

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th September 2021 in the Village Hall

RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK (COVID MEASURES) – All correct

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

APOLOGIES: District Councillor A. Dent and County Councillor C. Channon

Talk by Clare James of Clinton Devon Estates: Clare gave a wide-ranging talk, outlining the many projects they support. During lockdown, farmers continued to operate normally but additional training was given to some staff to cover for any potential absences. They held back on repairs, but these are now being completed. CDE manage the Pebblebed Heaths; the only privately owned National Nature Reserve. They are beginning to upgrade and change the signage on the Heaths to reflect the NNR status. CDE have been involved with the DEFRA trials, known as ELMS, which generated ideas such as farmers receiving grants where they adapt farming practises for the public good.

CDE support LORP, which is now working to adapt habitat and prevent flooding along the Lower Otter. Clare explained that a fingertip search is made before any earthworks and vegetation clearance take place, so that works do not take place around protected species. A new Cricket Club is being established and the Club will receive funds to manage the building of a modern Clubhouse, suitable for County level events. Target date for opening is 2023.

CDE joined the Beaver Trust, which has proved successful in reintroducing the Beavers to the river, where they create dams to slow the water flow.. Government approval has now been given for them to reside permanently. They are the only settled beavers in England.

CDE are looking for ways to control parking on the Common, as currently cars are parked in any space they can find and cause damage to this special area. Surface areas in carparks need to be improved, using natural materials. Finally, Clare mentioned that FAB will be laying cables bringing electricity from the French nuclear power stations; the date for the commencement of this works is not yet confirmed. Clare extended an invitation to Councillors to do a site visit of the Lower Otter Restoration Project.

The **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th July 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 12th August 2021 were approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr. Tresidder, item on War Memorial

MATTERS ARISING from previous Minutes - none

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT – Councillor Tom Wright urged everyone to respond to the survey on toilets. He apologised for the continuing delays in collecting household goods for recycling. He also expressed his personal disapproval of the District Council's decision to continue with virtual meetings. Only recommendations may be made, for Officers to then take decisions. He considers this prevents some members of the public from participating democratically.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Theft of Defibrillator: Following the theft of the Village defibrillator, the Clerk of Newton Poppleford lent a spare. Councillors approved purchase of a replacement. Insurance covers all except £125.00 of the £845.00 cost.

Donation for upkeep of War Memorial: A grant of £115.00 was authorised by all Councillors.

Signage across the Parish: Councillors agreed to the removal of wild plant notices until the Spring and the potential use of marked areas to prevent cutting. Cllr. Tresidder will remove an old sign from the Recreation Ground.

Platinum Jubilee – June 2022: The Clerk asked Councillors to come up with ideas for a celebration. The Clerk will continue to liaise with the Village Hall. Councillor Wensley proposed the planting of a tree in Yettington and in East Budleigh as a memorial of the event.

Overgrown Verges: Councillors recommended a Tidy Up Day in the Spring. The Clerk was instructed to ask StreetScene to do further sweeping to deter weed-growth by the roadside.

REPORTS

Chair: Councillor Wensley said he joined the OVA litter pick on the River Otter estuary. This was co-ordinated by Kate Ponting. Stickers had been placed on the Sir Walter Raleigh statue and have defaced a heritage asset. Councillor Wensley reminded Councillors of our policy. The Parish Council has no objections to posters promoting a Village community event, as long as they are removed promptly after the event, but any other posters are not permitted. . Fly posting is a criminal offence (Gov't website). It was agreed that a reminder of the policy be placed in the Parish Magazine.

The Clerk reported minor repair done to the Public Toilets by Skinners and Councillor Tresidder. Councillor Tresidder also adjusted the gate to the Recreation Ground. A corrupted warning sign on Temple Hill has now been replaced. Trees have been trimmed around the Air Ambulance lights and hedges trimmed.

Yettington: Councillor Quant reported that speeding has dropped by nearly 50% since Speedwatch has been active. 64 warning letters were sent out by the Police. **Phone Box:** 70% of residents have been contacted and all are in favour of siting a defibrillator in the old Phone Box. The Clerk will apply for a grant from Lord Rolle's Trust. The phone box will be repaired once a reasonable quotation is obtained for the work. **Bench for Councillor Barnard.** Councillor Quant

will purchase a bench and arrange for it to be sited at Yettington Hall. **Finger Road Sign:** Councillor Quant applied for a grant from EDDC. This is scheduled to be considered in December 2021.

Recreation & Dog Owners: Nothing to report

Parish Pathways: Nothing to report

Councillor Tresidder submitted his report. The issue of cards versus Cash is being surveyed. Solar Panels have been fitted to the Shop Roof, which will produce a small revenue flow. In the VIP room, there is now a video of the Village that plays continuously on a monitor. Ray Marrs has hung historical photographs. The Chair thanked Cllr Tresidder and Mr Marrs for their work in the VIP room. Devon Communities Together are offering workshops on Energy Efficiency. The Clerk was asked to promote them via Parish News. Recommendations by the Devon Climate Assembly have been sent to Devon County Council. They will showcase the proposed actions. Emergency Resilience: Councillor Tresidder has updated the Community Response list team and cleared a number of drain-gratings. He continues to keep the War Memorial in good order

Wildflowers: Councillor Ward has thanked the Otter Valley Association for the grant, which has now been spent.

Traffic Matters: Councillor is continuing to pursue traffic issues with Emma Stamp of Highways. She has 5 volunteers for a new Speedwatch Group.

Councillor Carter: Nothing further to report

Planning:

Reg 21/1352/FUL Cadbury Cottage. Council approved the following statement: “The very contemporary nature of the proposed rear extension does not match the rest of the dwelling or the East Budleigh Conservation Area (of which it is part) in general. However, the extension appears to be concealed from public view and would not, therefore, be noticeably adversely affecting the character of the Conservation Area. The proposed garage is an improvement on the existing.”

Ref 21/2282 FUL & 21/2283 FUL Tidwell Barton: Council still supports this application.

Accounts & Finances: The External Auditor has approved the accounts for 2021/2. All bills and financial records were approved.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm
Date of Next Meeting 26th October 2021 in the Village Hall