

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on

Wednesday 13th March 2024, commencing at 19:30 hours

Present: Cllrs Dain (Chair), Parkes and Sadler.

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), Borough Cllr Izett, 1 member of the public.

Item		Action
1	Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Stamp and Debenham.	
2	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3	Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising To receive and confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 14 th February 2024, and matters arising. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by Cllr Dain.	
4	Public participation The member of the public present wished to raise the serious state of the roads which have numerous large potholes. The specific area he reported was in Burghclere Parish but Cllr Dain advised all parish councils are having similar issues and reporting these to HCC. Cllr Izett suggested a petition to HCC had been used with some success in other parts of the county. The clerk will look into the process of this and report back. The resident asked to be added to the mailing list.	SJ SJ
5	Borough Councillor's Report Cllr Izett reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget was agreed unanimously in February. 2 proposals were put forward, one being agreement to a 3rd cost of living assistance fund with another £1m being made available, and with the scheme extended to include carers and people coming out of care. The second proposal is a Big Bin Event, where every quarter the council will provide skips in each ward so residents will be able to dispose of rubbish which cannot be put into dustbins. BDBC have approved capital expenditure of £60m for the update and refurbishment of the aquadrome. Cllr Izett asked if the parish council have been contacted by the new CPSO, this was confirmed, and it is hoped a meeting can be arranged in due course. Cllr Izett is interested in ESBG PC's response to the Reserved Matters in Item 7 and will stay at the meeting to hear their comments. ESBG PC had requested an Environmental Impact Survey be carried out at the proposed solar panel farm site, and this has been declined, although ESBG PC have not been advised of this by BDBC. This may lead to a full planning application being submitted. The solar farm proposal is no longer within ESBG parish. A planning application for 270 homes has been approved in Wash Water but BDBC planning department has decided they have a case for a judicial review which is an exceptional step as very costly. 	
6	County Councillor's Report. There was no report as Cllr Thacker was not present.	
7	Planning a) New applications: 23/02627/RES Land at OS 450078 163328 Ecchinswell Road Bishops Green Proposal: Application for the approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to outline planning consent (22/00174/OUT) for the erection of up to 42 dwellings including means of access from the existing highway on Ecchinswell Road, Bishops Green. Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale to now be considered.	

	<p>Comments: Cllrs commented that they are pleased their previous comments have been noted and acted upon in most cases but are still concerned about the lack of parking and also the log/play camp in the South East corner is too close to the existing homes.</p> <p>Cllr Izett left the meeting at 8.14pm</p> <p>24/00371/FUL 22 Shepherds Cottage Sydmonton Road Sydmonton Burghclere</p> <p>Proposal: Erection of a replacement dwelling following the demolition of the existing dwelling.</p> <p>ESBG PC SUPPORT this application with the condition that the plan conforms to ESBG Policy 15 Dark Skies.</p> <p>b) Decisions: none</p>	
8	<p>Matters for Discussion</p> <p>a) <u>Local Government Complaint Progress</u></p> <p>No response has been received from NALC despite numerous emails being sent. The clerk and Cllr Dain will try and establish if there is a specific person who should be contacted.</p> <p>b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan update</u></p> <p>The Local Plan Update has been reviewed and responses sent in. Cllr Dain has contacted the planning officer regarding ESBG PC's main concerns and has been advised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Neighbourhood Plan 15 house allocation is not shown in the figures for Bishops Green but has been advised this is because of the timing of the recording of this information and it will be recorded for next year, along with the 42 houses. The Ecchinswell Lowland Valued Landscape fails to cover the area to the east of the C155 in Bishops Green – this will be looked into by BDBC. Reassurance was given by BDBC that the ESBG NP policies and other BDBC policies do protect this area from building. <p>The next steps to getting the NP designated 30mph zones in the parish need to be considered as HCC rejected ESBG PC's request for this. Cllrs agree to write a letter to Kit Malthouse to see what can be done to move this forward.</p> <p>c) <u>CIL monies available; project ideas</u></p> <p>2 projects have been identified; being the new website and traffic calming. Work will begin on these as soon as possible.</p> <p>d) <u>Tree surgeon progress and report</u></p> <p>The tree surgeon started work on the trees during the week of 4th March. Due to flooding the trees worked on were different to those planned but cost less than the quote and needed to be worked on.</p> <p>The next tranche of money will be used to get the trees around the pond and in the allotments surveyed. Cllr Dain volunteered to act as scribe to reduce costs.</p> <p>e) <u>Solar Farm Proposal</u></p> <p>This item was discussed under Item 5.</p> <p>f) <u>Working groups (amalgamation of current working parties) and questionnaire</u></p> <p>Cllr Sadler had made a start on a questionnaire and Cllrs discussed what information they would like to establish so relevant questions can be asked.</p> <p>Discussion moved to repair cafes, as per Item 12(c).</p> <p>Cllr Sadler agreed to continue working on the questionnaire which would be set up as a Google Survey and the public will be asked for their suggestions so a working group can be set up. Deadline for survey results is mid-April</p> <p>g) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u></p> <p>Cllr Dain reported that the newly appointed co-ordinator at BGCA is having a positive effect. There is potential for a full time commercial pre-school with 2 interested parties at present.</p>	<p>MD/SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>KS</p>

