

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on

Wednesday 9th October 2024, commencing at 19:30 hours

Present: Cllrs Sadler (Vice Chair), Dain, Parkes, Hardy-Giles and Monteith.

In attendance: Sarah Jones (Clerk), 0 members of the public.

| Item | | Action |
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| 1 | Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Stamp and Debenham and Cllr Izett | |
| 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 11 th September and matters arising. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by Cllr Sadler. Matters arising relate to the planning issue at a residence within the parish. A letter has been sent to the resident and a response awaited. | |
| 4 | Public participation There were no members of the public present. | |
| 5 | Borough Councillor's Report Borough Cllr Izett was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a written report which was circulated. Cllr Dain raised the issue relating to the Local Plan as advised by Cllr Izett at the previous meeting, and the Neighbourhood Plan. She suggests Cllrs should consider that a review process is started in the 2 nd or 3 rd quarter of 2025. A steering group needs to be set up, and the consultants approached to find out the process for moving the forward. The clerk will add this to the calendar for 2025 | SJ |
| 6 | County Councillor's Report. County Councillor Thacker was not present so there was no report. | |
| 7 | Planning a) New applications: 24/01671/HSE 8 Rooksfield Bishops Green Hampshire RG20 9JJ Proposal: Erection of a detached garage with first floor home office. Cllrs understand the changes to be minimal so their original comments stand (ESBG PC have NO OBJECTIONS to this application subject to the new build not being higher than the original, dark skies being adhered to with no floodlights, and solar panels being considered). b) Decisions: None | |
| 8 | New Business a) <u>Grass Cutting Grant</u> The grass cutting grant application was not received and therefore the £550 usually paid was not paid during the 2023-2024 financial year. Cllrs agreed unanimously to pay both last year's and this year's grants. The relevant paperwork has been received. b) <u>Review of allotment rent</u> Cllrs agrees unanimously to increase the rental from £40 pa to £42 pa due to the spend on the new equipment. Allotment holders will be advised accordingly. c) <u>Pothole audit in parish</u> This item will be discussed under Item 9(C) below. d) <u>Review and Sign off – Code of Conduct</u> The Code of Conduct has been reviewed and circulated, and was accepted by all with no changes, and signed off. | |

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| | <p>e) <u>3rd Quarter Safety Review</u> The quarterly safety review has been handed over to Cllr Monteith and he and Cllr Dain carried out the review. The points raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Debenham will be asked to confirm the condition of the equipment, and also asked if he will take on this section of the quarterly review. • The hedge at Digweeds needs cutting and a group of volunteers will be asked to carry out this task. • The barrier at the foot crossing has rotten posts; this needs to be reported to HCC as work needs to be carried out urgently. • The raised beds need regular maintenance. The lengthsman will be asked to carry out this task on the next allocation of hours. The clerk will look into getting this included on the Village Maintenance Contract, which renews in November. • The dying ash tree on Vivid land is still hanging over the allotments. Vivid will be contacted again. They confirmed in May 2023 that this would be dealt with but no action has been taken. <p>f) <u>Wreath order and Remembrance Day arrangements</u> The wreath has been ordered and Cllr Debenham will be asked to approach the resident who usually lays the wreath, to see if he will be willing to do it again. The soldier silhouettes need to be removed from the Panto cupboard at EVH and put into place. The clerk will email the Reverend to confirm his arrangements.</p> | SJ/PD SJ SJ SJ PD KS/SJ SJ |
| 9 | <p>Matters for Discussion:</p> <p>a) <u>Website and phone upgrade progress</u> The new website works will be started in the next 2 weeks. Work is beginning on the change for the emails; the clerk has asked all Cllrs to confirm their passwords so this process can take place.</p> <p>b) <u>Laptop purchase progress</u> The new laptop has been purchased, set up and is in use.</p> <p>c) <u>Pothole audit progress</u> Unfortunately the audit was unable to be carried out due to ill health but it is being carried out within the next week.</p> <p>d) <u>SID purchase progress</u> Various companies have been approached and quotes and information received. The clerk will write a business case. The company likely to be used is one recommended by another parish council who have their equipment in use at the moment. Once the Business Case is signed off, the purchase can go ahead.</p> <p>e) <u>Sustainability and Environmental working party</u> The survey is ready to send out. Views are sought for various issues including electric car charge points and solar panels. A survey has recently been sent out by BDBC which discusses the number of electric car charging points but does not include any housing association areas. Cllr Sadler will complete the survey and raise this point on behalf of the parish council, and circulate to Cllrs in case they would like to respond as individuals.</p> <p>f) <u>Pond clear volunteer party and weevil update</u> The pond clearance day has been cancelled but a small working party will gather at a mutually convenient time and carry out some recommended jobs. The weevils have been put into the pond and are clearing the azolla. The green in the pond is duck weed which will die back naturally over the winter.</p> <p>g) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> Cllr Dain reported the new part time youth worker has started. Trustees are discussing plans to increase parking; this will be an expensive project and BGCA may ask the parish council for funding.</p> <p>Cllr Debenham was not present but had sent an email raising the Grass Cutting Grant which was agreed under Item 8(a). EVH Committee have also asked for a sign to be put</p> | ALL SJ KS |

