

EAST BUDLEIGH WITH BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27 March 2018 in the Village Hall, East Budleigh

PRESENT

Cllrs	K Quant	V Lister
	D Buss (Acting Chair)	Mrs P Hayman
	M Smith	P Barnard
	C Taunton	

Chair's note: Several members of the public who spoke at the beginning of this meeting requested that their statements be recorded in the minutes. The Clerk and I were not prepared for this as it had not been practise to do so in previous EBBPC meetings. Also, as I was asked to act as Chair only 15 minutes before the meeting commenced, I had not asked for a device to be made available to provide accurate recordings for the Clerk to work from. She subsequently contacted all of the speakers to request a copy of their statements.

There are several aspects of how our Parish Council meetings are conducted that are overdue for review. These include what form the minutes should take, and when members of the public should be allowed to contribute to discussions. Good practice at other Parish and Town Councils will be helpful in this matter, but as a new chair will not be elected until the May meeting, I am not going to ask Council to consult, discuss or approve any changes until the new Chair is in post, then he/she will be able to pursue this as they and the council feel fit.

Clerk's note: As Minutes are not intended to be verbatim I have entered residents' names and Minuted all the relevant points made. If any of the residents disagree with what I have Minuted, please let me know. I would also like to express my thanks for their co-operation. All of the correspondence can be viewed in full on the parish website.

There were over 40 members of the public present.

District Cllrs T Wright and G Jung were present. Cty Councillor Christine Channon was present

PCSO Justin Willis was unable to attend and did not submit a report.

The Parish Council Meeting began at 8.00pm.

It has been proposed and agreed that members of the public be allowed to speak for **3minutes** at the beginning of the meeting. This time scale will run to maximum of 30 minutes, therefore allowing 10 people to speak. This will bring EBPC in line with other town/parish councils. Members of the public wishing to speak on an Agenda item are requested to inform the clerk no later than 26 February 2018. It should be noted that this is **NOT** a question and answer session, it simply provides a vehicle for the public to make the council aware of views of the public before discussing agenda items.

The clerk received five requests from residents to speak on Agenda items:

Mrs Lesley Wensley referred to the parish petition of 268 signatures against any fence and comprehensive evidence that dog fouling is not the problem on the Rec field. She also reported that evidence and recommendations from the Working Party had been ignored by the Parish Council. Mrs Wensley reported that the Parish Council had published an option headed 'dog control' which had not emanated from the Working Party and was deemed to be part of a biased anti-dog agenda. Mrs Wensley also criticized proposed option of red lining, surveillance cameras and officers patrolling the football pitch area. This was felt to be totally unnecessary and would seem to be more akin to a "war zone". Other criticisms were made regarding the limited use of the football pitch as opposed to the constant use by residents for recreation and dog exercise. Councillors were urged to perform their public duty and represent the views of parishioners.

Mrs Sue Marrs reported on the overwhelming vote of no confidence taken against the parish council at the meeting on 25 April. Mrs Marrs commented on the fact that the parish council had been advised by a district councillor to examine its processes and the way the council conducts itself in the perception of the public. Mrs Marrs recommended fairness particularly in the role of Chair, she advised that now was the time for councillors to rediscover their voices and to not be regarded as part of a discredited parish council.

John Tresidder reported on the Health and Safety aspect of the Football Club's amenities. He reported on the erection of a fence without permission or the displaying of H & S signs/barriers. Mr Tresidder reported the unfilled postholes to the clerk. He received an acknowledgement immediately but not a reply regarding subsequent action. (The clerk has since spoken to Mr Tresidder reporting her immediate complaint to the FC and upon inspection the following day it seemed that the holes had been filled in. She apologised for not having reported this at the following parish council meeting. Mr Tresidder was happy to acknowledge that action had been taken by the clerk). Numerous man-made hazards were reported including upended benches with jagged edges, protruding bench nails, trip hazards, car parking ruts not reinstated (as per FC licence agreement) and fence posts with sharp edges. Mr Tresidder criticized the parish council Risk Assessment and felt it did not adequately cover risk ratings.

