

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Virtual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2020.

Public Contributions

Hilary Greenstreet and Heather Houston both spoke about their concerns for road safety, in particular at Lower Budleigh opposite the Ciderhouse. They pointed out that the road is only 3.8 metres wide, with no safety area for pedestrians and does not meet the Highway standards. The speed of traffic also causes resonating frequencies in the nearby cottages.

PRESENT: D. Wensley (Chair), F. Ward, J. Tresidder, J. Shaw, M. Walters, J. Carter, District Councillor A. Dent, P. Jarvis and County Councillor C. Channon. Apologies from T. Wright & P. Hayman.

Chair, Cllr. Wensley announced that Sally Miller has resigned due to pressure of other work. Councillor Wensley said she had been a member of the Council for nearly three years and thanked her for her service.

The **MINUTES** of the Virtual Council Meeting held on 29th June 2020 were approved by all.

There were no **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

County Councillor Christine Channon reported that Devon CC has been designated one of England's 11 Beacon Councils by Government to lead the implementation of the new Local Outbreak Management Plan and to share good practice. During the outbreak, the Budleigh Hub had delivered meals & medicines and supported vulnerable people. They were gradually getting back to normal.

Councillor Channon said that she had communicated with Councillor Walters over traffic calming issues and will take this forward. She thanked the Chair, Clerk and Council because they are now receiving decent reports on activities prior to the meetings.

District Councillor Alan Dent reported that Planning Regulations have been altered to enable homes to be extended by two stories, using a fast track planning process.

District Councillor Jarvis said it was good to receive detailed reports from the Council, ahead of meetings, so that they can offer appropriate support and advice.

MATTERS ARISING from the previous Minutes. Brick Cross has now been repaired. Vodafone have agreed to replace two trees this Autumn, to shield the Phone Mast.

REPORTS:

A notice had been received from **BT** of their intention to remove the phone box beside the bus shelter, as it is no longer being used. After a discussion, a vote was taken: 5 voted to not keep it for telephone calls. All 6 voted to keep it but not as a phone box. A notice will be placed on the Parish Notice Boards to remind residents they have until July 10th to respond with their views. Final decision with any public feedback will be sent to BT before 18th September 2020

Yettington Hall had applied for a further grant for floor tiles. The Councillors agreed that there were no spare funds available as extra costs were being incurred on the Public Toilets and the Council had not been eligible for the £10,000.00 business support grant. All voted to decline the grant.

Traffic Calming: Councillor Walters had shared the concerns of his neighbours with County Councillor Channon. Two members of the public had raised concerns over the speeding on the B3178, as well as the bottleneck in Lower Budleigh. Heavy vehicles have been travelling at speed through the village, including lorries from the construction site in Otterton. CDE are trying to contact the developer to stop this. There is no safety space for pedestrians and the width of the road meets only the requirements for a single track. Councillor Ward also raised concerns of cars being parked near The Pound, limiting visibility on the corner.

Councillor Channon said she was very aware of continuing problems in the Yettington area. She was not in favour of speed bumps and the 20 mile speed restrictions were rarely enforced. Councillor Walters and Councillor Channon will continue to press for action on all concerns via the Highways department. Councillor Tresidder thanked all parties for their contributions to the debate.

Chair: Councillor Wensley thanked Kate and Jonathan Ponting for their work on clearing Himalayan Balsam from the brook and suggested that we keep sending out the message to Parishioners, particularly those living alongside the brook, that it needs to be removed. Councillor Wensley said that East Devon District Council proposes to withdraw from participation in the Exeter Strategic Plan for the area. It has not yet been ratified at a full Council meeting. Other local Parishes have also withdrawn. Councillor Dent thought the preparation of the plan was useful. Councillor Jarvis said that little thought had gone into the decision, as alongside the need to build more houses, his personal opinion was that there was an urgent need to focus on developing an infrastructure alongside.

The Clerk reported that the Public Conveniences are now open. A new cleaning company has taken over, additional sanitisers were in place and regular deep cleaning was taking place. There had been several minor repairs required to the ageing equipment

Dog Forum: Councillor Smith said he was attempting to trace the owner of a dog that was still running free and causing trouble.

