

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st January 2020 in the Village Hall, East Budleigh.

PRESENT: M. Smith, J. Tresidder, J. Carter, P. Hayman, D. Wensley (Chair)
District Councillors A. Dent, T. Wright & P. Jarvis plus 5 members of the public were present. Cllr Wensley chaired the meeting

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS: The Clerk had received no applications to speak

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr. P. Bernard, Cllr. M. Walters and County Cllr. C Channon. Cllr. S. Miller was not present

RISK ASSESSMENT: The clerk had inspected the premises. No risks identified. Emergency exits were indicated by the Chair

Councillor Wensley thanked Judith Lumsden for her long-term service as Clerk. He also thanked retiring Councillor Lister for her contributions to the Parish, and retired Councillor Taunton for his help with the website. He introduced Councillor Tresidder, who was attending his first full meeting as Councillor, and also welcomed Judith Venning, the newly appointed Parish Clerk.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the November and December meetings were confirmed and were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair & Vice Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT: No report

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT: Cllr. Wright had attended a Budget meeting on Finance and climate change. Funds were secure for this year, but next year there is likely to be a £450 million gap in funding and the District Council may need to borrow. The Council plans to be carbon neutral by 2040. Another aim is to make all Council properties carbon neutral but the cost might be £30 to £40 million pounds. Our ownership of the Parish Car Parks and Toilets has relieved the District Council of this expense.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: The Clerk will ask the Village Hall Committee for a progress report on the Bus Shelter improvements.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

1. Councillor Wensley explained that it is the intention of the Council to use digital means of communication to reduce the use of time, paper, ink and postage. Councillors may bring their own electronic tablets/smart phones to meetings if they wish. All information for the meeting was presented using a screen linked to a laptop.

2. After a discussion it was agreed to raise the question of where the **flood-warning gauge** would be best sited, at the Village Resilience Meeting on 10th February. Councillors were asked to support this event.
3. The costings for the proposed **Precept** were discussed. This totalled £26,500 The proposer was Cllr. Smith who proposed we submit this sum. Cllr. Hayman seconded it. All were in favour.
4. Councillor Wensley explained that the current laptop is in a state of collapse. **New computer equipment** is urgently required. A new laptop, up to date software and a printer was also required. A budget of up to £600.00 was agreed by all.
5. Cllr. Jarvis reported that **Exmouth Fire Station** will remain fully manned, but the Budleigh Salterton station will be disbanded.
6. Cllr. Wensley suggested moving the Council's **banking procedures** to give instant access to the bank statements for the Clerk and to enable online banking instead of cheques. A procedure to ensure due process will be agreed with the Auditors. All were in favour.

Planning:-

19/2670/FUL – The Barn Yettington.

19/2671/LBC – The Barn Yettington

Both items were received too late for a Council opinion. Cllr. Wensley had placed his personal views on line. Cllr Dent said emails could be sent to planning, copied to him, after the deadline, and were likely to be considered.

19/2821/FUL – Long Orchard, Budleigh Salterton

19/2822/LBC – Long Orchard, Budleigh Salterton

The Council approved the proposed development.

REPORTS

Chair:- Cllr. Wensley produced a positive article about local walks from a local newspaper.

Clerk: The Clerk read a short synopsis of a report from **East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Visitor Access Consultation**. Some car parks will have height restrictions fitted and some paths will be maintained and sign-posted to discourage use of the dangerous crossing at the Castle Car Park. Adjustments will be made to some car parks to enable better use. All signage on the Heath will be kept low key. The full report was available to anyone on request.

Recreation: Cllr Smith wished to remove two unused posts from the Recreation ground to pass on to another group. There were no objections.

Parish Paths Partnership. Nothing to Report

Drake's School – No activity to report

Village Hall – Cllr. Wensley read Cllr Walters' report in his absence. The Village Hall is to be available as a community Refuge. The Resilience Day on February 10th will provide further details.

Dog Owners Forum –Nothing to report.

Public Conveniences & Village Amenities – The Clerk had done her regular rounds of the Parish. At her request, Cllr Tresidder prised open the telephone box door and will do some minor maintenance. The Maintenance Firm carried out their regular servicing of the public toilets, plus minor repairs today.

Flood Warden – Cllr. Tresidder and Cllr. Walters will be on the Radio on 9th February to promote Resilience day. Cllr. Walters had received approximately £750.00 towards Flood Prevention equipment.

Cllr. Carter reported that he had attended **the Otter Valley & East Devon Conservation** meeting. A report will follow. The plan is to update the existing conservation area.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

The clerk gave out the monthly cash statement and report. She asked for several cheques to be passed for signature. They were proposed, seconded and carried. Cllr Hayman carried out a bank reconciliation and found it to be satisfactory.

- Cllr. Wensley explained that VAT is reclaimed for work done to Yettington Hall.
- Salary for the new Clerk has not yet been calculated by NDCC, so February's payment will include 2 weeks from January.
- Cash Sheet and Budget: Cllr. Wensley explained the overspend on the Devon Air Ambulance. A refund of £400.00 is due from them.
- **January 2020 – Bills for payment**

Village Hall Hire 29 October 2019	£ 24.00
Yettington Hall – T. Cantlon	£ 282.00
Yettington Village Hall – windows	£2865.00
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	£3171.00
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Extraordinary Payment. UK2 – Domain name: £11.39

Final (December)Expenses for Judith Lumsden	£75.45
November Salary for J Lumsden (Dec pd last month)	950.71

Cllr Tresidder confirmed the Hedge Laying had been done very well. The Clerk will thank Clinton Devon Estates.

CORRESPONDENCE

The **Roger Conant Committee** had written to ask the Council to press for the prospective development in Frogmore Road to include a road name based on the Conant name. Cllr Dent said any suggestions can be made by email to the District Council. The Parish Council will be consulted on naming when the proposed development is further advanced.

The Meeting ended at 9.30 pm

TOPICS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public praised the Council for their use of the microphone and projector. She also raised concerns about Brick Cross, which has barriers around it. The Clerk will email County Councillor Christine Channon for a progress report.

Signed.....Chairman Date