	<p>The EVH Race Night was quieter than in previous years but still raised £500. EVH now has a viable plan for installing solar panels and is seeking grants for this. The clerk reported members of the committee confirmed they would attend the Annual Assembly.</p>																			
9	<p>Finance</p> <p>(a) Electronic Payments made in March:</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (Feb)</td> <td>£863.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (Feb)</td> <td>£191.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (Feb)</td> <td>£133.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td></td> <td>£58.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Expenses</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J George Tree Surgeon</td> <td>Tree works</td> <td>£1,895.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Total £3,161.62</p> <p>(b) The actual/against budget up to end of March was agreed.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (Feb)	£863.50	D McClelland	Litter warden – (Feb)	£191.60	R Wherry	Litter warden - (Feb)	£133.52	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ		£58.00	D McClelland	Expenses	£20.00	J George Tree Surgeon	Tree works	£1,895.00	
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10	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>16.02.24 – BDBC; Consultation on the draft Hungerford Neighbourhood Development Plan (Regulation 14)</p> <p>22.02.24 - Drew Mechen – new CPSO has introduced himself and is checking his calendar to arrange a meeting or attend the Annual Assembly.</p> <p>Various dates and emails – pub parking overflow at EVH – Cllrs discussed this issue and agreed a response which will be sent to EVH and the Royal Oak owners.</p> <p>22.02.23 – Resident, Popham Airfield LPU information; Cllrs agreed an annual letter needs to be sent to each of the airfields and the clerk will organise this.</p> <p>07.03.24 – Resident, overgrown foliage; the lengthsman will be asked to cut this back during his hours on 18th March</p> <p>07.03.24 – NFTV, Planning applications to be shown. Cllrs noted and agreed this. The clerk will send details of full house planning applications before 16th of the month, and this will be added as a diary item.</p> <p>10.03.24 – Resident, tended to the raised beds. Possible purchase of daffodil bulbs in the Autumn. The resident was thanked for her efforts. The purchase of the bulbs will be added to the October agenda. Cllrs noted at this point that the resident and a volunteer has suggested pond clearance day should be moved to 20th October as 6th and 13th were too early. This was agreed and the clerk will advise all parties accordingly.</p> <p>11.03.24 – EVH installation of telegraph pole – this was agreed and the clerk will write a landlord's permission letter to confirm this.</p>	<p>MD/SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>																		
11	<p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>The main issue, being the potholes and general state of the roads, was discussed under Item 4. Details of the setting up of the petition will be looked into and shared.</p>																			

12	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>HCC Future Services Consultation responses</u> Cllrs agreed that the survey does not make reference to saving enough money, only 13% of how much is going to be needed. As all the cuts will happen, Cllrs agreed to send their comments to HCC via email as the survey does not address the main issues, nor allow appropriate comments to be made. The clerk will write to HCC accordingly.</p> <p>b) <u>Lengthsman Tender Process and hours</u> It has been agreed that the lengthsman scheme will continue in the 2024/25 financial year. The lengthsman co-ordinator had asked parishes for their comments as to whether the contract should go out to tender. ESBG PC agreed it should and the co-ordinator will be advised accordingly.</p> <p>Ensuring the drain covers can be lifted on the C155 and clearing the foliage around Digweeds will be put on the lengthsman work order for his hours on 18th March,</p> <p>c) <u>Repairs Café Discussion</u> Cllrs discussed the possible setting up of a repair café. This could include a clothes swap, repair of appliances, and a proposed workshop for children to bring their bikes to ensure they are suitable and safe to be ridden. The clerk will contact the insurance company to see if they have any information relating to this. There are numerous interested parties in the parish and it would not be an ESBG PC lead enterprise but the council would be happy to provide help and advice.</p> <p>d) <u>Review of Financial Regulations, Retention of Documents and Financial Risk Assessment</u> All documents were reviewed, the Financial Regulations amended as agreed by all, and all policies signed off.</p>	SJ SJ SJ SJ
13	Communications – newsletter (Clerk) and other media output It was agreed the draft minutes do not need to be published this month. Items for the magazine were agreed.	
14	The calendar was reviewed and next month includes the 2 nd quarterly review, clerk appraisal and salary review, review of Assets Register and Litterwardens review.	
14	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm at Bishops Green Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.23pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

The clerk will look into the process of a petition to HCC re: state of roads and report back

~~The resident asked to be added to the mailing list~~

No response has been received from NALC despite numerous emails being sent. The clerk and Cllr Dain will try and establish if there is a specific person who should be contacted

The next steps in getting the 30mph zones need to be considered as HCC rejected ESBG PC's request for this. Cllrs agree to write a letter to Kit Malthouse to see what needs to be done to put this into place.

Cllr Sadler agreed to continue working on the questionnaire which would be set up as a Google Survey and the public will be asked for their suggestions so a working group can be set up

Pub parking overflow at EVH – Cllrs discussed this issue and agreed a response which will be sent to EVH and the Royal Oak owners

Popham Airfield LPU information; Cllrs agreed an annual letter needs to be sent to each of the airfields and the clerk will organise this

~~07.03.24 – Resident, overgrown foliage; the lengthsman will be asked to cut this back during his hours on 18th March~~

~~NFTV, Planning applications to be shown. Cllrs noted and agreed this. The clerk will send details of full house planning applications before 16th of the month, and this will be added as a diary item~~

The purchase of the bulbs will be added to the October agenda.

~~Cllrs noted at this point that the resident and a volunteer has suggested pond clearance day should be moved to 20th October as 6th and 13th were too early. This was agreed and the clerk will advise all parties accordingly.~~

~~EVH installation of telegraph pole – this was agreed and the clerk will write a landlord's permission letter to confirm this~~

~~Cllrs agreed to send their comments to HCC via email as the survey does not address the main issues, nor allow appropriate comments to be made. The clerk will write to HCC accordingly~~

~~The lengthsman co-ordinator had asked parishes for their comments as to whether the contract should go out to tender. ESBG PC agreed it should and the co-ordinator will be advised accordingly.~~

~~Lifting drain covers and clearing the foliage around Digweeds will be put on the lengthsman work order for his hours on 18th March~~

The clerk will contact the insurance company to see if they have any information relating to repair cafes