

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th October 2025

Risk assessment by Clerk – All correct

Present: Parish Councillors Derek Wensley, Jim Ferrers, John Tresidder (Chair), Jim Carter, and Kathy Moyle BEM, District Councillor Charlotte FitzGerald, Lucinda Francis (Clerk to the Council)

Apologies: Parish Councillors Louis Allan and Angie Canning, District Councillor Melanie Martin, County Councillor Nick Hookway

There were three members of the public in attendance.

The meeting started at 6.09pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th September 2025 were amended to reflect approval of the national 3.2% cost of living award for local government staff (incorrectly shown as 2.2% on the agenda) and back pay to 1st April 2026 for both the previous Clerk Judith Venning and the current Clerk Lucinda Francis. The amended minutes were approved.

Declarations of interest - None

County Councillor's report – None received.

District Councillor's report

Councillors noted and discussed the following report:

Budleigh & Raleigh ward councillor update October 2025 , Charlotte FitzGerald

EDDC Budleigh Salterton Beach Management Plan

Community representatives will be contacted within the next few weeks regarding the first meeting of the Beach Management Project Liaison group for Budleigh beach and coast. Following a number of cliff falls at Budleigh over recent years, East Devon officers brought through an option to have a beach management plan of our own in the ward, along similar lines to that of Exmouth and Sidmouth, which I have welcomed and supported. Key actors such as the Budleigh Salterton Town Council Foreshores and Footpaths committee and Clinton Devon Estates which

owns the cliffs at Budleigh, will form part of this group. Note that plans for Budleigh are likely to be cliffs from Exmouth and Sidmouth on the basis that EDDC doesn't own the cliffs and as they form part of the Jurassic UNESCO Heritage coastline, no structural work is allowed to the cliffs themselves to prevent further falls. Therefore the work, which has yet to be scoped, is most likely to concentrate on access via the cliff paths and safety under the cliffs.

Marlcombe recognised in national programme for next generation new towns

Marlcombe, the district's new community which will take 8,000 of the new homes allocated to East Devon, has been recognised as in the government's next-generation new towns programme. The New Towns Taskforce Report, published 28 September, highlights Marlcombe's potential to "unlock economic growth, accelerate housing delivery, and create an environmentally resilient, well-connected community". It follows nearly a year of proactive engagement with the Taskforce since East Devon submitted a response to government's Call for Evidence in late 2024. Although located outside this ward by some margin, nevertheless the construction of 8,000 new dwellings during a twenty-year period will have knock-on effects for the whole district, including those of us to the south who will share access roads into Exeter with it. Having myself voted for the new town as part of the East Devon strategic plan for housing allocations over the coming twenty years, I made representations to the Strategic Planning Committee then about sustainable and active transport into Exeter from the new town. I will continue to press for the best standards of transport available to mitigate the inevitable effects this new development will have on already highly congested access routes into Exeter.

Land West of Barn Lane (25/0086/FUL)

A planning application for 35 houses at Land West of Barn Lane in Budleigh Salterton, otherwise known as Budl_02, has been made. This is the site adjoining Evans Field at the entrance to Knowle when travelling along the B3178 from East Budleigh. Officers have been working closely with the applicant since January to forge this into something suitable and acceptable to planning requirements, given the highly sensitive nature of the site (noting that the whole of the Budleigh & Raleigh district ward is located in a National Landscape). This is the largest site that will come forward in the ward between now and 2042, so it is important we approve the right design. The Town Council are concerned about the lack of sufficient affordable housing planned (though the proportion required has been decided previously by the district based on updated feedback on the feasibility of constructing the required number of AF dwellings per site and is meant to be achievable). Both Nick Hookway, the county council member for Budleigh Salterton and I are concerned about highways access, especially footpath provision and the extension of the 30mph zone to incorporate the new site and Evans Field. I am also hoping to secure greater assurances that safe off-road access will be provided to the school from the site. Residents will note that Evans Field has only recently benefitted from proper footpath access along the B3178 to Knowle. All the district member councillors have been lobbying for this for years now, so having that built earlier this year was a welcome development. Now it is essential we do not repeat past mistakes with the adjoining site. As such I have lodged an objection to the planning application and am anticipating it will come before committee in the coming weeks to discuss the above concerns.

Local Government Reorganisation

Full Council meets on 26 November to debate and vote on our final recommendations for organising a unitary authority in the area. Our preferred arrangement once agreed will then be communicated to the Department for Housing, Local Government and Communities which will

then put various options out for consultation to residents and via Town and Parish councils for your views. I believe the consultation will run from December until March 2026.

Cllr FitzGerald also reported verbally on road safety issues resulting from motorists using the wrong side of Brick Cross when turning right, due to faded road markings. Brick Cross is in East Budleigh Parish although the issue mainly affects Otterton residents using this junction. She has raised the issue with County Councillor Nick Hookway, and asked Otterton Parish Council to keep a log of incidents. She also expressed her frustration that EDDC had refused planning permission for the Dalditch Farm campsite proposal (which had been supported by East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council) due to the hierarchy of policies relating to National Landscapes, SSSIs, diversification and tourism.

