



ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall
15 September 2026, 7:30pm

Chairman: Cllr Sadler

Present: Cllr Debenham, Cllr Letch

Clerk: Amy White

Item 1: 43/26 Apologies

Received from Cllr Shadegg.

Council elected Cllr Sadler as Chair going forward.

Item 2: 44/26 Declarations of Interest

None.

Item 3: 45/26 To approve Meeting Minutes of 14 July 2026

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair, Cllr Sadler.

Item 4: 46/26 Actions from Meeting of 14 July 2026

Item	Action	Owner
24/26	Amalgamate pothole and road sign defect report into one document- In action. Cllr Sadler to complete and send to Cllr Shadegg.	Shadegg/ Sadler
26/26	Create rota for SIDS and get them put up- Actioned- SIDS are in place and on a scheduled rota.	Clerk
37/26	Cllr Debenham to apply for grant funding for NP- Not yet actioned.	Cllr Debenham
38/26	Clerk to send CFI proposal to HCC- Actioned. This will be discussed at the next meeting.	Clerk
39/26	Clerk to update litter warden contract and send to D McClelland- further delay- see item 11.	Clerk

Item 5: 47/26 Public Participation

No one was present.

Item 6: 48/26 Borough and County Councillor Reports

Cllr Izett sent the following report:

1) Consultation on future of Clere School.

While it was generally known that the school was struggling in terms of pupil numbers and financially, for many local people and parents of children at the school, the announcement last week by HCC came as a very significant shock. Borough councillors were not informed in advance. The decision to seek closure was made it is understood in May by the governors. The initial public consultation runs to 2nd October and there are 3 “drop in” events for parents and families of different year groups.

Borough cllrs are supporting efforts that have now been immediately actioned to understand better the background to this development and seek credible ways of finding a sustainable future for the school. Understanding the views and concerns of families at the school and local residents will be important, something that will become evident shortly no doubt. Questions about the option of becoming an Academy, the impact of Govt changes to future housing numbers locally and whether these have been taken into account in assessing future demographics and the viability of a school at the Clere, and how realistic the alternative of the Hurst School is are among the many questions that we are seeking answers to. The Cabinet member for Education has been asked a series of key questions via the formal consultation process by BDBC group leader, Cllr Simon Minas- Bound to be addressed before any decision to close this irreplaceable asset is approved.

As the consultation proceeds Borough cllrs will listen to and support families and local residents in ensuring that final decisions taken are properly considered and evidenced and credible ways of securing a viable future for the school are thoroughly examined.

2) Local Plan

The administration in Basingstoke has now formally conceded that the current draft Local Plan will not meet the govt’s December timetable. The govt has been unwilling to accept that issues over future water supply are grounds for an extension. This means that the Local Plan process will now have to re-start in accordance with the new NPPF which is much more streamlined and prescriptive. The evidence base will have to re-visited and housing supply calculated for a 10 year timeframe. The new system requires that the process is done within 30 months. The various stages will be a) scoping consultation Autumn 2026, b) publication of Gateway 1 in spring 2027, c) public scoping consultation on main issues and d) publishing of final community engagement strategy in 2029.

The possibility of the 3 boroughs which will form the new North Hants Unitary from 2028 joining up to make one new Local Plan is not being progressed because Hart and Rushmoor are too advanced with their own plans to want to pivot to a single plan. Meanwhile it is openly acknowledged that the borough will be exposed to speculative development with no 5 year housing supply, an out of date plan and changes to the NPPF making development more permissive.

3) NPPF Changes

From August changes apply to the NPPF. On the positive side, greater weight applies to protecting the scenic beauty of the National Landscape. Major development like solar farms should only pass in exceptional circumstances. But there is new support for rural exception

housing including infill within groups of house and linear settlements outside settlement boundaries.

From October borough cllrs are effectively stripped of the power to call-in applications and in future most applications, large and small, will be determined by officers rather than the planning committee, other than in very exceptional situations.

(Since the report was issued, the unitary plans have been halted by government).

Item 7: 49/26 Councillor Roles and Responsibilities

The current document was shared with councillors in advance and changes made during the meeting. This will be added to the website once agreed.

Item 8: 50/26 Policies: Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Financial Risk Assessment

Full council approved the latest policy updates. These will be added to the website.

