

**EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Virtual Council Meeting**  
**held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

**PRESENT:** D. Wensley (Chair), S. Miller, F. Ward, J. Tresidder, J. Shaw, M. Walters, J. Carter (by telephone), District Councillor A. Dent. Apologies from P. Hayman, District Councillors P. Jarvis and J. Wright. County Councillor C. Channon joined briefly but lost connection.

The Council approved the addendum to our Standing Orders to enable virtual meetings.

A **TRIBUTE** to the late Councillor Peter Barnard was given by Cllr. Wensley, in which he stated: “ we will miss his dedication to local affairs”.

The **MINUTES** of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were approved by all.

There were no **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As County Councillor Christine Channon was unable to connect to the meeting, she will send her report in retrospectively, to be circulated to all members.

**District Councillor Alan Dent** reported that most Council staff were able to work from home, though broadband was still patchy in some rural areas. The Council has supported an increase in claims for Universal Credit, distributed 87% of the £50,000,000 grant from central Government and set up a community hub to give guidance to individuals and businesses.

Kerbside recycling collections have continued as normal, with reduced staff and the Green Waste service resumed recently.

Councillor Dent said we now have the challenge of supporting Businesses, in particular the Tourist Industry through these difficult times. It was good news to learn that the Community Shop hopes to open soon to walk-in customers.

There were no **MATTERS ARISING** from the previous Minutes.

Councillors approved the **Register of Activities**, which had tracked decisions made via email, in accordance with delegated powers awarded to the Clerk in March 2020.

Councillors **approved the end of year accounts and the AGAR** and agreed to produce it for public inspection and submission to the External Auditor.

**MOBILE PHONE MAST** – Concern was expressed that trees surrounding the Mobile Phone Mast had been damaged and two need replacing. Two years of growth have been lost, A suggestion was made that more mature trees might be planted to replace the two missing trees. Councillor Dent offered to approach East Devon Planning Department, requesting that they take action and enforce the decision made by the Ombudsman and the Clerk agreed to follow this up also.

Councillors discussed the contents of the **Newton Poppleford Neighbourhood Plan** and agreed that they had no comments to make.

**The East Budleigh Heritage Plan** was examined, and it was agreed that this would prove a useful document when planning decisions were made in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Councillors thanked Jacqui Best and participants for the compilation of the favourable plan.

The Clerk asked if Councillors wished to make a donation to **East Budleigh in Bloom**. Councillors agreed to a donation of £210.00

The Chair had no further report to make.

**Village Matters:** The Clerk reported that Dog Bins had been emptied as usual. The Toilets were still closed and further clarification on hygiene difficulties would be required before they would be re-opened. A member of the Public was concerned about the quantity of weeds growing in the road verges. The Clerk reported that the District Council would be sending round their lorry to scrape them away. Some potholes were due to be filled soon. Grass had been cut by the District Council, as our own Volunteer is not yet permitted to do so. The area around The Pound and the Tennis Court had been missed. The Clerk will follow that up.

The Clerk reported on the Scrubs for Care Homes project, funded by a **Prompt Action Grant**. So far 70 sets of scrubs had been delivered to Care Homes and received with great delight. The Clerk thanked Councillor Ward for her help with sewing, as part of a team of 8 local ladies.

**Recreation & Dog Forum:** Cllr Smith reported that he had warned a member of the public against permitting their dog to stray and that it could be sent to the Dog Pound if it was found loose again.

No report from **Drake's School**

**Parish Paths:** Volunteer Jon Roseway had sent in a report. There has been increased use of the paths during the pandemic. He is currently not permitted to strim as essential work is being carried out by EDDC. EDDC will put up more notices to restrict use of bicycles on the River-bank path. EDDC have done an early strim around the Parish but missed a couple of areas. The Clerk will investigate.

**Village Hall, Climate Emergency & Community Shop:** Councillor Tresidder reported the Village Hall has not re-opened yet. He and Cllr. Ward are working on the Climate Emergency Project but there is nothing to report yet. The Community Shop hopes to open to walk-in customer soon, as we emerge from lockdown. The Council all clapped their approval of the excellent work being done by the Manager Mel and assistants Liz and Anne.

**Flood Resilience & Prompt Action Fund for the Vulnerable:** Cllr. Walters reported that he still holds fund from the Prompt Action Fund but has assisted some elderly people in the Parish with the

delivery of cakes, made by volunteers. Equipment for the Flood Resilience Scheme has now been purchased and stored. Cllr. Wensley thanked him for his professional handling of the project.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr. Carter reported that he is still working on the review.

There was notice of a **Planning Appeal** to the Secretary of State in respect of the Barn in Yettington. The Council stood by their original decision and had no further comment to make.

**Accounts and Finances:** The Clerk presented a list of Invoices, requiring retrospective approval and all were accepted. She reported on recent grants and submitted details of salary costs for March and April. Additional bills just received were Website fee of £131.84 and UK2 email fee of £16.99. She said the VAT refund of £2487.09 had been applied for.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.30 pm