

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd February 2022 in the Village Hall

RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK (COVID MEASURES) – All correct

PRESENT: Councillors D. Wensley (Chair), J. Tresidder, J. Carter, F. Ward, A. Canning & M. Smith. District Councillors Alan Dent, Paul Jarvis and Tom Wright, Devon County Councillor Christine Channon

APOLOGIES: Parish Councillor Heather Houston

The **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th January 2022 were approved – provided the reference to Part Two was added,.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

Councillor Derek Wensley reported that Kevin Quant has now moved away. He noted that Kevin had been a very active person in the Parish, particularly in Yettington, with his activities as Flood Warden, Traffic Watch and his work with Yettington Hall. He will be very much missed.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – County Councillor Channon. The County budget has increased by 3 per cent. There was a huge overspend on adult services and on children's services, but fortunately the council was able to call on reserves to top up. A request for 30mph between Brick Cross and Otterton was rejected. Cllr. Channon said the number of Covid in the area is high, but includes the testing in schools. There are no cases at Drake's School. There are only two people in hospital. The virus is not as serious for people who are fully vaccinated.

District Councillor Tom Wright reported the District Council held a consultative meeting on 21st February 2022 on the budget. An increase in car park charges was agreed in principle. The full Council will meet on 23rd February 2022, where decisions can be ratified. Next year, Band D Council Tax will be £2106 per year – a 3.7 percent increase. Our Parish Council precept remains in the middle tier of other claimed precepts. Car Park charges are going up by £2.00. There are concessions in the winter. An annual permit for a town is £120.00 per annum; an increase of £20.00. An additional £20.00 can be paid for each additional town. Only council tax payers may obtain a permit.

District Councillor Alan Dent referred to the Longboat Café on Budleigh Seafrost. They must remove an adjoining wall with the shelter, as they have no planning permission, so they will remove the wall and use a mobile partition. He reminded Councillors that the NHS are distributing information and posters on the dangers and recognition of heart attacks. He said District Councillors had met via zoom with the East Budleigh Cricket Club to discuss plans to extend the size of the clubhouse.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Lions Club have offered some support towards the cost of commemorative trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllr. Ward is following this up.

Matters for Discussion

Members of the Parish Council were invited to visit the Rolle Arms whilst the owner, Nick Carter, explained their plans for change of use. He sent further details, explaining they plan to have 11 rooms instead of the original 12. Cllr Wensley had circulated notes, available on the Council website, covering the position in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan. After discussion, Councillors agreed in principle, to the proposed alterations, subject to seeing the official planning application in due course. Cllr Carter asked about licencing. The District Councillors explained a new application would need to be made on change of use.

Application from the Chair of the Village Hall and manager of the Short-mast bowls club, for a contribution towards the £6000.00. The Parish Council was not in a position to support significant sums, but would investigate what other external grant options may be available.

20 is Plenty pressure group. Council chose to discuss this at the March meeting when Cllr. Houston, the traffic representative, will be present. Cllr. Channon said that several applications had been rejected. It was often difficult to exceed 20 mph in East Budleigh. She said Slow Down signs for Schools were more successful. However, she will support the decision of the Parish Council.

Devon Communities Grant Opportunity. Cllr Tresidder and the Clerk proposed the purchase of additional Flood signs, traffic cones and a sandbag hopper at a total cost of £729.78. The application for possible grant funding from Devon Communities was supported by the Council.

Application for contribution to a plaque to commemorate Roger Conant, an historical local figure. Council agreed to consider a contribution in the new financial year.

Donation of an Oak Tree by the Government. Cllr. Ward offered to investigate a suitable place for it on the Recreation Ground. Council also agreed to plant a smaller tree in Yettington and one in East Budleigh, possibly where two trees had blown down near the shop in the recent storm. Cllr. Ward will approach the Lions Club, who offered to purchase trees for the parish. Cllr. Dent advised the Clerk to approach StreetScene about clearing debris from the roads.

Report from Councillor Wensley on the Glover Landscape Review

Cllr. Wensley highlighted the salient points of an EDDC report regarding Settlement Boundaries following EDDC discussion on the matter as part of the evolving Local Plan. In many ways it was envisaged that it would not be hugely different from the existing guidelines concerning development and the Built Up Area Boundary.

Also highlighted were the significant points emanating from the Government's response to the Glover Landscape Review as summarised by Sue Cooper. Potential revisions for National Parks and AONBs are addressed in the reports. Cllr. Wright commented that if East Devon became part of a larger national park, staffing costs would rise considerably.

Clerk's Report on Village Matters & Correspondence

See attached report. The Clerk reported that residents had come together during and after the storm, offered to provide hot water or heat food, and helping to clear trees from the roads. Lost items were returned to their owners across the village. Council asked the Clerk to organise a zoom meeting with East Budleigh Cricket Club, at their request. She has also organised a presentation on fast-fibre by Airband, at the March meeting.

Some residents have expressed concern over possible parking difficulties when the Sir Walter Raleigh opens again. Councillors agreed that parking beside the Church was not altogether safe and that it was inadvisable for roadside parking in East Budleigh to be captured in any policy document. The Clerk said the SWR Committee would encourage customers to walk, share lifts or park in the car park or safely further away.

The Sir Walter Raleigh community pub is expected to be purchased on 4th March 2022. A swift refurbishment is planned, with the intention of opening before 27th March, Mothering Sunday. A chef & manager have been appointed.

Yettington: Councillor Quant has left. The Clerk is in touch with the person who will take on flood duties and the Speedwatch. She will put an article in the Parish News, requesting a new Councillor for the Yettington area.

Recreation & dog Owners: Nothing to report

Parish Paths Partnership: See attached report. Jon Roseway has applied for the annual grant, in preparation for the construction of a gravel surface on part of a slippery footpath.

Village Hall/climate emergency. Cllr. Tresidder submitted the attached report.

Wildflowers. Cllr Ward will pursue the obtaining of trees to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.

Traffic Matters/Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Houston was absent. Cllr. Channon said the request to close the road was not progressing. Cllr. Houston will need to get this permit by 6th March 2022, to be in time for the even in May.

Cricket Club/Kersbrook. Cllr. Carter pointed out that Japanese knotweed is spreading in the lower Otter and, although it needs treating and removing, this can be a lengthy and difficult process.

Planning:

Syon House. Application for retrospective planning permission. No Objection

Radio Mast Upgrade. The Parish Council supported the planned upgrade work.

Accounts & Finances: All accepted

Council approved the appointment of NSG Financials as our internal auditors.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday 22rd March 2022