the pond. All Cllrs were agreed on doing this.
4	Public participation 4 members of the public were present. One participant delivered a letter from the May Fayre committee, requesting a grant from the Parish Council to pay their insurance costs which will be approximately £160. This has been agreed in previous years and Cllrs agreed unanimously to support this grant for a further year. The charities chosen by the May Fayre committee are Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Ecchinswell Parish Church. A member from the EVH Committee mentioned, following on from previous conversations with the Parish Council at 2 prior meetings, that they would be happy for the EVH Committee and Parish Council to work together going forward for maintenance of the play park and zip wire, which has become the responsibility of EVH by default. Cllrs Dain and Bayliss have confirmed they will be the liaisons and are waiting for EVH to confirm who their liaison will be. The Parish Council is clear they are working on the plan with EVH and are not responsible for the play park even though they own the land. The EVH committee member also requested that the paperwork relating to Health and Safety and the regular inspections of the play park be dealt with by the Clerk going forward, as it was in previous years. The PC advised they will review the documents and respond once they understand fully the implications of what will be involved. Cllrs Dain and Bayliss will report back to the PC once they have attended the next EVH committee meeting which will take place before the next Parish Council meeting.
5	Borough Councillor's Report Borough Cllr Izett advised that the Local Boundary Commission, which was supposed to take effect in 2018 will come into force in May 2020. New wards will be created, and the total number of Cllrs representing BDBC will reduce from 60 to 54. The new ward which includes Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green will be extended to include East Woodhay and Hurstbourne Tarrant and will be called Evingar. The budget has been passed and there have been no cuts in service. Council tax has increased by £5 per annum for a band D house. Local Help to Buy is being proposed to help certain sectors who are finding it difficult to get on the property ladder.

	<p>The borough has an annual new housing target of 850, in March 2018 this was nearly met as 828 houses were built. In May 2018 this had increased to 1500 under construction, 40% of which are affordable housing.</p> <p>The Local Plan will be reviewed in the next couple of years. This should not have any impact on the Parish.</p>																									
6	<p>County Councillor's Report</p> <p>County Councillor Thacker advised that the leader of HCC is standing down, and a new leader will need to be appointed at the AGM on 7th May.</p> <p>Part of the transport budget underspend has been put in reserve and will be spent on continued help in fixing potholes.</p> <p>Cllr Thacker advised he has a personal budget to which Parish Councils can apply, to be used on many and varied projects. He asked that the council approach him if they have a project, he may be able to provide financial help with.</p> <p>Drainage was raised and will be discussed under Item 10 below, but Cllr Thacker requested he be cc'd into any emails to HCC highways as he may be able to provide assistance.</p> <p>Cllr Thacker confirmed it is highly likely the lengthsman scheme will be continued this year.</p> <p>Cllr Thacker left the meeting at 8pm.</p>																									
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>17/19 Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Planning applications - none. b) Decisions - none. 																									
8	<p>Finance</p> <p>18/19 Resolved</p> <p>Electronic Payments:</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (February)</td> <td>£496.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerks Expenses (February)</td> <td>£28.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (February)</td> <td>£156.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (February)</td> <td>£87.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE –</td> <td>RW, DM, SJ</td> <td>£44.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Premier Grounds</td> <td>Village maintenance</td> <td>£72.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Stream</td> <td>Allotment water</td> <td>£38.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>£924.20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>19/19 Resolved</p> <p>The actual/against budget for the period to the end of February 2019 was noted and agreed.</p> <p>Part of Item 12(d) was now dealt with out of order as Cllr Izett was leaving the meeting. Cllr Dain advised that she and Cllr Sparrow have been informed of a conference relating to affordable housing which is being hosted by him; she asked if it was appropriate and/or useful for her and Cllr Sparrow to attend? Cllr Izett advised this one was not aimed at Parish Councils and so there was no benefit for them to attend. Cllr Izett left the meeting at 8.30pm.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (February)	£496.69	S Jones	Clerks Expenses (February)	£28.36	D McClelland	Litter warden – (February)	£156.60	R Wherry	Litter warden - (February)	£87.82	HMRC PAYE –	RW, DM, SJ	£44.40	Premier Grounds	Village maintenance	£72.00	Business Stream	Allotment water	£38.33		Total	£924.20	
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9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>20/19 Resolved:</p> <p>14/2 – Joe White, response to Woodside Farm planning application. The estate was unable to attend the last meeting when this planning application was considered, however responses were sent to each of the points raised and these have been received and noted by the Parish Council. They were also sent to BDBC.</p> <p>28/2 – Email Emma Browning, Wall to Wall, TV series opportunity – Cllrs agreed the posters advertising this can be placed on the noticeboards.</p> <p>28/2 – Becky Poulter, BDBC – works beginning to improve parking at Oakfields Close. The works have begun and so far, there has been a positive response from residents.</p> <p>6/3 – Resident via the website, reason for closure of footpath? Responses from HCC confirming the bridge on the footpath is in urgent need of attention and work will commence shortly. Full details have been included on the website.</p> <p>7/3 – Alfred Nortey – works on C57 commencing w/c 1 April. The works have not yet begun, and the white lines Alfred thought have been painted on have not. The Council will speak to the various parties involved and endeavour to keep up momentum.</p>	
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>21/19 Resolved</p> <p>Cllr Hall advised that he is concerned about the drainage within the parish as there is a lot of standing water around and several drains are blocked. It was agreed to contact Steve Goodall at HCC and see what assistance can be offered. Cllrs will also review the lengthsman duties to see if he is able to assist with this.</p> <p>Cllr Dain advised the project to change some of the stiles to kissing gates is moving forward and all people involved or asked about the project have given positive responses. Cllr Dain advised she should be able to put the grant form in by the week ending 15th March.</p> <p>Cllr Dain had also walked some of the footpaths with a representative from HCC who acknowledged the disrepair of some of the bridges and hand rails and confirmed that the volunteer group can work on them to improve their state.</p>	SJ
11	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>May Fayre Committee donation</u></p> <p>22/19 Resolved</p> <p>Cllr Hall will follow up the earlier agreement for a donation (under Section 4) with the May Fayre committee and continue to suggest ideas for the area being worked on. The bollards are unsightly and it is agreed they should be removed as long as an alternative barrier is put up to ensure people don't park where they should not. The bin needs to be re-sited.</p> <p>A resident from the houses adjoining the plot has offered assistance with removing the bollards.</p> <p>Cllr Hall has requested that Cllrs bring ideas for 2 areas of the parish which would benefit from some planting and bring them along to the next meeting. Potential areas for improvement will also be raised at the Annual Assembly.</p> <p>b) <u>Documents to be reviewed and signed off – Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment</u></p> <p>23/19 Resolved</p> <p>Both documents have been reviewed prior to the meeting and were signed off.</p> <p>c) <u>EVH Grass cutting grant</u></p> <p>24/19 Resolved</p> <p>EVH Committee have sent in their paperwork for another annual grass cutting grant of £550.00. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>d) <u>Lengthsman jobs and scheme renewal 2019</u></p> <p>25/19 Resolved</p> <p>Cllrs were happy to renew the scheme and the new contract was signed by Cllr Dain. Litter continues to be an issue and the litter warden routes will be added to the agenda and discussed next month. The clerk will also contact MacDonalds to see if a grant can be obtained from them for litter picking.</p>	ALL SJ