Matters for Discussion

Recreation Ground/Football Club

Councillors noted and discussed the issues relating to the Recreation Ground set out in the Chair's and Clerk's reports.

Councillors agreed that it was not clear what the Football Club wanted the Parish Council to do regarding the benches, which are the property and responsibility of the Football Club, noting that there was no evidence that damage had been caused by the contractors cutting the grass. Two members of the public vouched for the care taken by the EDDC Streetscene cutting crew.

Councillors agreed that further consultation should be undertaken with the Friends of the Recreation Ground and more widely through an article in the Parish News before any changes could be made to the signage on the gate. It was noted that it might be difficult to get universal agreement.

Local Government Reorganisation

Councillors discussed the proposals from East Devon District Council, Devon County Council and Exeter City Council due to be submitted to the government at the end of November. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on proposals until the formal government consultation due in Spring 2026.

Reports

Councillors noted and discussed the reports set out below, and made the following decisions:

Due to difficulties in a suitable location for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Budleigh Hill Councillors agreed that the cutting back the vegetation overhanging the solar panel at the existing location should be investigated through liaison with the landowner and the resident who has been changing the batteries.

Councillors agreed that East Budleigh in Bloom should make a formal application for the S137 grant, supported by a report.

Councillors agreed a maximum of £400 excluding VAT for the purchase of a replacement laptop for the Clerk.

Chair's Report, Councillor Tresidder - Resilience/Shop/Recreation Ground

I am hoping to have joined a briefing from Devon County Council on Local Government Reorganisation organised by DALC on 20th October. I will be joining a Teams meeting organised by DCC on 4th November to inform Town and Parish Councils about the proposals.

The Journal had an interesting article on a visit to East Budleigh by a direct descendant of Roger Conant from Salem, Massachusetts. He and his wife were hosted by the East Budleigh Roger Conant committee. This group is looking into ways in which we could mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Salem next year.

I was invited to join a Zoom call on 16th September by the East Budleigh History Society which was being updated by the Historic Chapels Trust. As you will have read in the Parish News the new owner of Salem Chapel is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation called East Budleigh's Salem Chapel. The good news is that the History Society will continue their excellent displays and events. On 28th September I was very pleased to attend a Celebration of Civic Service at St Peters Church to recognise the work of volunteers, organised by Budleigh Salterton Town Council.

East Budleigh Community Shop - The manager of the shop, Mel Ferrers, will be retiring on 9th November after many years of dedication to the shop. The shop has been very fortunate in recruiting Katherine Jayasekera and Sophie Wilkins to join the management team.

Green Spaces and Recreation Ground - The War Memorial has been planted out with Bellis and Violas at a cost of £42.00, and I am working on the grass so that it looks good for Remembrance Day on 9th November. I have a wreath to lay on the memorial on behalf of the Parish Council. The Pound has had another cut and strim – probably the last one! I have severely pruned two Buddleas that were completely covering the PC noticeboard at the East Budleigh Garage. I have been able to repair the gate at the end of the footpath in Middletown Lane so that it works properly now.

Clerk –Village Matters & Correspondence

Recreation Ground

Devon Air Ambulance (DAA) Landing Site - The remote switching equipment has been repaired by the electrician who originally installed it. It appears that it was a relatively minor issue, so hopefully won't be too costly, I am expecting the invoice before the PC meeting. DAA now need to visit to re-programme the switch, which I am in the process of arranging. DAA are drafting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Parish Council, the Football Club and themselves.

Signage on the Vehicle Gate - A resident has asked the Parish Council to consider having a single information sign on the vehicle entrance gate, combining the information on the decorative sign, the Tennis Club sign and the no parking notice. They feel the current arrangement to be unattractive, and have proposed a design for a new sign which they believe to be more in keeping with the Clinton Devon Estates (CDE) and Pebbled Heath signage in the area. The resident has offered to liaise, organise and potentially make a donation for the replacement sign. They have also pointed out that the post hook for holding the gate open needs replacing. I have asked CDE if they can do this.

Football Club Benches - The Chairman of the Football Club has brought to the Parish Council's attention damage to the wooden benches around the pitch. He believes this to have been caused by the EDDC StreetScene contractors responsible for cutting the grass in the non-football pitch areas of the recreation ground. There is visible damage to two benches, although there is no indication of how this has been caused. The benches are the Football Club's fixtures and fittings, and it is not clear what they are expecting from the Parish Council, beyond asking StreetScene to take care when cutting grass near the benches.

