

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council – Newsletter from May meetings.

The May ESBG Parish Council meetings take a different format in that we have an AGM which takes place at 7pm, followed by an Annual Assembly at 7.30pm. Both these meetings took place on the 8th May at Ecchinswell Village Hall.

The AGM is where the Chair and Vice Chair are elected. This year, Cllr Dain, who has been the Chair for the past 4 years, did not stand again. She has worked tirelessly during her four years as Chair, and numerous years before that as Vice Chair and Councillor and is given huge thanks from the other members of the parish council for her leadership, wisdom and integrity in the role. We are delighted to report Cllr Dain is staying on the parish council.

The previous Vice Chair, Cllr Stamp, stood as Chair, and councillors agreed unanimously to vote him in. Cllr Sadler then stood for Vice Chair and she was again unanimously voted in. The new Chair and Vice Chair are thanked and wished good luck in their new roles.

In other good news, we were delighted to co-opt a new councillor onto the council. James Hardy Giles was unanimously voted in and invited to join councillors at the table at the start of the AGM. He is warmly welcomed to the council.

We are now up to 6 councillors and would be delighted to fill the final vacancy so if anyone is interested in joining the council, please contact the clerk, Sarah, on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk.

After the AGM finished, councillors moved to the large hall. 17 members of the public attended the Annual Assembly which took place there. Unfortunately, our Borough Cllr John Izett was unable to attend but sent a report which was read out, and County Cllr Mellor attended and gave a report on Hampshire County Council's position at present. He provided full details of their financial position, their efforts on child and adult social care, and the situation with roads and potholes. There are many challenges and councillors thank Cllr Mellor and Borough Cllr Izett for attending the monthly meetings and keeping the parish council, and by virtue of the minutes, residents, abreast of news with regards to borough and county issues, and for their continued support to the parish council.

Representatives from Ecchinswell Village Hall and the Bishops Green Community Association gave overviews of the village halls, and the progress which is being made regarding their events, regular hirers and activities. Both offer lots of versatility, classes and options, and are moving forward after a difficult period with Covid etc. It is all very positive, and the volunteers are all thanked for their time. As always, more volunteers are needed!

The Annual Assembly finished with refreshments and an opportunity for everyone to have a chat with councillors and each other. It was a lovely evening.

If you have any questions or want further information on any of the items above, please either contact Mark Stamp the Chair (cllrstamp.esbg@outlook.com) or Sarah Jones the Clerk (clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk)

Sarah Jones - Parish Clerk