

East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th November 2025

Risk assessment by Clerk – no risks identified.

The meeting started at 6.03pm.

Opening the meeting, the Chair paid tribute to East Budleigh resident Diane Baker who sadly passed away last week. He highlighted her contribution to the community as a volunteer at the Community Shop and a member of East Budleigh in Bloom. Diane's late husband was the Parish Council Chair for several years.

1. Public Session

No representations.

2. Roll Call and Apologies

Present: Parish Councillors Louis Allan, Jim Carter, Kathy Moyle BEM, John Tresidder (Chair), and Derek Wensley, District Councillors Charlotte FitzGerald and Melanie Martin, County Councillor Nick Hookway, Lucinda Francis (Clerk to the Council)

Apologies: Parish Councillors Angie Canning and Jim Ferrers

There were two members of the public in attendance.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th October 2025 were approved.

4. Declarations of interest

None

5. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Nick Hookway presented a verbal report:

The County Council debated the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) submission on Friday 14th November. It is likely that Cabinet will approve the 9/1/1 option (a single unitary authority to replace the existing eight district councils, alongside the existing Plymouth and Torbay unitary authorities). This is regarded as most efficient due the gains made in the administration of social care and special educational needs.

Torbay and South Devon NHS Trust are reviewing minor injury units and urgent treatment centres. This was triggered by the closure of Dawlish Community Hospital due to staff shortages, and is intended to ensure that provision aligns with national standards and meets local needs. Cllr Hookway suggested that Councillors might at some point consider making a statement on the potential impact of any changes to Exmouth Minor Injuries Unit.

Recent Cabinet decisions include the setting aside money for adult social care, working with new partner Newton Consultancy, and extension of the contract between Budleigh Library and Libraries Unlimited for two years. Cllr Hookway is concerned about the library's future, as it provides a range of services for the community, including support to the elderly in accessing digital services.

Councillors noted the report and raised concerns about the conflicting LGR proposals and a seeming lack of cooperation across the county, which they felt might result in the government imposing a decision.

6. District Councillors' Reports

Councillors noted and discussed the reports circulated prior to the meeting by District Cllr Charlotte Fitzgerald and tabled at the meeting by District Cllr Melanie Martin. The reports are appended to these minutes.

Councillors questioned the recommendation to move away from radar keys to provide disabled access the new toilets, and asked that an alternative electronic solution be considered.

The dangers posed by traffic driving the wrong side of Brick Cross were discussed again. There was concern that Devon County Council view this as a maintenance issue and are overlooking the road safety implications. Cllr FitzGerald urged anyone experiencing or witnessing any near misses or accidents to report them to the police. She recommended that this be raised at the Budleigh Salterton Transport Group meeting scheduled for Tuesday 18th November 2025, which Cllr John Tresidder is attending.

7. Matters for Discussion

7.1 Consideration of the 2026/27 Precept

In his first year as Chair John Tresidder expressed his appreciation for guidance on preparing the Precept from the former Chair. East Devon District Council's timetable for submission is not yet known, so assumed to be the mid-January as in previous years. January's Parish Council Meeting may need to be brought forward in order to meet this deadline. Consideration of the figures in late December will enable as much of this year's expenditure as practicable to be taken into account. The Precept has been kept fairly level in recent years. The bank balance is going up, due to budgeted toilet costs being increased during covid, and not subsequently reduced. This means we are now moving towards the upper limit of what auditors recommend in terms of tolerance. This year's budget was impacted by the increase in employers' national insurance contributions.

7.1 DALC 'New Clerk's Finance Course'

The Clerk's attendance on this course at a cost of £30 (excluding VAT) was approved.

7.2 Donation to the British Legion

A donation of £25 to the British Legion was approved for the wreath laid at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. This will come from the Section 137 budget. It was noted that the British Legion now view supply of wreaths as a set charge rather than a donation as in previous years.

8. Reports

Councillors noted and discussed the reports as set out below. It was agreed that written reports received would now be appended to the minutes rather than included in the body of the minutes, and clearly linked on the website.

8.1 Chair - Resilience/Shop /Recreation Ground/Otter to Exe - Cllr John Tresidder

Cllr Moyles thanked Cllr Tresidder for his hard work maintaining the War Memorial. Cllr Tresidder drew attention to the Conant Courier, a transatlantic publishing venture containing news and features about Roger Conant's birthplace and the cities he founded in New England.

8.2 Clerk - Village Matters & Correspondence

An updated draft Memorandum of Understanding between Devon Air Ambulance, East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council, East Budleigh Football Club and Clinton Devon Estates has been forwarded to Councillors. It is anticipated that a final draft will go to the January 2026 Parish Council Meeting for acceptance.

8.3 Parish Paths Partnership - Jon Roseway

No volunteers have come forward to take up or share this role when Jon retires next month.

8.4 Landscape Recovery/Heaths to Sea - Cllr Derek Wensley

(verbal report) A resident has raised the issue of the long gaps between buses serving the village centre since the introduction of the double decker school services which bypass the village centre, stopping at the Rolle Arms on the B1378. It was noted that whilst double decker buses have at times come through the village, the junction of High Street and Vicarage Road is difficult for them to negotiate, particularly when there are cars parked there. After some discussion it was agreed that the issue did not appear sufficiently significant to pursue with Stagecoach, particularly given the difficulties raising concerns with them in the past.

A resident has highlighted the need to replace/upgrade the football pitch benches at the Recreation Ground. Whilst it was noted that the Parish Council would not be able to make a financial contribution to this, sponsorship of individual benches by individuals or organisations is something that could be considered in the future.

8.5 Village Hall - Cllr Louis Allan

Cllr Allan highlighted that the Village Hall would be addressing ongoing issues with the hall's Wi-Fi in the new year.

8.6 Community Pub - Cllr Angie Canning

All shareholders are invited to the pub AGM on Wednesday 19th November 2025.

8.7 Local Liaison/Salem Chapel - Cllr Kathy Moyle BEM

Cllr Moyle expressed frustration that people who had raised concerns about the transfer of Salem Chapel have not been invited to the planned meeting between Historic England, the Historic Chapels Trust and the Chair of the East Budleigh's Salem Chapel ICO.

8.8 Cricket Club & Kersbrook - Cllr Jim Carter

(verbal report) not much to report as it is closed season. There has been some damage to the gate.

8.9 Yettington/ Traffic/Climate Change - Cllr Jim Ferrers

No report

9. Planning

9.1 Applications

There were no new applications to consider. It was noted that we may need to

call a planning meeting should any new applications be received between now and January, in order to meet the 21 day timeframe for comments.

9.2 Decisions

Councillors noted the retrospective approval for the change of use of part of agricultural building to farm shop at Dalditch Farm, Dalditch Lane EX9 7AS (25/1784/FUL).

10. Accounts and Finances

10.1 Council reviewed and approved the schedule of expenditure which forms part of the Agenda

10.2 Council reviewed and approved the November monthly financial records and reconciliation, including the budget against precept.

11. Topics raised by Councillors and Members of the Public

Cllr Wensley asked the Clerk to look into Microsoft 365 free versions and the one-time subscription as an alternative to the annual subscription.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm

The next Meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for
Monday 19th January 2026 at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall

May need to be brought forward to meet the EDDC Precept Submission deadline