Gate to Footpath EB14 in Middletown Lane

A resident has asked the Parish Council to revisit the decision to retain this gate due to it requiring repair. In response to the email Cllr John Tresidder has repaired the gate. Several years ago the Devon County Council P3 Officer advised that DCC would not repair/replace the gate as a new stock gate further along the path made it redundant. At that time the Parish Council opted to keep the gate. The resident points out that there are many paths leading onto roads which do not have gates, the path is not heavily used and walkers can see ahead that it opens onto a lane. The P3 coordinator feels there is not a strong argument for keeping the gate as only a few cars use the lane, so the risk of an accident is low. I am checking with the DCC P3 Officer on whether the Parish Council could use P3 funds to repair/replace the gate.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

A couple of residents have been in touch about the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) on Oak Hill and Budleigh Hill not working. One resident said that the traffic is noticeably faster as a result. The SID on Oak Hill belongs to Devon County Council, and its failure has been reported to them on a number of occasions by both the previous Clerk and me. I am currently chasing this. The one on Budleigh Hill is owned by the Parish Council. There have been ongoing problems with keeping its batteries charged due to the solar panel being shaded by trees. I have spoken to Ernie Barnes who has been replacing the batteries. He explained that the batteries require changing every couple of months, and that there are health and safety risks associated with him carrying this out. He feels that the only solution is to move the SID from its current location to next to the 30mph speed limit sign. I am looking into the feasibility of this.

Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

No one has come forward to express an interest in taking on the role of P3 Coordinator when Jon Roseway steps down at the end of the year. I have discussed this with DCC's Public Rights of Way and Country Parks Manager, who advised that the Clerk could take on the liaison aspects of this role, but that we would need volunteers to check and survey the paths. I am sure there are villagers who regularly walk the paths who could help with this. We have received a £670 purchase order from DCC, despite our P3 Coordinator advising DCC that we had sufficient funds and so did not require grant this year. The purchase order covers the usual £320 annual minor

maintenance grant, plus a £350 grant to cover the cost of strimming training for one person. Perhaps this could be an incentive for anyone thinking of volunteering for the P3 coordinator role? The P3 account balance currently stands at £1,170.48. We did not draw down the £320 grant in 2024/25.

East Budleigh in Bloom

The Treasurer of East Budleigh in Bloom has been in touch, explaining that they did not receive the Parish Council S137 grant of £210 in 2024/25. He has asked if we would consider making it now, presumably in addition to the £210 grant payable in the current year. He has also asked that the Parish Council consider an increase in grant for 2025/26, to reflect the considerable rise in the cost of plants and compost over the last two or three years. Additionally, they have purchased two new planters for the Village Hall at a cost of over £600.

Otter to Exe Chairs and Clerks Group

I attended the meeting on 25th September 2025. The agenda and discussions covered: cross boundary development, communication from EDDC on the impact of developments on adjoining parishes, and the potential for boundary review; setting up of a meeting to consider specific Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) and wildlife areas; new governance arrangements for the Exe Estuary Management partnership, executive and public committee forums; ongoing issues with South West Water; and feedback on the LGA special interest group for coastal communities. I can forward the minutes to anyone who is interested in the detail. The next meeting will be in January 2026.

New Laptop

I have done some research into a suitable replacement laptop. PCMag named the Lenovo ThinkBook 16 Gen 7 as the 2025 best laptop for small and medium businesses. This looks like it would meet our needs and seems good value at just under £500.

Parish Paths Partnership – Jon Roseway: No report

Landscape Recovery/Heaths to Sea – Cllr Derek Wensley (verbal report): The next Heaths to Sea Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting has been postponed until Clinton Devon Estates have finalised project plans.

Village Hall – Cllr Louis Allan: The annual survey of the village green playground has recently been completed. There were a number of minor items requiring attention (eg tighten bolts, refinish surfaces), but the erosion of the ground around the perimeter of the carousel/roundabout needs a proper repair. The next hall trustees meeting will be on Monday 10 November.

Drakes School – Cllr Louis Allan: Earlier this month children from Year 4 attended the Farmwise Schools Day at Westpoint. Farmwise is a hands-on experience that bridges the gap between countryside and kitchen and literally lets the children dig into the world of farming. Highlights included making pizzas, meeting sheep, planting a chestnut tree, investigating owl pellets and ‘polishing’ horses.

Community Pub – Cllr Angie Canning: The Sir Walter Raleigh continues to thrive and has recently held the very popular annual beer festival. The pub was busy and buzzing from midday on Friday 10 October right through the weekend to Sunday evening! Members of CAMRA

declared it the best pub beer festival they had attended which is high praise indeed and is due to the extremely hard work by a band of volunteers led ably by Owen and Elaine Murray. The Christmas menu has been published and local groups and parties are being encouraged to book and enjoy the festivities at their local pub. Several Christmas events are planned in December but before that a Tapas evening has been arranged for November. All these plans hope to encourage the participation by all sections of the community.

Local Liaison/Salem Chapel – Cllr Kathy Moyle BEM (verbal report): Noted that she is seeking more information on the new Trustees for Salem Chapel from the Historic Chapels Trust and the Charity Commission.

Cricket Club & Kersbrook – Cllr Jim Carter (verbal report): Commercial side is doing well for certain events, dependent on how much money they can make to fund the cost of safety barrier fencing.

Yettington/Climate Change – Cllr Jim Ferrers: Nothing to report

Planning

Applications

The New Vicarage, Vicarage Road, EX9 7EF 25/2094/TRE – Councillors had no objections to the proposed tree works. The Clerk will update the Planning Portal to reflect this.

Recent planning decisions were noted.

Financial Reports:

Council reviewed and approved the invoices and financial records including the budget for October 2025.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on
Monday 17th November 2025 at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall