

Parish Council Update

The Parish Council met on 16 June 2026 at Bishops Green Village Hall to discuss a range of issues affecting the parish and local community.

We have welcomed a new Clerk, Amy White, and said a huge thank you and goodbye to Sarah Jones. Do send any queries to the Clerk address: clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk.

Planning Matters

Members discussed planning applications relating to a proposed children's home and changes to the use of an existing rural property. Councillors considered a number of issues, including the retention of agricultural land, highway safety and the potential impact on the surrounding community. Further information will be reviewed before comments are submitted to the planning authority.

Financial Management

The Council has moved to a new accounting system, Scribe, which is widely used by parish councils. The change will simplify financial reporting and improve transparency. Payroll arrangements have also been transferred to an external specialist provider.

The Council has received its Internal Audit report and is working through the recommendations to ensure that policies, procedures and governance arrangements continue to meet current requirements.

Website and Email Upgrade

Work is progressing on upgrading the Parish Council website and introducing official .gov.uk email addresses for councillors. This will improve security and help ensure compliance with national standards.

Highways and Road Safety

Members discussed overgrown vegetation obscuring road signs and school warning signs. Calling all Landowners: hedges and vegetation need to be cut back regularly if any of your property abuts a highway, to maintain visibility and road safety.

The Council will continue to report potholes and other highway defects to the relevant authorities and we residents to do the same- you can report most issues here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem>

Speed Indicator Devices

The Council has purchased Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and is putting arrangements in place for the regular relocation of the devices around the parish to maximise their effectiveness.

Community Projects

Councillors are beginning to develop a list of projects that could be funded through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies. Suggestions under consideration include:

- Additional benches and seating areas;
- Improvements to bus shelters;
- CCTV enhancements;
- Community facilities and environmental improvements.

Residents are encouraged to share ideas for projects that would benefit the parish.

Village Hall and Community Facilities

The Council noted updates from the Village Hall Committee and discussed possible future projects, including drainage improvements to the playing fields and potential funding opportunities.

Concerns were also raised regarding the condition of some play area surfaces, and these issues will be reported to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Litter and Environmental Matters

The Council has been made aware of concerns regarding litter bins and their maintenance and will investigate responsibilities for servicing newly installed bins.

Members also expressed their appreciation to local volunteers who continue to maintain flower beds and improve the appearance of the parish.

Looking Ahead

The Council is reviewing future meeting dates and continuing work on a number of projects aimed at improving services and facilities across the parish.

As always, residents are welcome to contact the Parish Council with any concerns, suggestions or ideas for future improvements.