

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held ONLINE

Wednesday 10th June 2020, commencing at 19.30 hours

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

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

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies There were no apologies as all Cllrs were present, Cllr Izett was not yet present as he would be joining the meeting late. Due to technical difficulties, the meeting started late at 7.50pm</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interest Cllr Kearney advised she will not participate in the discussion or decisions relating to item 7 (T/00176/20/TCA). Cllr Dain advised she would not participate in the decision relating to item 12(b).</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising To receive and confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 13th May 2020. All Cllrs agree as the Chair cannot sign them, the clerk will pp them on his behalf, as a true record. Actions arising: None</p>	
4	<p>Public participation There were 3 members of the public online to join the meeting. The first person advised they were there to object to the planning application 20/01103/ROC at Old Church House. Their concerns arise from the size and impact of the proposed garage building on the local area and neighbouring property. They are concerned of the impact on the nearby graveyard, and the local wildlife and biodiversity. They pointed out they were not opposed to the garage as such but as a 2 storey structure they felt it will have a huge impact on the local area and could become accommodation. There is a covenant on the land which is a legal issue. The 2nd member of the public advised they had no specific comments to make but there were 3 items on the agenda they wanted to see discussed. The 3rd member of the public had previously attended a meeting and had subsequently put herself forward as a prospective Cllr. Item 11(f) was now discussed out of order. Cllr Hall proposed and Cllr Dain seconded Rachael Coward be co-opted as a member of the parish council. Cllrs were unanimous in their agreement and Cllr Coward was welcomed on to the council.</p>	
5	<p>Borough Councillor's Report Borough Cllr Izett joined the meeting at 8.05pm and gave his report out of order, after Item 7. Cllr Izett advised that BDBC have provided quick and useful responses to the emergencies which have been thrown up due to Covid 19. They feel people are getting help where they need it and Covid sufferers are being identified and helped quickly. The funding provided by Central Government to assist small businesses has been distributed to the people who need it quickly. There have been 97 applicants and £1m of funding available. The next stage of this process is getting started to increase assistance to other businesses. Various initiatives are being put in place to assist recovery; it is anticipated town centres will be severely affected. At present BDBC finances are looking fairly robust. Measures to return balanced budgets are being looked at, and it won't be necessary to have an emergency budget. On 15th June, garden waste collections will be resumed with weekly collections for grey bins being resumed as soon as possible. Cllr Izett asked if there have been any comments relating to the reduced bin collections; Cllrs have not heard anything negative and experience seems reasonably positive. Cllr Izett advised the urban areas are being</p>	

	<p>worse affected by the reduced service. The management of bin collection in hot weather will need to be looked at if the bi-weekly collections continue through the summer. Cllr Mellor advised at this stage that HCC are looking into food waste solutions. There has been no increase in the incidence of fly tipping.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review needs to be updated and has been delayed due to Covid. The update plan needs to be in place by 2024. A consultation will take place later this year that the parish council can comment on. Housing will be an issue with a requirement to provide (at present) 880 new houses a year. Whilst these are usually urban and generally located near to Basingstoke Cllr Izett advised there is an expectation on rural communities. Villages that don't have a settlement policy boundary (such as Ecchinswell) will be looked at closely in relation to the housing issue.</p> <p>Cllr Kearney asked if there is a list of businesses in the area which may be entitled to a discretionary grant? Cllr Izett advised he will look into this but Sole Traders do not qualify for the Discretionary Grant (they could qualify for the Self-Employed grant) but someone running an incorporated company from home could qualify.</p> <p>There being nothing further to report, Cllr Izett signed off at 8.25pm.</p>	
6	<p>County Councillor's Report</p> <p>This item was dealt with out of order after Item 4.</p> <p>County Cllr Mellor advised that in May, Hampshire unemployment grew to 4.5 per cent, (UK average is 6.5 per cent), the highest since 1994. Some 267200 people had to be financially supported by government. Everything is now moving to post Covid economic recovery.</p> <p>The closure of the Wade Road recycling centre in March when there was no option due to lockdown, albeit of little interest in Bishops Green and Ecchinswell as access to West Berks is still available with the Hampshire blue permit, is well and truly over as it reopened on May 11th. After two months of closure the first two weeks of reopening were problematic as rules had to be obeyed and queuing at distance resulted in 2 hour waits at busy times. A booking system is now in place. Garden waste collections are expected to resume in mid-June. Hampshire has, at 24 sites for just 1.5m residents, a very high proportion of sites but the size of the county does mean distance for some remains a problem.</p> <p>HCC have handled a very high incidence of road repairs in April and May when traffic has been very light and improvement to the roads should be noticeable.</p> <p>With regret the return to school is not how many would want it. HCC are ready and some 14000 will be returning between now and end of June, topping up the key worker children who have attended. The social aspect for those not returning is a worry but home schooling and use of IT has been good.</p> <p>Cllr Mellor advised he had nothing further to report and left the meeting at 9pm after item 10.</p>	
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning applications:</p> <p>20/01103/ROC: Old Church House, Land at Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell RG20 4TU</p> <p>Variation of condition 1 of 17/03550/FUL to include an additional detached garage with room above, a rear porch for utility space, alterations to front porch, external alterations and internal alterations to amend layout on 1st floor to create additional bedroom and a 3rd dormer to the rear</p> <p>Cllrs unanimously object for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Size and location of the building; it will encroach on the neighbouring property and the old churchyard 2) The disputed land between the kerb line and fence line needs to be resolved 3) The proposal takes place on land which is in a conservation area and of historical interest 	