Mrs Sally Tresidder reported on the dissatisfaction with the way the parish council conducts its affairs. This included the lack of recording in the Minutes, a refusal to engage with the community, a lack of robust debate and listening to the

findings of the parish council's own Working Party. The Parish Meeting culminated in a vote of no confidence in the way the parish council conducted its affairs by a vote of 72 to 1. Also criticism was levelled at the erection of CCTV on the Pavilion without public consultation and privacy impact assessment. The parish council was urged to represent the community.

Mrs Judith Venning was happy for it to be noted that councillors should follow their Code of Conduct and consider all the evidence before voting on the issue of restrictions on the Recreation Ground.

The Football Club issued a letter setting out their reasons for actions taken regarding the CCTV cameras. This can be viewed on the website.

1. **APOLOGIES:** District Cllrs A Dent. S Hall and Cllr S Miller.
2. **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the February 2018 Parish Council meeting were proposed, seconded and signed as a correct record by the Chair with the following amendment: Agenda item 6.3, final sentence, should read “and had not been present at the ad hoc meeting”. It was noted that the Chair did not permit councillors to vote or discuss the matter.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & RISK ASSESSMENT:** There were no declarations of interest. Risk Assessment was checked by the Chair.

4. **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS**

There are two vacancies on the council. An article asking for volunteers has been put in the May edition of the parish magazine.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

Brick Cross – Cllr Barnard had submitted photos of the monument which clearly showed that the masonry was crumbling at the base. The clerk reported this to DCC Highways. Cllr Channon was also aware of the problem which had been discussed at the Traffic meeting and was dealt with it.

6. **MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED**

- 6.1 **Recreation Ground: Option for Control of Dogs** – Referring to Agenda item 6 (27 March) a proposed vote on a resolution was as follows “***It is proposed to run a voluntary trial scheme for a year on the Recreation Ground with unrestricted access to dogs with the exception of the football pitch where dogs will be excluded***”. A councillor proposed an amendment to this resolution. This was discussed and it was proposed and seconded to amend the resolution as follows: “***It is proposed to run a voluntary trial scheme for a year on the Recreation Ground with unrestricted access to dogs***”. Councillors then voted unanimously in favour of the approved amended resolution. The Chair commented on the incident several years ago when dog faeces was reported outside the school which was solved with the help of volunteers who watched for suspect dogs and reported

this to Cllr Mike Smith. This proved successful. A councillor queried the number of dogs on the football pitch and asked if it was the results of ‘dog-watching’. This had also proved a success with only a handful of problems. Cllrs Smith and Valerie Lister will monitor the situation. Sweeping of the pitch will continue with volunteers. The Chair asked the Friends of East Budleigh Recreation Ground to take responsibility for clearing up all dog excrement throughout the year, not just the football season, as other stakeholders use the recreation ground during the summer. The Chair also asked that FoEBRG watch out for the tiny minority of dog owners who do not clear up, and to report them so that they can be fined for what is a legal offence. This was proposed, seconded and approved unanimously. Members of the football club stated that the use of CCTV cameras were recommended by the supplier Wel Medical Ltd in order to protect the unlocked defibrillator case and guard against vandalism. They assured the meeting that the cameras were in use only for this purpose and not for viewing the general public. Their full explanation can be found on the website.

Donation Request from East Budleigh Village Green – Alice Gater from the East Budleigh Village Green subcommittee described the work being done in the rejuvenation of the Village Green. She asked for financial support from the parish council. This was proposed, seconded and approved by councillors and donation of £500 was suggested with the hope of further annual donations. This being dependent on the financial situation of the parish council. Cty Councillor Christine Channon offered financial support (upon application) from her Locality Budget.

Bicton Event Traffic – Councillors and the clerk attended the Bicton Arena Neighbours Forum on 7 March. A full report is available from Clinton Devon Estates and can be viewed in the Information Office. Cllr Barnard spoke about the inability of traffic to move through Yettington during events and also road subsidence, damage to walls and various environmental issues.