Drake's School: Councillor Channon reported that all pupils would return in September, with suitable social distancing in place.. Year six pupils had returned for a few days in order to celebrate their last days before starting at Secondary School.

Jon Roseway reported he was back strimming footpaths. An accident on a path opposite Bicton Park has been investigated by the Clerk and photographs sent to EDDC. Ownership of the path was thought to lie with Bicton College.

Councillor Tresidder reported the shop was now open daily but still able to take orders over the phone and to deliver. The Village Hall was preparing to open shortly, with tight controls on sanitising in place and numbers of participants. Chairman, Chris Dearsley has offered the use of the Hall to the Budleigh Medical Centre to enable local ‘flu vaccinations. Cllr. Tresidder also reported he had attended a webinar about Electric Charging points and the possibility of heavy discounts for the introduction of charging points in the car parks. Cllr. Wensley thanked Cllr. Tresidder for volunteering as a Councillor Advocate with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, as this will increase our links with local activities. Councillor Jarvis said it was a good way of involving local communities.

Councillor Carter and Councillor Channon expressed concern over the many scams occurring online and over the phone. The Clerk said she had placed information on the website and local notice boards to inform the public.

Environment: Councillor Ward said she had received an email from Clare James of CDE, recommending the purchase of oak trees for the landscaping initiative. Councillor Carter said he has an 1890 Ordnance plan that indicates the hedgerows and trees. He said many species would be damaged by grey squirrels. Councillor Jarvis reminded Council that CDE have a tree specialist who could offer advice on the best choice of trees to avoid squirrel damage and disease. Councillor Dent agreed this was a major problem. Councillor Ward suggested a meeting should take place soon, to discuss arrangements for potential planting in October or November.

Emergency Plan: Councillor Walters will attend a virtual workshop on preparing an Emergency Plan for all emergencies. He had distributed a proposed leaflet to Councillors, with initial ideas, which Devon Communities Together would finalize in due course. He asked for any amendments to be sent within the week. He reminded Council that as shielding ends, there may be residents who are still nervous about venturing out and he asked that residents be encouraged to continue their “Good Neighbour” strategies.

Neighbourhood Plan & Lower Otter Restoration: Councillor Carter had heard nothing yet from the stakeholders in respect of the Lower Otter. He said the review of the Neighbourhood Plan was ongoing. He would speak to Stan Roberts.

Planning

Ref 20/1526/PRETDD: The Old Vicarage: An Ash tree has been removed and new planting must take place. Council will monitor this.

Ref 20/1541/TRE: Providence Cottage: Councillor Wensley provided a report. He recommended

1. two replacement trees should be planted to replace the two trees proposed to be felled.
2. That, if possible, there be a condition that the previously specified requirement of 10 replacement trees (9 from Aug 2018 and 1 from Oct 2019) must have been planted before any further felling takes place. All recommendations were approved.

Ref 20/1386/LBC: Sandy Cross Barn: replacing mortar with traditional mortar. All in Favour

Ref 19/2670/FUL: The Barn Yettington: For information, the Secretary of State had rejected the appeal for development as being out of character on a grade II listed building.

Monthly Transactions: All invoices were approved.

Financial Statements: All were approved.

Santander Bank Account: Councillor Wensley asked for Council approval that the number of signatories for the online account should be reduced two, for increased security – namely the Chair and the Clerk only.. But for the purposes of authorising changes to the banking procedures only, an additional Councillor was needed. Councillor Shaw volunteered. All agreed to the changes.

Other Topics: Councillor Smith raised the problem of the road collapsing past Bicton Park and becoming dangerous. Councillor Dent said he had informed highways but it was a major job and he thought it would not be treated as a priority in the current climate.

Councillor Walters reminded the public that we have **two vacancies for Councillors** and are looking for suitable people to join our “dynamic” team.

The meeting closed at 8.56 pm
The next meeting will be on 29th September 2020