

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 30th November 2021 in the Village Hall

RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK (COVID MEASURES) – All correct

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

APOLOGIES: County Councillor C. Channon

The **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th October 2021 were approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – none

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT – District Councillor Alan Dent reported on the public questionnaire about Toilet-use. The District Council will insist that there be at least one toilet for disabled people available in all towns. Devon County Council are trying to reduce costs and may introduce a fee for the use of Class A toilets.

District Councillor Paul Jarvis said the District Councillors are fighting to have face to face meeting in appropriately safe meeting rooms, instead of the current Zoom meetings, in order that votes might take place instead of just recommendations.

MATTERS ARISING from previous Minutes - None

Presentation by Mark Duffelen and Paul Smith on plans for the Sir Walter Raleigh as a Community Pub.

1. A PowerPoint presentation was made, explaining that terms have been agreed with the Vendor of the Sir Walter Raleigh public house. A group of benefactors have agreed to purchase the property, subject to the Structural Survey. They will transfer the property to a Community Benefit Society and give them a 100% mortgage. Residents will then be rallied to invest in shares and raise funds. Grants will be applied for, in particular an early application to the Government's Community Ownership Fund. Tax Relief under the SISR scheme may be available to investors. It is hoped to pay off the mortgage and carry out preliminary refurbishments within 12 to 18 months. The Public House may close for a very short time, while some refurbishment takes place to the public area. A manager and chef would be sought.

District Councillors advised that the upstairs accommodation could be a valuable asset. They warned that any Licence Holder might need to be trained, but potentially the appointed Licensee could oversee a Supervisor. District Councillors expressed their support for the scheme. Parish Councillors also participated in the discussion. A provisional date has been set for presenting the plan to the Community – on Sunday 12th December 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Mark and Paul were thanked for their detailed explanations.

2. **Renewal of Grant Offer to the Community Pub venture.** After a discussion, it was agreed to delay making a grant or loan until the project was further advanced.

Parish Councillors voted unanimously to support the Community Pub project and any Grant proposals that might be possible from Government sources.

3. **ACV/Neighbourhood Plan.** Councillor Wensley pointed out that there were 12 assets on the Neighbourhood Plan that were highlighted as potential properties for listing as an Asset of Community Value. A vigorous debate took place amongst Councillors on the benefits or otherwise of listing Assets and in particular the Sir Walter Raleigh public house. Advice was given by District Councillors on the planning process. The Community Pub representatives confirmed there was no immediate need to list the asset, although it can be seen as useful when making grant applications.

Parish Councillors voted unanimously not to list any assets as ACVs at present.

4. Grant to the British Legion of £25.00 was approved
5. Grant to the Community for a decorated Christmas Tree of £25.00 was approved
6. **Village Community Event.** The Clerk confirmed it has been booked for Sunday 9th January 2022. Many local groups have agreed to take part. The Clerk will prepare photographs and information about the Parish Council. Councillors agreed to the purchase of a small Display Unit. The Clerk asked that Councillors attend, in order to talk to residents and encourage more people to stand as Councillors. Councillor Houston suggested the new Community Pub Group could also participate.

Reports

Chair. Cllr. Wensley reported on his recent zoom meeting with EDDC Local Plan representatives. Groups split up to discuss:

- a. any planning out of the settlement boundary should include affordable housing
- b. there should be a looser variation interpretation of the Settlement boundary rules to permit all types of development
- c. there should be no Settlement boundaries and all planning decisions should be based on a set of criteria.

Most of the participants voted to retain the existing option a. Cllr. Wensley explained there would be four tiers of settlements, including East Budleigh in the lowest Tier 4, where development may be permitted within a sustainable community (ie school, shop, transport facilities).

Clerk on Village Matters – Skinners had repaired the toilet seat in the Public Conveniences for free. South West Water apologised for the broken sewage pipe near Kersbrook Cottages and were clearing it up urgently.

Correspondence: The Clerk received a phone call from a resident in Oak Hill who suffered flooding. South West Water attended. The Clerk put the correspondent in touch with the local group who maintain the Private Road.

Yettington, Speedwatch & Police Committee – Repairs are now proceeding for the ancient fingerpost and the Telephone Box in Yettington. Cllr. Quant reported the Speedwatch groups had noted a rise in those hitting or exceeding the speed limit. Police had issued three warnings. Cllr. Quant has found a new Volunteer to take over leadership of this group. A new Flood Warden has been appointed, who will be led by Cllr. Tresidder. Cllr. Quant had been notified by the Police of a scam where local Councillors are being contacted with requests for assistance, which were not genuine. The Clerk said she was gathering numbers to see if residents would like a talk on Cybercrime by the local Police. The Parish Council will arrange this if there is enough interest.

Recreation & Dog Owners: Cllr. Mike Smith reported no dog problems. He reported that the bridge near the Rolle Arms has now been repaired.

Village Hall/Shop/Climate Emergency: Cllr. Tresidder supplied a detailed report. He had attended a zoom forum on Electric Chargers and was gathering information.

Wild Flowers: Cllr. Fiona Ward: Nothing to report

Traffic Matters/Village Jubilee – Cllr. Heather Houston had no new traffic problems to report. Preparation for the Platinum Jubilee had not yet got underway. Cllr. Wensley asked about the application for grant funds, to purchase a Speed Indicator Device for Oak Hill. The Clerk reported that their application for funds had been successful in the sum of £2875.00 but she had discovered there was already an SID on Oak Hill. The Clerk is discussing with Councillor Houston and the Grant givers whether they may use an alternative site. Cllr. Houston reported the culvert from the Brook to Frogmore Lane has collapsed. Repairs may be difficult and involve road closures.

LORP: Cllr. Jim Carter warned that different user-groups must be kept informed over work done in the Kersbrooke area. Currently, delayed repairs to a gas leak are taking place.

Council approved the Financial Reports including a Forecast to the end of the financial year.

Councillors approved payment of the listed bills. Cllr. Wensley and the Clerk reminded Councillors that the Precept would be set at the next meeting, so if they were aware of any monetary requirements needed for the following year, they should inform the Clerk.

The Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Date of the next meeting is 18th January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
(A week early in order to submit the agreed Precept before February)