

## EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in the Village Hall

**RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK (COVID MEASURES)** – All correct

Before the meeting began, Councillors voted on an application from Angela Canning to become a Parish Councillor. All were in favour. Angela signed the Declaration of Acceptance and will begin her attendance in February 2022.

**PRESENT:** Councillors D. Wensley (Chair), J. Tresidder, J. Carter, H. Houston, F. Ward, K. Quant & M. Smith. District Councillors Alan Dent and Tom Wright.

**APOLOGIES:** County Councillor C. Channon, District Councillor Paul Jarvis

The **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - none

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – County Councillor Channon submitted a written report, available on the website. There are concerns about a huge overspend on adult and social care, in particular for Special Educational Needs. Some small savings have been made due to staff working from home and meeting via Zoom.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT** – District Councillor Alan Dent submitted a report, available on the website. Councillor Tom Wright reported that many budgets have been overspent due to greater demands, some triggered by the Covid epidemic. There is a shortfall of £350,000.00. Waste Disposal needs have increased due to the increased number of new dwellings and changes of use during the pandemic. The contract with Suez is due for renewal. Car Parking charges may be increased. It might be cheaper for people to purchase an annual permit. The periodic review of salaries is likely to add a further half million to the Precept.

District Councillor Alan Dent reported that some 13 Leisure Centres (LED) in the District had initially been forced to close during the pandemic and now memberships and attendances were slow to pick up. This has resulted in EDDC having to subsidise the service in this and in future years by over £1million annually.. He said the Cranbrook Estate has community bio fuel, which will be extended to any new build. They are future-proofed as they will not have gas boilers. There has been a 25% increase in planning applications and there is now a backlog due to lack of staff.

**MATTERS ARISING from previous Minutes** - None

**MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED**

Draft Precept presented for approval/amendment.

Councillor Wensley explained some of the decisions behind figures set for expenditure in the coming financial year. He noted that we have the 6<sup>th</sup> highest parish tax per household out of 54 East Devon parishes, but the car park / toilets are a significant financial factor. There is only a modest 0.9% increase to our Precept for 2022/3. This is significantly below the 5.4% rate of inflation and the precept has now been effectively frozen for 5 years. All voted in favour of £27,950.00.

## **Reports**

**Chair.** Nothing to report

**Clerk on Village Matters & Correspondence.** The Clerk submitted a report. Potholes have been reported. Councillor Quant suggested residents be encouraged to report problems directly to DCC or EDDC. The Clerk will promote this in the next Parish News. Councillors approved the “Tidy-up Village” and “Meet the Communities” events could be arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022. The Community Pub initiative was launched on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January and was attended by about 200 people. Everyone has been asked to complete and return a pledge document to indicate what they will now do in terms of share purchase and volunteering.

**Correspondence:** Mrs. Moyle had raised concerns about the field adjacent to Salem Chapel. Councillor Wensley saw no reason currently to object to the new hedge, gate and driveway.

**Yettington, Speedwatch & Police Committee :** Kevin Quant submitted a report. He said they had recorded 3,457 vehicles driving through Yettington. There was a general decline in their speed but 186 had been registered at speeds above 35 mph. These were reported to the police. Councillor Quant had approached Highways over road damage by the Saw Mills. Highways are waiting for the water level to drop and will take no action at the moment. The memorial bench will be installed soon. Councillor Quant asked Councillor Wensley to attend a short ceremony when the date is set.

**Recreation & Dog Owners:** Nothing to report

**Village Hall/Shop/Climate Emergency:** Councillor John Tresidder submitted a detailed report. A copy is on the web. Nothing further to add

**Wild Flowers:** Councillor Fiona Ward said the Lions Club had enquired about the Parish Councils intent to plant a tree. Councillors considered one might be planted at the top of Wynards Road and possibly a second one in Vicarage Road. This could coincide with the Platinum Jubilee planting, and it may also be possible to mark the commemoration with a tree at Yettington Hall.

**Traffic Matters/Village Jubilee:** Councillor Houston submitted a report. She said plans for the Platinum Jubilee were progressing. A grant application will be made for costs of closing the highway, providing chairs and tables, flowers for the Church and entertainment. Councillor Houston is checking on the legal requirements with Highways. She is also pursuing permission to site the new SID “Slow Down” sign with Emma Stamp and Highways.

**LORP –** Councillor Jim Carter expressed his hope that the various utilities that are due to work in Kersbrooke will liaise with each other to minimise disruption

**Cricket Club:** Councillor Wright said the Cricket Club were submitting new plans, but it was likely that the pavilion will not be ready for the start of the season.

**Planning:**

1. Ref 21/3173/FUL: Little Oak Hill. Councillors agreed “ No objections”
2. Ref 21/3129/LBC: The Barn Yettington. Councillors agreed “No objection”
3. Offer from Mr. Carter of the Rolle Arms for Councillors to visit before he submits a new planning application. Councillors asked the Clerk to make the arrangements.

Council approved the listed Bills and Financial Reports.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date of the next meeting is 22nd February 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.