

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on

Tuesday 12th November 2024, commencing at 19:30 hours

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

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

Item		Action
	<p>At 6.30pm a presentation was held by Council Leader Paul Harvey and Cllr Andy Konieczko. They attended to give an update on various subjects. 3 members of the public attended this part of the evening.</p> <p>The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCC is £170m in debt and is likely to have significant financial issues in the near future. • BDBC have balanced their budget. They don't have funding to help HCC with finance on roads etc but help where they can. • There are grants available and details and forms are on their website. • The CSPO team are fully manned. • The changes in rules relating to the Local Plan are an issue and potentially BDBC will need to go back to the drawing board in spite of the fact that they have got a significant way through the work towards the new local plan. The new housing minister has suggested an increase to the housing number allocation from 838 to 1194, and BDBC do not have enough sites for this. The best option would be for BDBC to be able to finish the Local Plan on the current/old basis. • The Manydown development is going ahead and work likely to start in 2025. • There are plans for a new university in Basingstoke. • BDBC is strong with capital and investments and is still looking like a good place to invest and bring business which is positive. • HCC's financial position will impact BDBC but as 'residents', not the borough council. <p>The 3 members of the public and 2 Cllrs left the meeting at 7.25pm.</p>	
1	Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Dain, and County Cllr Mellor	
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 9 th October and matters arising. All Cllrs agreed them as a true record, and they were signed by Cllr Stamp.	
4	Public participation There were no members of the public present.	
5	Borough Councillor's Report Borough Cllr Izett joined the meeting at 7.30pm and reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borough budget is being set and is balanced but cautious. Council tax for BDBC will increase by £5pa for an average band D house, which is 2.9% • There will be fee increases for some BDBC services of 3% and parking will increase by 5%. • The community skips idea has been cancelled. • Weed spraying will increase from 2 to 3 times per annum. • The litterwarden grants will increase over the next financial year. • The new government have announced they will not continue with CIL monies but instead only S106 monies will be available. • The NIC increases need to be looked at closely by parishes as they are likely to affect budgets. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new NPPF states local authorities should have no longer than 8 weeks to review planning applications. This could be difficult and Cllr Izett will be discussing this with the chief planning officer and will report back. <p>There being nothing further to report, Cllr Izett left the meeting at 7.52pm.</p>	
6	<p>County Councillor's Report. County Councillor Mellor was not present so there was no report.</p>	
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) New applications: 24/01980/HSE 1 Riverside Cottages Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell RG20 4UG Proposed erection of detached single storey garden room following demolition of existing single garage and timber garden room ESBG PC response: Cllrs were pleased to see the slats have been changed to horizontal and would prefer black slats. The original issues relating to parking and the building independence remain.</p> <p>b) Decisions: 24/01671/HSE 8 Rooksfield Bishops Green Hampshire RG20 9JJ Erection of a detached garage with first floor home office. Decision Granted Thu 24 Oct 2024 24/01291/FUL Former Annexe At Malthouse Farm Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Newbury Hampshire RG20 4TT Demolition of existing building and replacement Dwellinghouse. Decision Granted Thu 24 Oct 2024 24/01112/VLA The Cottage At Malthouse Farm Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Newbury Hampshire RG20 4TT Discharge of Section 52 agreement to allow the building to be used for residential purposes independently to the use, occupation and ownership of Malthouse Farm. Decision Granted Thu 24 Oct 2024 24/01923/LBC Woodpecker Cottage Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 4UA Repairs to existing timber structure, replace masonry paint with lime wash/render, replace single glazed Crittall metal windows with double glazed Crittall metal windows. Decision Granted Fri 11 Oct 2024 24/01823/HSE 5 Palmers Yard Ecchinswell Hampshire RG20 4TR Conversion of existing garage into a sound-proof office space Decision Granted Fri 11 Oct 2024 24/01260/FUL Land At Clere House Farm Ecchinswell Road Ecchinswell Hampshire Demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of new dwelling, access, hard and soft landscaping and associated works. Decision Application Withdrawn Mon 30 Sep 2024</p> <p>c) Unauthorised planning update and enforcement advice</p>	

