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

Chairman: **Cllr Sadler**

Present: **Cllr Debenham, Cllr Shadegg**

Clerk: **Amy White**

In attendance: **One member of the public**

Item 1: 56/26 Apologies
Received from Cllr Monteith.

Item 2: 57/26 Declarations of Interest
None.

Item 3: 58/26 To approve Meeting Minutes of 15 September 2026
The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair, Cllr Sadler.

Item 4: 59/26 Actions from Meeting of 15 September 2026

Item	Action	Owner
37/26	Cllr Debenham to apply for grant funding for NP- Not yet actioned.	**Cllr Debenham**
39/26	Clerk to update litter warden contract and send to D McClelland- Actioned.	**Clerk**
54/26	Clerk to approve CIL spend with BGVH and pay invoice once received from Fortline for CCTV installation- Actioned.	**Clerk**
55/26	Cllr Sadler to obtain information on BGVH car park CIL funding request for discussion at next meeting- not actioned, to bring to next meeting. Cllr Monteith to contact pond clearance volunteers ahead of agreed date of 18 October 2026- Actioned and clearance completed.	**Cllr Sadler** **Cllr Monteith**

Item 5: 60/26 Public Participation
The Chair of Ecchinswell Village Hall & Recreation Centre attended to outline a number of maintenance and improvement projects and to seek potential Parish Council financial support. Priorities identified included play area repairs (estimated at approximately £16,000), an electrical installation condition report, toilet refurbishment, heating, solar panels and battery storage, lighting upgrades, and repair and resealing of the main hall floor.

The Hall's current funds were reported to be approximately £17,000, with around £10,000 retained as operating and maintenance reserves. The Chair advised that the Hall was unable to fund substantial capital works without external support.

The Parish Council agreed that further information would be required before considering a grant application, including up-to-date accounts, several comparative quotations, a prioritised schedule of works, and clarification of the ownership and responsibility for the play area. It was agreed that play area safety repairs should be considered separately from Hall improvements.

Councillors offered to provide details of comparable solar installation costs and energy savings, potential play area repair contractors, grant-funding opportunities, and examples of successful village hall management and booking arrangements. The Village Hall Committee will provide the requested documentation and develop a more detailed, prioritised proposal for consideration at a future meeting.

Action: Cllr Sadler to retrieve document from BVGH regarding what the electricity bills were before and since solar installation.

Item 6: 61/26 Borough and County Councillor Reports

Cllr Izett was not in attendance.

Item 7: 62/26 Councillor Roles and Responsibilities

The current document was shared with councillors and not altered. At this point as there are only four councillors, responsibilities are less important than getting all actions completed. This document will not be added to the website until more councillors are on board.

Councillors discussed the need to recruit.
Action: Cllr Sadler will write 'a day in the life of a councillor' to share on social media. Clerk will ask NFTV editor to place another advert.

Item 8: 63/26 Planning

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

- T/00442/26/TCA Vine Cottage Mill Lane- Decision left to tree officer
- T/00479/26/TCA Land At White Hill- Decision left to tree officer

Item 9: 64/26 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Debenham updated the council on the recent Neighbourhood Plan public consultation: Approximately 100 people engaged with the consultation and 85 responses were received. Feedback indicated broad support for the proposed policies, including the proposed development at Rooksfield, additional green space, and the protection of woodland and watercourses. A small number of policy-specific comments and suggested amendments were also received.

The Steering Group is reviewing and summarising the responses by policy. A concise summary of the main feedback and key messages will be prepared for publication on the Parish Council website, with an appropriate caveat that some policies may be affected by national or Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council planning requirements.

The Council considered the Call for Sites documentation, including the overall strategy, public notice, landowner correspondence, submission form and evaluation guidance. Subject to minor amendments, the documents were approved for issue.

It was agreed that the Call for Sites would open on Monday 26 October for the statutory six-week period, closing on 7 December. Notices will be published on the Parish Council website, noticeboards and social media, and previous site promoters will be contacted. The consultation will be promoted across the whole parish, including Bishops Green.

A small, impartial sub-group, including representatives from Bishops Green, will support the formal site-assessment process alongside the Neighbourhood Plan lead. The Council noted that up to £10,000 of funding may be available from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council towards the next stages of the work; the anticipated total cost of professional support was noted as approximately £29,000.

