

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020, commencing at 19.30 hours

**Present:** Cllrs Bayliss (acting Chair), Kearney and Debenham.

**In attendance:** Sarah Jones (Clerk), County Cllr Mellor (part), 0 members of the public.

Item		Action																					
1	<p><b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Hall, Dain and Stamp.</p>																						
2	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.</p>																						
3	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising</b> To receive and confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Signed by Cllr Bayliss as a true record. <b>Actions arising:</b> All actions will be discussed under the following agenda items.</p>																						
4	<p><b>Public participation</b> There were no members of the public present.</p>																						
5	<p><b>Borough Councillor's Report</b> Borough Cllr Izett was not present so there was no report.</p>																						
6	<p><b>County Councillor's Report</b> Cllr Mellor advised that there had been no change in respect of its Household Waste Recycling policy to that outlined at the January ESBG PC meeting, indeed West Berks had now advised that it is their intention to introduce ANPR in the Spring to control access to the Newtown Road tip. Cllr Mellor did note that an outside source had suggested that the current permit system, costing HCC over £150k pa would continue. HCC had advised this is not the case and intends to introduce the new system in April.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor advised that the next Full Council meeting (13Feb) would see the budget for 20/21 approved. The loss of government support will mean a shortfall of £80M, a total of some £480m over the past 6 years and the effect of that as it affects ESBG is lack of growth in Highways Maintenance. We are hopeful that fairer funding will bring an additional amount of money. Some 74% of HCC expenditure now goes on Adult Social Care and Children's Services.</p> <p>In respect of the flooding on the A339 at the junction with Thornford Road, although the problem has been identified, HCC have advised they cannot do much more until the pond at Headley Stud has been decreased. Ecologists have ensured there are no live creatures therein, and therefore jetting can be carried out to clear it.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor advised he had nothing further to report and left the meeting at 7.45pm.</p>																						
7	<p><b>Planning</b> a) <b>Planning applications:</b> none  b) <b>Decisions</b> – none.</p>																						
8	<p><b>Finance</b> <b>Electronic Payments:</b></p> <p>(a) The following payments were agreed for January:</p> <table data-bbox="287 1814 1085 2049"> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (January)</td> <td>£575.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's Expenses (January)</td> <td>£18.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (January)</td> <td>£164.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (January)</td> <td>£118.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td>£30.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Premier Maintenance Allotment fencing works</td> <td>£657.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Premier Maintenance Rubbish removal from works</td> <td>£26.50</td> </tr> </table>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (January)	£575.54	S Jones	Clerk's Expenses (January)	£18.75	D McClelland	Litter warden – (January)	£164.20	R Wherry	Litter warden - (January)	£118.18	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ		£30.80	Premier Maintenance Allotment fencing works		£657.60	Premier Maintenance Rubbish removal from works		£26.50	
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	<p>HALC E Kearney training course -June 19                      £114.00</p> <p>Total    £1,705.57</p> <p>(b) The actual/against budget for the period to the end of January 2020 was agreed.</p>	
9	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>22/1/20 - Sydmonton Estate; the fallen tree on Nuthanger walk has been investigated, it's an old tree which has been like this for some time and poses no risk, the footpaths are directed around it.</p> <p>24/1/20 – BDBC – no open spaces projects put forward for the S106 monies available.</p> <p>03/02/20 – HCC – Bus shelter ownership, Cllrs agreed no bus shelters are owned by the Parish Council.</p> <p>05/02/20 – West Berks Local Plan newsletter – circulated to Cllrs.</p> <p>07/02/20 – Litterwarden – litter issue and possible solutions. Local fast food establishments will be approached to see if they can provide any financial assistance with removal of the rubbish, as a large proportion of it seems to come from their restaurants. Cllrs were in agreement that Cllr Bayliss could be supplied with a new litter picking stick to replace her broken one.</p> <p>12/02/20 – Kingsclere Library services – a request has been sent asking that posters providing details of the possible closure be put up on Echinswell noticeboards; Cllrs were unanimous in their agreement that this was fine.</p>	<p><b>SJ</b></p> <p><b>SJ</b></p>
10	<p><b>Highways and Rights of Way</b></p> <p>Cllr Kearney advised she has met with Gemma Clinch, the new footpath warden. They have carried out a walk about of the area and discussed various issues. With the current weather there is a good deal of flooding, but this is to be expected. There is a problem as lots of the small foot bridges are slippery and a viable solution is being sought for this issue. Other possible projects need to be considered.</p> <p>The kissing gate project is in hand, but the gates are not in stock yet.</p>	
11	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p>a) <u>Review and sign-off of the village maintenance contract</u> The contract was unable to be signed off as the costings for the hawthorn cuts need to be re-addressed. The clerk will report back after hearing back from the maintenance team.</p> <p>b) <u>May Fayre area - maintenance plan</u> Cllr Bayliss raised the area opposite the raised beds which needs tidying up. The clerk will contact BDBC to see what constitutes 'open spaces' and if there is any funding available for a project of this nature.</p> <p>c) <u>Document review and website update</u> This project is progressing and there will be a further update next month.</p> <p>d) <u>Allotment renewals</u> All renewal letters have been sent out and a number of responses received. So far 1 has not renewed. Responses need to be received by the end of February. There are 3 empty allotments at present and these will be advertised in the village magazine.</p> <p>e) <u>Allotment land ownership – formal lease agreement</u> This item is postponed until next month as the relevant parties are away.</p> <p>f) <u>Pond – algae solution</u> It has been established that the pink algae on the top of the pond will ultimately kill it as the sunlight can't get through. Cllrs agreed, as they have waders and volunteers, to try 'skimming' the pond in the first instance and if this does not completely cure it, then weevils will be purchased which will correct the problem.</p>	<p><b>SJ</b></p> <p><b>SJ</b></p>
12	<p><b>Matters for discussion</b></p> <p>a) <u>Allotment fencing update</u> Thanks were extended to Premier Maintenance who have done a great job and the whole area looks much better with secure fencing. The clerk needs to purchase a number combination lock to secure the gate.</p>	<p><b>SJ</b></p>

	<p>b) <u>Playpark area maintenance plans</u> Meetings with a number of playpark maintenance contractors are being organised for early March and will be reported back at the next meeting.</p> <p>c) <u>BGCA update</u> Borough Cllr Izett had sent an email prior to the meeting advising that the youth club has sadly closed. As Cllr Dain is not present and Cllr Izett unable to attend this meeting, it is hoped a more comprehensive update can be received at the next meeting. Cllrs discussed methods of increasing the village magazine distribution in Bishops Green; the clerk will ask the producers of the costs involved to produce more.</p> <p>d) <u>Parking at Bishops Green Village Hall</u> This issue is in hand, BDBC have confirmed they will be putting up additional signage but so far this has not happened.</p> <p>e) <u>School lighting issue</u> HCC will be chased to see if they can help with this issue.</p> <p>f) <u>Parish Magazine</u> Content for the Parish Magazine article was agreed. Cllr Kearney will write the article this month.</p>	<b>SJ</b>
13	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at Echinswell Village Hall at 7.30pm. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.</p>	