	<p>The resident has been sent a letter suggesting they contact BDBC as a matter of urgency relating to works seemingly being carried out at their premises, as no planning application has been received. As it is not clear if BDBC have been contacted at this time, the clerk will complete the form for the Enforcement office to contact the resident.</p>	SJ																								
8	<p>Matters for Discussion:</p> <p>a) <u>Website and phone upgrade progress</u> Work on the new website has begun with all the relevant information being handed over so the transition can begin. The new phone and email system are also being worked on and should be in place shortly. Messages sent to the current email addresses will redirect to the new emails.</p> <p>b) <u>Pothole audit progress</u> Unfortunately the audit was unable to be carried out due to ill health and poor weather. The audit will take place before the December meeting and will be reported on then.</p> <p>c) <u>SID purchase progress</u> The business plan is being finalized; once completed and signed off the purchase of the SID can be completed.</p> <p>d) <u>Sustainability and Environmental working party</u> The survey is ready to send out. This will be sent to the Cllrs new email addresses and to the residents email list.</p> <p>e) <u>Pond update</u> The pond tidy up took place on 12th November. The volunteers are thanked for their time and it is hoped the weevils will continue working well and the azolla will reduce.</p> <p>f) <u>BGCA and EVH updates</u> Cllr Dain was not present so there was no report from BGCA. Cllr Debenham reported that an EVH committee meeting was taking place on the same evening as the PC meeting. He reported that the finances are presently looking healthy. The grass cutting grant for the past 2 years has been paid. EVH are currently looking into other grants available. There is now a safeguarding policy and new booking forms in place. Policies have been agreed and there is a file with all policies located in the kitchen. Cllrs need to look into possibility of a new bin for dog waste and also put up a polite notice to dog walkers to take waste away with them. Cllr Debenham will look into this.</p>	KS/SJ SJ/KS KS PD																								
9	<p>Finance</p> <p>(a) Electronic Payments made in November:</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk's salary (October)</td> <td>£898.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Litter warden – (October)</td> <td>£195.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Wherry</td> <td>Litter warden - (October)</td> <td>£164.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ</td> <td></td> <td>£ 91.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D McClelland</td> <td>Expenses</td> <td>£ 20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Royal British Legion</td> <td>Wreath</td> <td>£24.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vision ICT</td> <td>Domain renewal</td> <td>£78.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Jones</td> <td>Clerk expenses</td> <td>£16.69</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Total £1,489.50</p> <p>(b) It was agreed the actual/against budget needs to be reviewed once every 2 months and therefore it will be circulated for the December meeting.</p>	S Jones	Clerk's salary (October)	£898.30	D McClelland	Litter warden – (October)	£195.20	R Wherry	Litter warden - (October)	£164.72	HMRC PAYE – RW, DM, SJ		£ 91.60	D McClelland	Expenses	£ 20.00	Royal British Legion	Wreath	£24.99	Vision ICT	Domain renewal	£78.00	S Jones	Clerk expenses	£16.69	
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10	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>15.10.24 – HCC, Hampshire County Council Passenger Transport Forums dates 21.10.24 – Resident, unsightly fence on private land; the fence does not contravene any planning laws and is on private property. 29.10.24 – HALC, remote meetings survey; Cllrs need to respond to the survey 01.11.24 - Launch of the New Police and Crime Plan 2024–2028 05.11.24 – HALC, Hampshire ALC County Forum – Thursday 28th November 2024</p>																									

11	<p>Highways and Rights of Way There continues to be the usual issues with road signs and drain covers etc.</p> <p>There is an issue with the road at the corner of Bishops Green where flood water is resting under the road. Cllr Sadler will report this to HCC.</p>	KS
12	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) <u>School lighting issue</u> ESBG PC have been sent a request to make a donation to a lighting project taking place at the school. They are seeking advice from HALC as are unsure if they are able to make a contribution on buildings which fall under HCC's responsibility. HALC have responded that they are seeking legal advice and once a response is received, the clerk will report back.</p> <p>b) <u>Allotments – proposed change to holders group and maintenance team</u> Cllr Debenham reported that the allotments are going very well, and the equipment is all in good condition. He advised that he is seeking agreement to allow 2 allotment holders to be allowed to carry out a specific set of duties that he has created. He would require the leaders of the allotment holders to report back once a month. Cllrs agreed this unanimously.</p> <p>Interest in the allotments has increased and there is one allotment which is overgrown and would need some serious maintenance to get it back into shape so it could be rented out. Cllrs agreed unanimously a working party should be put into place to get this allotment in good order.</p> <p>c) <u>EVH annual lease agreement</u> The invoice for the peppercorn rent due to ESBG PC will be sent to the EVH treasurer.</p> <p>d) <u>2025 meeting dates</u> The 2025 meeting dates were circulated and agreed.</p> <p>e) <u>Review of the Village Maintenance contract</u> The contract has been sent to the maintenance team but not returned as yet. It is hoped this will be ready for review at the December meeting. The maintenance team have been asked to include the raised beds in their quote this year.</p>	SJ
13	<p>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.</p>	
14	<p>Review of calendar items Calendar items for December were noted.</p>	
15	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7.30pm at Ecchinswell Village Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.31pm.</p>	

ACTIONS:

The audit will take place before the December meeting and will be reported on then.

The survey is ready to send out. This will be sent to the Cllrs new email addresses and to the residents email list.

Cllrs need to look into possibility of a new bin for dog waste and also put up a polite notice to dog walkers to take waste away with them. Cllr Debenham will look into this

There is an issue with the road at the corner of Bishops Green where flood water is resting under the road. Cllr Sadler will report this to HCC

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The invoice for the peppercorn rent due to ESBG PC will be sent to the EVH treasurer.