

## **Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council.**

Parish Council meeting report for 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

The parish council's December meeting was tinged with a little sadness as we said goodbye to our longest standing Councillor, Marian Dain. Marian has been a Councillor for around 10 years and was Chair for 4 years. During her time, she worked tirelessly and with integrity. ESBG PC will miss her wealth of knowledge, organisation and hard work. She was a key figure in driving the Neighbourhood Plan and getting it finalised so quickly, and not only did she run the parish council brilliantly, has also volunteered throughout her time on the council with maintenance jobs around the parish. Marian is thanked for all her hard work and efforts, and we wish her a peaceful and happy exit from the council.

Needless to say, Marian's exit leaves us with a vacancy. We had a full accompaniment of Councillors for a short period of time but once again have a slot to fill. If you would like to find out more about the parish council, how to get involved, and what we do, please contact Sarah on [clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk).

The parish has been lucky enough, over the past few years, to have a group of numerous volunteers who have worked hard on various maintenance projects around the parish including at the pond, footpaths, and allotments to help ensure the area we live in stays well-tended and lovely. Unfortunately, some of these volunteers are now stepping down and we are looking for some new people to pick up the mantle - anyone who could spare an hour or two, every now and again. We are finding that with less work being carried out by volunteers, our village maintenance expenses may increase, which will in turn increase our precept and therefore your council tax. Whilst we endeavour to ensure any increases are kept to a minimum, we find as less people volunteer more jobs have to go onto the paid contracts. If anyone has any spare time and would like to help with some tasks please do contact us. You can state a preference for your involvement and it does not need to be a long stint, just an hour every now and again. We would be very grateful to hear from you.

This also leads to a request to all members of the public to please ensure hedges at your property are cut back and safe. We have received numerous complaints from residents who advise there are overgrown hedges which make it difficult to get past properties without stepping into the road, or if they have a pram etc. Consideration would be very much appreciated and maintenance of hedges would be helpful.

Finally, as you may recall we have advised we are updating our website and email addresses; this work is taking place at the moment. We should have new email addresses very shortly. Look out for the updated details and also the new website soon.

We are looking ahead, and looking forward to 2025 and all it brings. We wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

ESBG PC will next meet at Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Any enquiries about the above or other local Parish Council Matters please contact Sarah Jones our Clerk ([clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk) ).

*Sarah Jones  
Clerk - ESBG Parish Council*