

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall

Wednesday 11th March 2020, commencing at 19.30 hours

Present: Cllrs Hall (Chair), Dain (Vice Chair), Stamp and Debenham.

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), County Cllr Thacker (part), 3 member of the public.

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Bayliss and Kearney.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interest Cllr Hall advised he would not participate in the discussion or decision relating to Item 7 20/00492/FUL planning application due to the parties involved, whom he knows.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising To receive and confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 12th February 2020. Signed by Cllr Debenham as a true record. Actions arising: Most actions will be discussed under the following agenda items. Cllr Dain advised that the allotment padlock has been fitted.</p>	
4	<p>Public participation There were 3 members of the public present. 2 members were there in relation to the planning application 20/00492/FUL. They explained that planning consent has been given for an original application for residential properties and some stud buildings. New designs have been drawn up modifying the original designs. This includes wooden cladding, flints and slate roofing, and solar panels and ground source heating will be fitted. The size remains unchanged (footprints slightly altered). The horse walker has been moved. Cllr Dain confirmed that these points answered the questions the Parish Council would have raised. Cllrs agreed to move item 7 forward and make their decision at this stage. The previous application had been agreed by the council, and there have been no changes to purpose, therefore Cllrs agreed unanimously that the changes were all an improvement and they have no objections. They advised they were pleased to see the effort being made on environmental items. One member of the public was asked about the kissing gate project which he is assisting with. The monies have all been received. Unfortunately, the land at present is not fit to accommodate the machinery needed to install the gates, but it was agreed the gates can be purchased and installed as soon as the land is accessible. 2 members of the public left the meeting at 7.45pm.</p>	
5	<p>Borough Councillor's Report Borough Cllr Izett was not present so there was no report.</p>	
6	<p>County Councillor's Report Cllr Thacker advised, as per Cllr Mellor's comments at the previous meeting, that the systems at recycling centres will change soon. HCC will, from 1st April, start to charge non-residents for the use of their centres and it is assumed West Berks will do the same. A charge of £5 per visit is anticipated but this has not yet been finalised. Cllr Dain raised works which have taken place but the road markings, including the markings on a disabled bay, have not been updated and are very faint. The council have approached HCC who have advised this is in hand but so far, no further action has been taken. Cllr Thacker asked that HCC are reminded again and that he be cc'd into the email. Cllr Stamp raised the flooding on Hyde Lane. As it is not a main road it is unlikely to receive the attention it needs, but any ice on the road should be reported. Council tax has increased by 4%. The HCC Library Consultation closes on March 18th. Primary concern is Kingsclere Library. HCC are being pressed to provide support and this may happen as a donation of the books already present. Cllr Thacker advised he had nothing further to report and left the meeting at 7.50pm.</p>	SJ

7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning applications:</p> <p>T/00068/20/TCA – Yew Tree Cottage, Ecchinswell Road, Ecchinswell Application for works to trees growing in a conservation area proposal: fell 1 overgrown shrub (Portuguese laurel - prunus lusitanica). No objections</p> <p>20/00492/FUL - Watership Down Stud, North Sydmonton RG20 9AE Erection of replacement stables, isolation stables, horse walker, hay barn, loading ramp, new foaling building, 1 no. 4 bedroom dwelling to form grooms house and 2 no. 1 bedroom dwellings to form staff accommodation. (Amended scheme to that approved under 19/00163/FUL). As per item 4, no objections</p> <p>b) Decisions – none.</p>																						
8	<p>Finance</p> <p>Electronic Payments:</p> <p>(a) The following payments were agreed for January:</p> <table data-bbox="300 779 1181 1048"> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk’s salary (February)</td> <td>£575.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's Expenses (February)</td> <td>£21.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (February)</td> <td>£164.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (February)</td> <td>£105.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td>£27.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Stream</td> <td>Allotment water</td> <td>£37.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£931.18</td> </tr> </table> <p>(b) The actual/against budget for the period to the end of February 2020 was agreed.</p>	S Jones	Clerk’s salary (February)	£575.34	S Jones	Clerk's Expenses (February)	£21.69	D McClelland	Litter warden – (February)	£164.20	R Wherry	Litter warden - (February)	£105.16	HMRC	PAYE – RW, DM, SJ	£27.40	Business Stream	Allotment water	£37.39	Total		£931.18	
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9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>20/02 – Local police contact, the invitation to AGM has been sent and the police have confirmed they will attend and lead a discussion on a speed watch scheme run by volunteers from the village. It was agreed something needs to be done about speeding traffic in the parish. The police will be asked for more information regarding the speed watch scheme and how it will be set up.</p> <p>22/02 – Bell restoration project update – the bell project is completed, and a letter of thanks will be sent from the council.</p> <p>22/2 – Cllr Bayliss, May Fayre area maintenance plan and rocks. It was agreed to postpone the discussion on this until Cllr Bayliss is present. However, Cllrs feel the rocks may get damaged or stolen.</p> <p>27/2 – Action Hampshire – Affordable housing launch conference. Cllr Dain will attend and ask Cllr Bayliss if she wishes to attend too, and report back at the next meeting.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>MD</p>																					
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>Cllr Kearney advised she has discussed possible solutions to stop the foot bridges getting so slippery with Gemma Clinch. Cllrs agreed weld mesh is the best option. The kissing gate project was discussed under Item 4.</p> <p>The road outside Peat Gate Cottage is flooded and potholes filled with water so unable to be seen; this will be reported to HCC.</p>																						