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| | up relating to dog fouling which is a problem. The PC agreed to getting notices printed and a suitable form of words is being drafted. This issue will be raised in the newsletter. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | <p>Finance</p> <p>(a) Electronic Payments made in October:</p> <table> <tbody> <tr><td>S Jones</td><td>Clerk's salary (September)</td><td>£898.30</td></tr> <tr><td>D McClelland</td><td>Litter warden – (September)</td><td>£241.00</td></tr> <tr><td>R Wherry</td><td>Litter warden - (September)</td><td>£164.72</td></tr> <tr><td>HMRC PAYE</td><td>RW, DM, SJ</td><td>£103.00</td></tr> <tr><td>D McClelland</td><td>Expenses</td><td>£20.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Premier Grounds</td><td>Village maintenance</td><td>£490.80</td></tr> <tr><td>Cabi</td><td>Weevils for pond</td><td>£498.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Laptops Direct</td><td>New laptop - S Jones repay</td><td>£675.96</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Total £3,091.78</p> <p>(b) The actual/against budget to October has been circulated and agreed.</p> | S Jones | Clerk's salary (September) | £898.30 | D McClelland | Litter warden – (September) | £241.00 | R Wherry | Litter warden - (September) | £164.72 | HMRC PAYE | RW, DM, SJ | £103.00 | D McClelland | Expenses | £20.00 | Premier Grounds | Village maintenance | £490.80 | Cabi | Weevils for pond | £498.00 | Laptops Direct | New laptop - S Jones repay | £675.96 | |
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| 11 | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>01.10.24 – Kit Malthouse; re the 30mph zone – response awaited</p> <p>04.10.24 – HALC; Hampshire ALC AGM Agenda and Papers</p> <p>07.10.24 – NALC, launch of new website.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | <p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>There are a number of on-going issues, such as the missing drain covers and signage that is missing, broken, or left in the verges. HCC will be reminded of these issues.</p> <p>There is an abandoned car in a layby. No action has been taken by the police or BDBC. It seems likely it will remain there for some time. The PCSO will be advised.</p> <p>If members of the parish council report anything to the police, please can they inform the whole council so all Cllrs are aware.</p> | SJ SJ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | <p>Communications – newsletter (Clerk) and other media output</p> <p>It was agreed the draft minutes do not need to be published this month.</p> <p>Items for the magazine were agreed.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | <p>Review of calendar items</p> <p>Calendar items for November were noted.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | <p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 6.30pm at Bishops Green Village Hall.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.36pm.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ACTIONS:

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Cllr Debenham will be asked to confirm the condition of the equipment, and also asked if he will take on this section of the quarterly review.

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The raised beds need regular maintenance. The lengthsman will be asked to carry out this task on the next allocation of hours. The clerk will look into getting this including on the Village Maintenance Contract, which renews in November.

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Once the SID business case is signed off, the purchase can go ahead.

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