Item 10: 65/26 Community Funded Initiative/Highways projects

Cllr Shadegg updated the PC on completed projects over the summer (fingerpost sign repaired), and proposals for further CFI spend on Highways, to include dragons teeth at Ecchinswell.

Fingerpost on Featherbed Lane: Whilst the finger posts were replaced, the post is rotten/rusted at the bottom and needs complete replacement. The quote received from A1 Ultimate Signs is £795 (this company completed the other fingerpost repair).
Action: Clerk to confirm agreement to quote for Featherbed Lane signpost replacement (CIL fund)

Other project items to confirm with HCC:

- To replace/ add road signs (eg horse and rider)
- Add dragons teeth to both north and south entrances to Ecchinswell village at 30 mph speed change.

The project plans will be added to the next set of Minutes if approved by the council.
Total costs are estimated to be £3000.
Council agreed in principle to fund this via CIL.

Bollards: Cllr Shadegg proposed verge markers between Malt House farm and the old Post Office. Kevin Hyde of HCC has been reluctant to add these due to concern of making the village look more urban. Cllr Sadler expressed concern that horses may be nervous of these verge markers.
Council agreed that it would be sensible to get costing for the verge markers at the same time as the rest of the CFI project, and to perhaps have two stages of project.
Action: Clerk and Cllr Shadegg to liaise with Kevin Hyde to further the CFI project and get costings.

Item 11: 66/26 Amenities

Premier Grounds have alerted the Clerk to a broken bench at Digweeds in Ecchinswell. The Clerk sent in advance a suggestion for a replacement.
It was agreed to purchase a new bench or plain seat and for it to be set in concrete.

Action: Clerk to cost a more simple bench for Digweeds, obtain approval via email if necessary in between meetings and purchase.

Bench at Bishops Green- This had been suggested at a previous meeting and council approved the purchase of one for this area at the same time.

Item 12: 67/26 Litter Warden
The Clerk asked for approval for new policies for the Litter Warden- Health and Safety, Lone Worker and Risk Assessment. Council gave approval for the policies.
Action: Clerk to send new policies to the Litter Warden and obtain acknowledgement of receipt.

Item 13: 68/26 Finance Update

Payments for approval- see end of Minutes.

Bank reconciliation 20 September 2026:

HSBC Current Account: **£7695.68**
HSBC Business Account: **£257862.27**
TOTAL: **£265557.95**

The Clerk's salary has been adjusted to the recently agreed NALC payscale inflationary increase. The October salary also includes back pay owed since 01 June. The Clerk has also opted in to a pension, this has been set up with Nest and added to payments.

Q2 overview: The Clerk shared and explained the Q2 overview (see end of Minutes). There has been unexpected and significant overspend in administration- this will need to be considered in the precept decision for 27/28.

Item 14: 69/26 Matters for discussion or agreement

- Digweeds- the grass is still growing. The council agreed to continue to pay for cutting until the end of October. An extension to the contract will be considered for 27/28.
  Action: Clerk to ask Premier Grounds to continue to cut the grass at Digweeds until the end of October.

- A report has been made of a diseased tree in Ecchinswell
  Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Monteith to investigate leaning trees at Digweeds and recommend course of action.

- BGCA and EVH update
  Nothing further.

Item 15: 70/26 Items to carry forward to subsequent meeting
Budget first draft.

Actions from Meeting of 20 October 2026

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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 Sadler**
60/26	Cllr Sadler to retrieve document from BVGH regarding what the electricity bills were before and since solar installation.	**Cllr Sadler**
62/26	Cllr Sadler will write 'a day in the life of a councillor' to share on social media. Clerk will ask NFTV editor to place another advert.	**Cllr Sadler**
65/26	Clerk to confirm agreement to quote for Featherbed Lane signpost replacement (CIL fund). Clerk and Cllr Shadegg to liaise with Kevin Hyde to further the CFI project and get costings.	**Clerk** **Clerk/Cllr Shadegg**
66/26	Clerk to cost a more simple bench for Digweeds, obtain approval via email if necessary in between meetings and purchase.	**Clerk**
67/26	Clerk to send new policies to the Litter Warden and obtain acknowledgement of receipt.	**Clerk**
69/26	Clerk to ask Premier Grounds to continue to cut the grass at Digweeds until the end of October. Clerk to ask Cllr Monteith to investigate leaning trees at Digweeds and recommend course of action.	**Clerk** **Clerk/Cllr Monteith**