11	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>Review and sign-off of the village maintenance contract</u> The contract was agreed and signed off.</p> <p>b) <u>Review of documents – Code of Conduct, Financial Risks Assessment, Financial Regulations and Retention of Documents</u> The documents were all reviewed, any amendments made, and signed off.</p> <p>c) <u>Review of Cllrs areas of responsibility</u> As 2 Cllrs were not present, it was agreed this would be postponed until the April meeting.</p> <p>d) <u>Allotment land ownership – formal lease agreement</u> The relevant parties have been away so this item will be looked at in April when there should be further information.</p> <p>e) <u>Lengthsman scheme renewal</u> Cllrs agreed unanimously that the scheme is extremely beneficial, and the council wish to renew as in previous years.</p> <p>f) <u>EVH committee meeting report</u> Cllr Bayliss attended the meeting and sent an email report that was circulated. She reported that the recent Race Night raised over £1000. The monies will be used to modernise the kitchen. In an effort to use less plastic, it is hoped a dishwasher can be installed if space permits, so more china and glassware can be used. The next Quiz Night takes place on 25th April. The Open Garden event has been confirmed for 21st June and the Halloween Dance 31st October. More information will follow regarding these events. The new curtains are up in the Kingsmill Room.</p> <p>g) <u>EVH Playpark Fencing</u> The playpark fencing had been checked by the inspector and it has been suggested the whole lot needs replacing. Cllrs have investigated and feel parts of the fence need replacing but not the whole fence. This is EVH's responsibility, but the council will be involved.</p> <p>h) <u>Grass Cutting Grant</u> The paperwork for this was not received so it is postponed until the next meeting.</p> <p>i) <u>AGM arrangements</u> The AGM followed by the Annual Assembly will take place on 13th May. The police have been contacted and it is hoped they will attend. It was agreed that Mike Norman, Clare Sulston and a representative from BDBC who works for the environment/sustainable projects will be asked to present. The clerk will send out the invitations.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>TH</p> <p>SJ</p>
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Pond - algae update</u> Investigation has shown that skimming will not solve the algae problem and weevils are definitely needed. However, the exact amount needed and costings for these need to be established. Cllr Dain will look into this with Cllr Bayliss's input and have costings sorted for the April meeting so the weevils can be purchased and utilised as soon as possible.</p> <p>b) <u>Allotment renewals update</u> Most allotments have renewed; one has not, and another is to be finalised. 3 are free now. A resident has provided invaluable service in looking after and maintaining the allotments over many years. His work has been very much appreciated and the Council were unanimous in their agreement that he should not pay the annual renewal fee going forward due to his past services and continued efforts.</p> <p>c) <u>Playpark area maintenance plan</u> Quotations are being received and reviewed to ensure they are provided for the correct works. This will continue and the item will be taken off the agenda, but Cllr Dain and the clerk will report back when there is any further information.</p> <p>d) <u>BGCA Update</u> Cllr Dain advised the finances for the hall are looking reasonable. A treasurer is still sought. The hall currently has 2 tenants including the pre-school, however there has been a drop in rent from the pre-school. The impact of Corvid-19 on the hall was discussed. Cllr Hall suggested that help from the PC might be possible eg a donation</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>MD/SJ</p>

	<p>towards any deep cleaning which might be required. Cllr Dain will keep this PC updated on issues as they arise.</p> <p>The fence between the hall and the car park has been damaged in the high winds, ownership of the fence is unclear and this is being discussed with BDBC.</p> <p>2 bins have been vandalised and this has been reported to BDBC.</p> <p>A summer event is being planned; full details will follow but it will take place on 4th July.</p> <p>e) <u>Parking at Bishops Green Village Hall</u></p> <p>This issue is in hand, BDBC have confirmed they will be putting up additional signage but so far this has not happened.</p> <p>f) <u>Parish Magazine</u></p> <p>Content for the Parish Magazine article was agreed. Cllr Hall will write the article this month.</p>	
13	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th April at Bishops Green Village Hall at 7.30pm. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

Cllr Dain raised works which have taken place but the road markings, including the markings on a disabled bay, have not been updated and are very faint. The council have approached HCC who have advised this is in hand but so far no further action has been taken. Cllr Thacker asked that HCC are reminded again and that he be cc'd into the email,

Bell restoration project update – the bell project has been completed and a letter of thanks will be sent from the council.

Action Hampshire – Affordable housing launch conference. Cllr Dain will attend and ask Cllr Bayliss if she wishes to attend too, and report back at the next meeting.

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