

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Judith Venning
Clerk to the Council
01395 489155
clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk

1 Chichester Way
East Budleigh
Devon
EX9 7ER

Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on 28th February 2023 in the Village Hall

RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK – All checked

PRESENT Cllr John Tresidder (Vice-Chair), Cllr Angie Canning, Cllr. Heather Houston, Cllr. Jim Carter, Cllr. Cathy Moyle, Cllr. Louis Allan, Cllr. Jim Ferrers and District Cllr. Tom Wright.

APOLOGIES, Cllr. Derek Wensley, District Cllrs Paul Jarvis and Alan Dent and County Cllr. Christine Channon,.

Vice Chair Councillor John Tresidder gave a eulogy following the death of long-term Parish Councillor Mike Smith on 25th January, after a long battle with illness. He took a great interest in dog welfare and ownership and was a councillor from 2007. District Councillor Tom Wright also expressed his regrets at Councillor Smith's death.

The minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 21st February and the Council Meeting held on 17th January 2023 were approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATION

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. Channon reported Southwest Water have repaired the large water leak in Vicarage Road and unblocked the grid.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT – Cllr. Wright said council tax increases of £5.00 per house had been approved. In respect of the LORP project, the sewage pipe on the opposite side of the river Otter has been pulled across to the opposite shore and joined to the main sewerage network. The newly created path by the Otter will open this weekend. And the footpath on the western side is well on its way to construction; including accessible path, bird hides and viewing benches. Regrettably the footpath north of Clamour Bridge has not been re-opened.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Salem Chapel. Councillors approved the publication of an article in the April edition of Parish News, as a first step in finding new ownership or management for the Chapel. Councillor Wensley continues to correspond with the Heritage Trust, in search of a solution, as the trust no longer intends to take responsibility for it. Cllr. Moyle said that under the previous Lottery Grant, the Chapel had to be open to the public at least once a week, and regularly aired. This no longer happens. Cllr. Carter will circulate copies of the article to persons who might be willing to assist in retaining it.

2. The Clerk explained that the estimate for repair of the toilet cistern was not satisfactory. With Council's permission she will obtain a quotation from Fords of Sidmouth, who will inspect it on Thursday 2nd March 2023. The Clerk asked permission to accept a quotation if it was around £1000.00 without returning to Council for further permission, and to avoid further delay; this was agreed.
3. An application for funds towards the King's Coronation Party (Sunday 7th May) was received from a resident, Mike Pulley, who is a member of the organising committee. Council agreed to make up to £200.00 available, to be drawn on as needed. District Councillor Wright suggested a box for donations could be placed in the Community Shop.

REPORTS

Vice-Chair Councillor Tresidder: See attached report. Richard Slade, a volunteer with the Football Club, has re-varnished and repaired benches on the Recreation Field at his own expense. Councillors suggested he be sent a letter of thanks and also thanked via the Parish News

Village Matters & Correspondence. See report on the website.

The Clerk noted the new Oak Tree in commemoration of the Jubilee has been planted on the Recreation Ground. The Local WI asked if the Village Noticeboard can be smartened up. Councillors Tresidder and Allan agreed to attend to it, and to the one outside the Rolle Arms. Council granted permission to the Friends of All Saints to park on the Football Ground during Scarecrow week. It will be marshalled by the Football Club. An application for funds towards maintenance of the Tennis Court was received. Councillors agreed to consider this in the new financial year.

P3 Report – available on the website. A swing gate on the footpath by the waste water does not open fully, for pushchair access. The Clerk will ask Jon Roseway to inspect.

Shop/Resilience: See report on the website. Councillor Tresidder said the Community Shop will donate £500.00 to the Tennis Club, £5000.00 to the Community Pub and further funds to the Village Hall. The Loyalty Card discount will be increased to £8.00. **Resilience:** He has sufficient sand and bags, in good condition and ready for use.

Village Hall: See report on the website. Councillor Allan said there would be a public meeting to discuss the potential plans for improving the building and facilities. Councillors will be invited to a viewing before the public meeting.

Community Pub: See report on the website. Cllr. Canning reported the SWR is doing well, but need more volunteers. The social events are well-attended. They have obtained a loan towards refurbishment of the upstairs rooms to an Air B&B and are pursuing other grant opportunities. Their first birthday will be celebrated on 25th March 2023. District Councillor Tom Wright congratulated the community and the volunteers for making this a success.

Cllr. Houston has applied for the road block during the Kings Coronation Party, Drake's School are fund raising for a new play area with disability access. She asked if an additional salt/grit bin could be sited by The Pound, to assist in poor weather, as two other bins are sited at the far end of the village. The Clerk will request.

Local Liaison: Cllr. Moyle said the “Warm Welcome” at Seachange is popular. They serve hot soup on Wednesday afternoons. Transport is available for those that need it.

Cricket Field: Cllr. Carter reported the Cricket Field plans are progressing, though rabbits are causing damage to the turf. The periphery may need attention in due course.

Yettington: Cllr. Ferrers has removed a faulty bulb from the Kiosk that houses the defibrillator and will replace.

Accounts and Finances: Monthly transactions approved. Financials Reports approved. The Clerk asked permission to appoint Jim Bick Associates as our internal verifiers. All approved.

Topics Raised by Councillors and Members of the Public:

Cllr. Moyle raised the problem of the poor local bus service, with no prior notification of route changes, during repairs to the Highway. Buses also encounter difficulty in driving through Vicarage Road because of poorly parked vehicles. A member of the public asked if hedging beside the Vicarage could be trimmed back to give more space for the bus. The residents are away, but the Clerk will pursue it. Cllr. Wright suggested a press release would help & sent to Stagecoach prior to publication. Councillor Tresidder offered to pursue the matter.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Date of Next Meeting: **Village Hall on 28th March 2023 at 5.0 pm**