

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – January 2023

EAST BUDLEIGH COMMUNITY SHOP

Draft accounts have been completed for circulation and approval at the Annual General Meeting in February. Despite supply issues and a challenging environment, and working hard to contain price rises, the overall surplus and profit margin were in line with the previous financial year. A new fence around the herb garden will be erected shortly.

BOOK EXCHANGE

The donation of a new bookcase has given us space to put out an increased number and variety of books. Turnover is still very high, and it is a rare day when new books do not come in.

GREEN SPACES

The Pound has not yet been fully reinstated, but I have cut down the nettles that grew in the fencing and will be able to continue when the weather improves.

The residents around the Parish Council car park did a wonderful job organizing clearing weeds and bushes and making the whole area look very neat and tidy. I was very pleased to join in and see a community project that really worked.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY NEWS

The Devon Climate Emergency website always has interesting news items and is well worth a look. They report that during National Tree Week in November, Devon County Council delivered 150 tree packs to private landowners, each pack containing 45 native broadleaved whips. This has been funded through DCC's Emergency Tree Fund and will mark the first 6750 trees planted this season (2022-2023). By March, if all goes to plan, DCC will have planted approximately 25,000 trees through the first two seasons of the Emergency Tree Fund project. Devon County Council are also looking for volunteers to plant native trees under The Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund with ParkLife SW. The planting schemes aim to increase biodiversity, replace the loss of trees through ash dieback and capture carbon.

Research into ways of providing Electric Vehicle charging points continues with information being provided by Mer. I will be attending a meeting of the Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group on 16th January. One of the major topics will be looking at the potential for provision of EV charging points by Char.gy.

EMERGENCY RESILIENCE

We were fortunate in avoiding any real floods during the recent unending wet weather. I have still been unable to get any action from Devon Highways on silted drains in three areas prone to flash flooding, which were reported to them in June., but will continue to press them. Filled sand bags were made available outside the flood store by the Community Shop, but have not been called upon yet!

Cllr. John Tresidder.