

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – November 2023

EAST BUDLEIGH COMMUNITY SHOP

No meeting to report.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY NEWS

The Pound has had a tidy and strim – and I have cleared the drains around that area. The War Memorial is looking good after I pressure-washed it for Remembrance Day. Rather a losing battle against leaves, but it did look neat for the day!

The Devon Climate Emergency website at devonclimateemergency@public.govdelivery.com has good information on local initiatives and is always worth a look at Devon initiatives. I am continuing to research information on EV charging, but have not yet come up with any local solutions that do not involve a considerable capital outlay.

EMERGENCY RESILIENCE

I attended a Community Resilience Meeting organised by East Devon District Council on 23rd October. The meeting focused on the greater need for Community Resilience Plans in the face of more extreme weather events as a result of climate change. Flash floods were an increasing risk, particularly in the months of May to August.

Surface water management is the responsibility of local authorities and district councils. There was some discussion about riparian responsibilities – if your land is next to a watercourse you are responsible up to the mid line – but the situation along other stretches was not clear.

Our Emergency Resilience Plan is registered with EDDC, but on hearing about other plans I think there are ways in which we could update or improve our plans, and bring them up to date:-

1. The Village Hall is listed as our emergency rest centre, but does not have the equipment or resources necessary to function in this way. It might also be wise to designate a centre that is not right by the main watercourse! Should we look into the possibility of the Church Hall coming on board, provide we can source suitable equipment and resources to look after displaced people?
2. We do need to look at ways of increasing our volunteer numbers. This is not for flood rescue – that is down to the trained and properly equipped emergency services, but there are numerous ways in which we can offer support to the community. Bearing in mind our plans cover a wide range of emergency situations, this can range from offering transport to helping to clear drains – without entering flood water! We also need to look at better coordination with other volunteer groups.

3. Looking at other local plans, we could use more equipment for helping the community. There is a need have shovels and brooms to hand, and with a larger stock of sand and a sandbag filler we could respond more quickly in an extreme flash flooding situation. There are quite high-tec flood barriers available, but for ease of use, delivery and storage (and cost-effectiveness) sand bags are the preferred option. Funding may be available from Devon communities Together.
4. There is a wealth of information for the community about being prepared for emergencies (as attached), and we should continue to publicise this with the Parish Magazine and displays in the Village Information point.

Cllr. John Tresidder.