

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council Newsletter

July 2024

The latest meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 17th July 2024, at Ecchinswell Village Hall. We were a small group as we had no representation from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council or Hampshire County Council this month.

At the start of the meeting, we welcomed Lee Monteith onto the council. Lee has been a resident of the parish for some time and will be a great asset to the team, particularly as he has local government experience already. It is wonderful that the parish council is now at full strength, with 7 councillors with a wide range of experience, age and geographical area. A diverse council allows us to represent you better.

There were no planning applications or planning decisions this month.

The Parish Council has purchased a new garden strimmer, hedge cutter and associated tools for use by allotment holders and other parish working groups. Our old equipment had become unusable, and we are looking forward to seeing the allotments and other parts of the parish benefit from these purchases.

We recently completed the parish tree inspection and are pleased to report that most of our trees are in sound condition, and that we have no dangerous trees in the parish. Some trees need a level of work on them to keep them healthy and mitigate against ash die back disease. Some work will need to be done by professionals, but things like clearing ivy from trees can be done by non-specialists.

Building on the success of the Annual Pond Clearance Day, the Parish Council would like to float the idea of setting up a Parish Tree Day. The parish trees are in three areas - the village hall, the pond and the allotments, so the work area is compact. If anyone is interested in helping at such an event this autumn, then please contact our clerk, Sarah, via email at clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk We look forward to hearing from lots of you!

The council heard reports from both our village hall committees.

Bishops Green Village Hall reported the successful reopening of the youth club. The new youth Leader, Lucy, has begun to run sessions at the hall for children and young people up to age 16. She has recruited several local volunteers to help, and the young people are enjoying the activities provided. Sadly, the hall will no longer have a pre-school starting there in September. There were families signed up, but the pre-school was unable to find staff. This seems to be a widespread problem for rural locations.

Ecchinswell Village Hall reported that they are looking at different ways they might raise money to put solar panels on the hall roof. Navigating the process of applying for grants is time consuming and frustrating at times, but they have not given up!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th September 2024 at Bishops Green Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Cllr Marian Dain