	<p>4) There is a covenant on the land which needs to be clarified as to whether building is prevented</p> <p>20/01191/HSE: Ashley Warren Farm, Ashley Warren, Whitchurch RG28 7QH Alterations to roof including the creation of two new bedrooms and part raising of the roof and new windows and dormers; demolition and rebuilding of single storey rear extension, including new garden room / dining hall No objections but Cllrs request the new building work to be kept in keeping with the original property</p> <p>T/00198/20/TCA - The Old Post Office, Ecchinswell Road, Ecchinswell. Application for works to trees growing in a conservation area Proposal: please see sketch plan - "the old post office - tree sketch plan T1 - unknown species - remove this dead tree which has partially collapsed onto an outbuilding. T2 - willow - pollard back to trunk as per previous maintenance to keep away from overhead power lines. No objections</p> <p>T/00176/20/TCA - Brook Cottage, Hydes Platt, Ecchinswell Application for works to trees growing in a conservation area Proposal: T1 beech crown reduction - reducing the height and spread of the tree by up to 1.5 metre G1 - 2x horse chestnuts - fell to as near ground level No objections</p> <p>b) Decisions – none.</p>																			
8	<p>Finance Electronic Payments:</p> <p>(a) The following payments were agreed for May, the bank reconciliation will be pp signed by the clerk this month:</p> <table data-bbox="287 1209 1276 1377"> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (May)</td> <td>£576.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's Expenses (May)</td> <td>£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (May)</td> <td>£174.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (May)</td> <td>£111.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td>£28.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£890.46</td> </tr> </table> <p>(b) The actual/against budget for the period to the end of May 2020 was agreed.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (May)	£576.54	S Jones	Clerk's Expenses (May)	£0.00	D McClelland	Litter warden – (May)	£174.40	R Wherry	Litter warden - (May)	£111.52	HMRC	PAYE – RW, DM, SJ	£28.00	Total		£890.46	
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9	<p>Correspondence 15 May - HCC Highways; priority cutting changes this year; Cllrs have given their response. 22nd May – John Murray (auditor); changes to the audit process this year 28th May – Came & Company; confirmation of insurance renewal 29th May – Mayor of Basingstoke, 2nd year in office confirmed as no AGM will take place 2nd June – Sarah Miller – installation of cameras on the Sydmonton/Ecchinswell crossroads; the reason for the 12 hour camera has been ascertained. 6th June – Resident – wildflowers and strimming around the pond. Cllr Bayliss will check that the cutting programme is being adhered to. 6th June – Home-start North West Hampshire. Request for a donation. The clerk will find out more information and include as an agenda item for the July meeting. Verbal correspondence – Cllr Hall advised he has been approached by members of the community who have suggested the pond is 'invisible' and perhaps could be opened up</p>	<p>JB SJ</p>																		

	<p>with some foliage and trees being taken away. After discussion Cllrs agreed the pond is fine as is and no action would be taken.</p> <p>Verbal correspondence – Cllr Hall advised he has been approached by several members of the parish regarding the unkempt nature of the old graveyard. The parish council has no responsibility for this area, but the clerk will approach the Parochial Church Council to ask if any help can be provided towards the upkeep.</p>	SJ
10	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>Cllr Kearney has advised she has located a stile which has exposed barbed wire. She will go and cover the exposed wire once suitable material is sourced.</p> <p>The kissing gates project continues to move forward; the landowner has decided wooden gates will be preferable and these will be used. The grant monies can still be used, the only stipulation being the gap needs to a 1m wide which it will be.</p>	
11	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>Allotment land ownership – formal lease agreement</u> This item is postponed until the next meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>EVH land access licence</u> The licence has been re-vamped and is being reviewed by Cllrs before being sent to HALC for confirmation of acceptance.</p> <p>c) <u>Review of clerk’s salary and homeworking assessment</u> This item is postponed until the next meeting.</p> <p>d) <u>Volunteer thank you party ideas</u> This item will be removed from the agenda until it can be actioned.</p> <p>e) <u>VJ day commemoration</u> The clerk will look into getting a wreath for the war memorial and Cllr Hall will contact the vicar about making a speech on that day.</p> <p>f) <u>New Councillor</u> This item was agreed under section 4 above.</p>	TH/SJ
12	<p>Matters for discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Review of the pond and weevil update</u> Cllr Dain advised that herself and another volunteer have been skimming the pond regularly, but any help would be appreciated, Cllr Coward was able to offer assistance. The weevils have been ordered but there is a waiting list and no clarity on when they will arrive. Cllr Stamp suggested the whole pond needs to be looked at completely to see if all issues can be resolved. This will be an agenda item for next month.</p> <p>b) <u>BGCA update</u> Cllr Dain had sent a report prior to the meeting but due to the time, this item is postponed until the next meeting.</p> <p>c) <u>Parish Magazine</u> The parish magazine is not being published at present, but Cllr Stamp will write a newsletter for the website.</p>	
13	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th July ONLINE or at Ecchinswell Village Hall at 7.30pm. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

Resident's comments re the wildflowers and strimming around the pond. Cllr Bayliss will check that the cutting programme is being adhered to

Home-start North West Hampshire. Request for a donation. The clerk will find out more information and include as an agenda item for the July meeting

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