	<p>e) <u>Parking at Bishops Green Village Hall and shop</u> The parking bays assigned to the village hall and shop in Bishops Green seem to be being used by several residents and other visitors for long term use. BDBC have been contacted and asked about the parking bays, who can park there, and the possibility of a sign being put up to try and prevent people using the spaces. The clerk will report back when a response is received.</p>	
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Council Vacancies</u> The council still has 2 vacancies; this will be raised at the annual assembly.</p> <p>b) <u>Annual Assembly – finalise details</u>. The running programme was finalised, and the following will take place: Cllr Hall – Summary of PC Activity over the year Clerk – Finances Borough Cllr Izett County Cllr Thacker/Mellor Police Lorrina Wooldridge – Bishops Green Community Hall Cllr Sparrow – affordable housing Cllr Kearney – projects for the future.</p> <p>c) <u>May Fayre donation – works update</u> This was discussed under item 11(a) above.</p> <p>d) <u>Affordable Housing Update</u> Cllr Sparrow has discussed this with Cllrs Hall and Dain. They agree the 3 main priorities are funding, building/management partner and the land available. Cllr Dain has had conversations with HARAH and been advised that no further data will be made available from the survey results. Land being looked at amounts to half an acre in Ecchinswell and 1 acre in Bishops Green for potentially 12 houses in total. Various areas of land were discussed; the land needs to be part of the already established built up areas of the village. Cllrs agreed they need to establish who the land owners of potential sites are, and then draft a letter to be sent to the landowners, to be reviewed at the next meeting.</p> <p>e) <u>S106 monies for allotments</u> It was confirmed by BDBC that some of the projects identified to use the S106 monies on were not applicable and the monies could not be used for those. The fencing can be fixed, and quotes need to be obtained. The clerk and Cllr Bayliss will look to obtain these.</p> <p>f) <u>EVH zip wire/play park update</u> This was discussed under item 4 above.</p> <p>g) <u>School lighting update</u> No response has been received regarding this so Cllr Hall has advised he will go and visit the school.</p> <p>h) <u>Oakfields Close parking lighting update</u> No response has been received from Vivid yet regarding switching off the street lights overnight. The clerk will chase. The parking was discussed under item 9 above.</p> <p>i) <u>Bishops Green Community Association update</u> Cllr Dain reported that she and Cllr Kearney attended a meeting last night which was positive. The new trustees now have full access to the bank accounts. The Youth Club will be restarted with the support of BDBC who will provide a youth worker temporarily. Bookings are increasing and there will be a concerted campaign on attracting business bookings once the hall refurbishment is complete.</p> <p>j) <u>Parish Magazine</u> Content for the Parish Magazine article was agreed. Cllr Kearney will write the article this month.</p>	MS/MD/TH
13	<p>Date of next meeting Wednesday 10th April 2019 at Bishops Green Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>	TH

| There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm. |