7. PLANNING – Cllr M Smith – There was none

	Plan No. & Type	Location	Proposed Development
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A Planning Appeal regarding PA 17/2467/FUL was reported and noted.

Decisions made by EDDC Planning Department

Reference	Location	EDDC Decision
16/1673/OUT	Frogmore Lane, East Budleigh	Awaiting a Decision
17/1813/FUL	The Rolle Arms, EB	Awaiting a Decision
17/2282/FUL	Land South of Pound Barn, EB	Awaiting a Decision
17/2841/FUL	The Old Vicarage, East B’leigh	Awaiting a Decision
17/2911/FUL	Land at rear of Pynes Close, EB	Awaiting a Decision
18/0107/FUL	Southfield Lodge, Bicton	Approved
18/0179/FUL	1-8 The Drive, Bicton	Approved

18/0061/FUL	Hill Farm Cottage, Hayes Lane	Approved with Conditions
18/0164/FUL	The Acorn, Oakhill, EB	Awaiting a Decision
18/0366/TRE	Vicars Mead, Hayes Lane	Awaiting a Decision

8. REPORTS

- 8.1 **Chairman** – There was no report.
- 8.2 **Clerk** – There was no report.
- 8.3 **Parish Paths Partnership** – Jon Roseway gave his first report as P3 co-ordinator. There have been no problems reported with the footpaths and bridleways above those already noted in the Annual Report. The strimmer is now stored in the churchyard shed and the church has asked if it can be used when their own strimmer is not powerful enough. It would be the Church insurance responsibility. Councillors agreed with this request and the clerk will inform Mr Roseway.
- 8.4 **Drakes School** – Cty Cllr Channon reported that the flag pole would soon be in place. The Easter holiday commences on 30 March following a celebration service in All Saints Church, East Budleigh and school returns on 16 April.
- 8.5 **Recreation** – Cllr Smith is monitoring the area for dog fouling and urged residents to let him know if they see anyone refusing to pick up after their dogs.
- 8.6 **Britain in Bloom** – No report.
- 8.7 **Village Hall** – No report.
- 8.8 **East Budleigh Dog Owners Forum** – No report.
- 8.9 **East Budleigh Relief in Need** – No report.
- 8.10 **Public Conveniences** – The clerk reported that the door in the men’s toilet needed attention and Cllr Smith will contact Mt Alan Tweedie who in the past, offered to carry out the necessary repairs
- 8.11 **Any other reports** – Cty Cllr Channon commented on the work being carried out in East Budleigh, opposite the School. She was at present unaware of the reason for the work.

A resident sent an email regarding previous responsibilities for maintenance of the Recreation Ground as recorded in the Minutes of March 2000. The Football club agreed to take on this responsibility in exchange for a reduction in the rent paid to the Parish Council. If the FC left the area the PC would have to decide whether to pay the contractors, who currently cut the rest of the field, to go back to cutting the pitch area as well. The full report can be seen in the Minute file.

9. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES

The Clerk had given out the monthly cash statement and Bills for Payment monthly report. She asked for several cheques to be passed for signature. These were proposed, seconded and carried. Cllr Mrs Hayman has reviewed the bank reconciliation and found it to be satisfactory.

The bills for payment amounted to £2678.88 which includes the clerk’s salary and expenses.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

To receive a synopsis of correspondence received and not covered elsewhere on this Agenda. There was none.

- 11. Date of next meeting: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** – this meeting will take place at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 24 April 2018. Mr Michael Downes from Fairlynch Museum in Budleigh Salterton will give a talk entitled “Our Great Elizabethan”. This will be followed at 7.30pm by the **April parish council meeting**. Planning applications can be viewed prior to Agenda item 9.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

SignedChairman Date

OPEN SESSION

TOPICS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

It was noted that no decisions could be made, but matters were discussed which involved no more than an exchange of information.

It was noted that residents attending the meeting felt there was an improved atmosphere in the evening’s exchange of views between the parish council and residents.

