

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on Monday 20th May 2024

RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK – All correct

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Derek Wensley, John Tresidder, Jim Ferrers, Jim Carter, Louis Allan (joined at 6.30 pm), Angie Canning, and Kathy Moyle BEM, District Councillors Henry Riddell and Melanie Martin and County Councillor Christine Channon (joined at 7.15 pm)

APOLOGIES: District Councillor Charlotte Fitzgerald.

All officers stood down from their current duties. The Chair (Derek Wensley) and Vice-chair (John Tresidder) were both unanimously re-elected and praised by Councillors for their good work over the previous year.

The **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th April 2024 were approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –

1. Extra funds should be coming to Devon County Council via devolution
2. DCC is following national policy on supporting whole families from birth, including persons with special needs. Further work must be done to identify families that need help
3. There may be an opportunity to create a footpath from the South Farm Rd car park to the Cricket field in memory of Lord Clinton.
4. There are still problems with cars parking in South Farm Road, making it sometimes impossible for farm vehicles to access it. The Traffic Order approval had been delayed to a Highways meeting in July 2024
5. The new road at the bottom of South Farm Road has not yet been adopted. The process could take 18 months and then a similar Traffic Order could be made.
6. An extra £12,000,000.00 has been allocated by central Government towards patching and potholes. The poor weather since the Winter has caused increased deterioration. There is difficulty in finding contractors to do the work.
7. Cllr. Channon said that free parking was not possible at South Farm Rd, as maintenance costs were very high. Cllr. Allan remarked that an annual parking permit now costs £240.00 (but the South Farm Road carpark is owned by Clinton Devon Estates, so is not part of the scheme.)

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT:- Cllr. Martin submitted the attached report. She asked Council to carefully consider the issue of green wedges. This could affect areas such as Knowle Lane, where further housing might take place. Cllr. Martin pointed out the public will be

able to comment on car parks and charges. The Tree Strategy including hedgerows, covers the whole of Devon. EDDC are keen to share discussions with the Parish Council. Cllr. Carter pointed out changes in vegetation and wildlife over time and can conflict with housing needs. Cllr. Moyle said CDE appear to have cut down 10 mature trees near Spring Cottage and a Devon Bank (a woodpecker was nesting and had young) Cllr. Moyle is looking into this apparent breach of the regulations

Councillor Henty Riddell urged local groups to indicate if they want green wedges to be preserved. There have been recent discharges of sewage into the sea at Budleigh. There was a public protest last Saturday. Councillors suggested notices should be more visible/present on beaches to alert members of the public. Cllr. Riddell has written to South West Water to protest about the spillage.

Items for Discussion:

Re-distribution of tasks: All Parish Councillors were re-appointed in their present roles.

New Grant Policy: Approved by all. The Clerk will review all other PC policies. The Risk Assessment has been updated. Cllr. Wensley advised applications for grants should be made before the January meeting each year.

Breach of the River Otter: Council held a full discussion. CDE carried out a temporary repair 18 months ago. Current Breach is in Otterton Parish but affects our Parish. A site meeting was held with a local contractor in August. Cllr. Martin is following this up. Work was done on Clamour Bridge last summer. The PC offered its full support as required.

Volunteers: Representatives of the various local groups of volunteers confirmed there were few problems, although the Community Pub faces difficulties in attracting volunteers to work the unsocial hours. Cllr. Allan said it would be useful to have more people on board to assist the Village Hall. He intends to apply to become a Trustee. The Parish Council is still seeking new Councillors.

Reports

Cllr Wensley :-

Chair's End of Year Report. Approved by all. Cllr. Wensley said the latest consultation on the Local Plan did not appear to affect the Parish any more than had been previously consulted upon, but a group comment could be made (June Agenda). Cllr. Martin urged individuals and the Council to respond to the Survey. Cllr. Carter said there should always be a natural break between East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton. Pressure for building can push boundaries over time.

Landscape Recovery Group. The local scheme covers the whole of the Otter Valley of more than 4000 hectares. A briefing paper had been circulated. The ELMS project covers Landscape recovery, Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming.

Clerk's Notes – see Report

Parish Pathways – Jon Roseway: See report. Mr. Roseway is currently unwell but will keep the PC informed if funds need to be spent on footpath clearance. Cllr. Tresidder has done some clipping along the Nature Trail.

Resilience/Community Shop/ Climate Emergency/Recreation Ground – Cllr. Tresidder: See report. He attended a webinar on a scheme for acquiring Electric Vehicles as an income stream. David Whelan of EA has set up a new rapid warning system for adverse weather conditions.

Village Hall/Drakes School –See report. The Village Hall made a small loss last year. Drakes School raised increased funds at their Mayday event this year. The new playground is expected to be erected and completed by early June.

Community Pub. - Cllr. Canning: See report.

Local Liaison/Salem Chapel – Cllr. Moyle – Attempts are being made to raise the profile of the Salem Chapel outside of the area. The current group has 18 months before activities must cease. There will be an exhibition on smuggling in August. Budleigh library will have a small exhibition and talk on 6th June 2024 to commemorate 80 years since the second world war D-Day.

Cricket Club/ Kersbrooke – Cllr. Carter – The Cricket Club is flourishing. A fallen tree across Kersbrooke Road was swiftly removed by the authorities.

Yettington - Cllr. Ferrers: Potholes continue to appear very soon after filling. The Clerk has emailed Emma Sampson, the Highways officer and sent photos of the continuing erosion by water on the Yettington Road.

Planning:

Council approved the planning application 24/0854/DEM – Demolition of an open-sided stable block.

Council agreed to take no action in respect of HM Registry application for a Deed of Grant Easement, as this was a matter for the landowner. Mr. Hassell confirmed the CDE had been consulted. He thanked Council for their assistance regarding the laying of land drains to his property.

Application by the Budleigh Cricket Club to extend the area of nets for the play area. All approved

Financial Reports: Council approved the new insurance cover and agreed to a three year term at slightly reduced rates. Bills and Financial records for April 2024 were also approved.

Council approved the AGAR report, passed by the internal auditor for the year ended 31st March 2024. The Chairs signed the documents to confirm.

The meeting closed at 7.46 pm.

The next meeting will be on 17th June 2024 at 6.0 pm in the Village Hall..