

## EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK** – All correct

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors Derek Wensley, John Tresidder, Louis Allan, Angie Canning, Jim Ferrers, Heather Houston and Kathy Moyle BEM, and District Councillors Melanie Martin and Henry Riddell.

**APOLOGIES:** Parish Councillor Jim Carter, District Councillor Charlotte Fitzgerald and County Councillor Christine Channon.

The **MINUTES** of the Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and the Planning Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – See report

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT** – See reports from District Councillors Martin and Riddell. A beach management plan steering group has been set up.

#### **Items for Discussion:**

1. To Set the Precept for 2023 to 2024. Cllr. Wensley explained the calculations behind the figures, to cover an average increase of 3.60%, which is well below the rate of inflation. All Approved.
2. **Resilience:** Cllr. Houston agreed to take over the co-ordination of volunteers. She and Cllr. Tresidder will discuss ways of simplifying the actions required when warnings are received
3. **To discuss the Village Hall Trustees' proposal to build public toilets with a suggestion that the Council toilets in the carpark be closed.** There was a detailed debate, based on the consultation document prepared by Cllr. Wensley. Nick James, the Village Hall project manager, will set up a Steering Group, to include representatives from the Parish Council, to discuss the issues and plan next steps. Mr. James suggested the Parish Council might make an annual contribution towards costs. The Clerk will investigate the law on this and check the Deeds of the public toilets for any restrictions on sale or reuse.

The Council and the Village Hall will continue to debate potential sites for EV chargers.

1. **Problems on exiting the Village Hall carpark.** Cllr. Houston will ask our Highways representative to visit. One potential solution might be to widen the splay on the grass side to give more space for turning. She will include it on the Agenda for a Highways' meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## **Reports**

**Chair – Cllr. Wensley.** Cllr. Wensley attended the successful opening of the LORP bridge. The River Otter breached again above Clamour Bridge. Several trees came down during recent storms and most were quickly cleared. He reported that MP Michael Gove suggests loosening the planning laws to enable extensions up to 7 stories and street referenda. However as this area is a “National Landscape” this will not apply to our Parish. The East Devon National Plan is now complete. Sue Cooper has agreed to assist when our Neighbourhood Plan comes up for review.

**Clerk’s Notes – see Report.** Cllr. Houston will investigate ownership of the building refuse at the top of Frogmore Lane with the intention of assisting the house-owner with its removal. Nick James offered to cut back the Holly Tree near the village carpark and to remove the large tree stumps on the verge in Wynards Road. Council chose to accept the offer of a Lime Tree from Devon Wildlife Trust, to replace a tree in Wynards Road.

**Parish Pathways – Jon Roseway:** See report

**Community Shop/ Climate Emergency -** See report.

**Village Hall –** See attached report.

**Community Pub. Cllr. Canning –** See report.

**Traffic Matters – Cllr. Houston.** Cllr. Houston is still trying to set up the Speedwatch team for Oak Hill, but does not have enough volunteers. She had asked County Councillor Channon about double yellow lines at The Pound and off Frogmore Road. The Clerk will follow this up and again request the new Salt/grit Bins.

**Local Liaison – Cllr. Moyle** reported the Xmas meal at Seachange was well attended. The Friends of the Friendless Churches are still actively interested in purchasing Salem Chapel but are awaiting survey reports. The Museum Group has been granted a further six months; licence. They have planned several activities and will keep the events open for longer.

**Cricket Club –** The Cricket Club is now operating a Café and Restaurant.

**Yettington: Cllr. Ferrers:** See attached report. There are serious problems with potholes.

**Monthly Transactions :** Approved

**Financial Reports:** All records approved.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.