Item 9: 51/26 Planning

New applications and decisions (*Full responses available on the BDBC planning page*)

- 00360/26/TCA Timberdown Hydes Platt- No comment
- 26/01471/FUL Land North Of Knightbridge Lodge, Newbury Road Headley- No comment
- 26/01590/HSE Primrose Cottage, Cow House Lane North Sydmonton- No objection
- 26/01620/HSE/LBC Bramley Cottage Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell- No objection
- 26/01351/HSE Orchard Cottage Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell- No further comment
- 26/01743/ROC Clere House Barn Land At Clere House Farm- Objection
- 26/01813/LBC Primrose Cottage Cow House Lane North Sydmonton- No objection
- 26/01731/ROC Primrose Cottage Cow House Lane North Sydmonton- No objection
- 26/01797/VLA Land At Ash Road, Beech Road, Linden Road And Willow Road, Bishops Green- No comment

Item 10: 52/26 Neighbourhood Plan

The posters for the Regulation 14 consultation events were printed by Apple Print at a cost of £551.55 (CIL reserve). The events will take place on 18th Sept 5-7.30pm or 19th 10-1pm at Bishops Green Village Hall, or/and 25th Sept 5-7.30pm or 26th at 10-1pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall. The events have been advertised on noticeboards, Facebook and the website.

Item 11: 53/26 Litter Warden

The Clerk has met with the current litter warden and Alan Tully, Street Cleansing Manager at BDBC, to discuss the litter warden's concerns over the Bishops Green area. The clerk reiterated that ESG PC cannot continue to fund more hours than the grant covers (currently covers 9 hours for Bishops Green and Ecchinswell). The litter warden has confirmed that he will therefore not continue litter picking at Bishops Green after 31 December 2026. The Clerk has accepted this and will find a replacement litter warden for the Bishops Green area for 4 hours a week. The current litter warden will continue to work in Ecchinswell for 5 hours a week.

Item 11: 54/26 Finance Update

Payments for approval- see end of Minutes.

Bank reconciliation 31 August 2026:

HSBC Current Account: **£11773.39**
 HSBC Business Account: **£257566.95**
TOTAL: £269340.34

CIL spend April to September 2026:

5	CIL	10/06/2026	HSBC Current Accou	Neighbourhood Plan	ET Planning	S	1,500.00	300.00	1,800.00
14	CIL	11/06/2026	HSBC Current Accou	Neighbourhood Plan	Nicholas Steedman	Z	32.79		32.79
22	CIL	15/06/2026	HSBC Current Accou	Neighbourhood Plan	ET Planning	S	2,500.00	500.00	3,000.00
25	CIL	17/06/2026	HSBC Current Accou	Noticeboards	Greenbarnes Ltd	S	3,101.63	620.33	3,721.96
32	CIL	02/07/2026	HSBC Current Accou	Website	Webdynamix	S	2,600.00	520.00	3,120.00
51	CIL	14/08/2026	HSBC Current Accou	Neighbourhood Plan	ET Planning	S	900.00	180.00	1,080.00
56	CIL	25/08/2026	HSBC Current Accou	Neighbourhood Plan	Amy White	Z	32.47		32.47
66	CIL	11/09/2026	HSBC Current Accou	Neighbourhood Plan	Apple Print	S	551.55	110.31	661.86
67	CIL	11/09/2026	HSBC Current Accou	Neighbourhood Plan	Amazon	S	11.24	2.25	13.49
Total							11,229.68	2,232.89	13,462.57

Bishops Green Village Hall- CIL spend

The hall has received a quote of £746.70 (excl. VAT) from Fortline Ltd for the installation of CCTV. This company currently provides their alarm systems, and the CCTV can be integrated into the same system. The Clerk pursued other quotes but it was agreed that Fortline was a very good quote. BDBC, as owners of the hall, are aware of the installation request.

Full council agreed to fund the installation via CIL.

Action: Clerk to approve CIL spend with BGVH and pay invoice once received from Fortline for CCTV installation.

Item 55: 55/26 Matters for discussion or agreement

- To note- Brushcutter training attended by Cllr Shadegg. Extra parts ordered for brushcutter by the Clerk (see payments).
- Sustainability and Environment working party- to remove from Agenda, added Cllr roles and responsibilities on website.
- BGCA and EVH update- CCTV in BGVH as noted above.
- Bus shelter grant funding opportunity- The Clerk has been successful in the funding application and awarded a grant for a bus shelter to replace the current one at Eagle Road. Installation is in October 2026.
- CIL project list: The spreadsheet of project ideas and those completed was updated and will be added to the website.

Action: Cllr Sadler to obtain information on BGVH car park CIL funding request for discussion at next meeting.

Action: Cllr Monteith to contact pond clearance volunteers ahead of agreed date of 18 October 2026.

Item 13: 42/26 Items to carry forward to subsequent meeting

CFI project (Cllr Shadegg), cllr roles and responsibilities, new volunteers.

Actions from Meeting of 15 September 2026

Item	Action	Owner
54/26	Clerk to approve CIL spend with BGVH and pay invoice once received from Fortline for CCTV installation.	Clerk

55/26	Cllr Sadler to obtain information on BGVH car park CIL funding request for discussion at next meeting. Cllr Monteith to contact pond clearance volunteers ahead of agreed date of 18 October 2026.	Cllr Sadler Cllr Monteith
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