

**CHAIR'S REPORT (Cllr John Tresidder)**

The Conant Courier has published another very interesting edition, and features the pleas from the Parish Council for a P3 Co-ordinator to take over from Jon Roseway after his excellent work in the role. There are also articles highlighting the need for volunteers for Speed Watch schemes, and indeed to serve as Parish Councillors.

I understand that the transfer of Salem Chapel by the Historic Chapels Trust to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation called East Budleigh's Salem Chapel is still proceeding, with completion anticipated by the end of the month. I am very pleased to hear that the East Budleigh History Society are planning new events at Easter.

I have been on a very helpful course on Chairing Local Council Meetings, which provided some useful information and very good handouts.

**EAST BUDLEIGH COMMUNITY SHOP**

After a very busy festive season with community events like carol singing and a visit from Father Christmas, life is returning to normal.

**GREEN SPACES & RECREATION GROUND**

No incidents or problems to report!!

**EMERGENCY RESILIENCE**

No incidents to report despite all the storms! Sandbags have been renewed as usual and are available outside the shop. I have cleared a number of drains of leaves to minimize the risk of flash flooding. Many thanks to the Clerk for circulating weather warnings.

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**Clerk's Notes and Correspondence (Lucinda Francis)****Toilets Electricity Contract**

The current two year fixed tariff deal expires on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026. We subscribe to the 'Love Energy Savings' business utilities comparison website and switching service. This has quoted a number of tariff options, of which the current cheapest is with our current supplier British Gas Lite. This is a three year term with a fixed tariff unit cost of 35.50p/kWh, and no standing charge. This translates into an annual cost of £599 based on their estimate of our annual usage. Note that quotes are only valid for 24 hours, and so may change.

**Microsoft 365 Contract**

We currently subscribe to Microsoft 365 Personal which is due for renewal on the 28<sup>th</sup> January. This provides the core Microsoft apps, cloud storage, advanced security, SharePoint, CoPilot, and ongoing updates. An alternative to an annual subscription is the one-time purchase of Office Home & Student 2024. The key differences are that the one-time purchase does not include cloud storage, filesharing, CoPilot, advanced security features, or ongoing updates to new features or major upgrades (only security

updates). The annual Microsoft 365 subscription is £73,83 (excl VAT), and the one-time purchase costs £208.33 (excl VAT). A cheaper one-time purchase is available, but this is intended for home not business use, and does not include Outlook. My preference is to remain with the Microsoft 365 subscription. I am currently using the cloud storage as a back-up for documents. We would need to happy to forego upgrades for around three years for the one-time purchase to represent value for money, which I feel is a long time in the fast moving IT world.

### **Bank Charges**

As previously advised, Santander have introduced a monthly fee of £4.99 for our current account with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025. A payment of £9.98 covering the October and November fees was deducted from the account on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

### **Devon Air Ambulance (DAA) Landing Site**

DAA have incorporated our feedback into a revised the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This sets the terms and understanding between East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council, East Budleigh Football Club, Clinton Devon Estates and Devon Air Ambulance for the development, use and management of the Community Landing Site at the Recreation Ground. This is on the January Parish Council Agenda for members to agree. Clinton Estates have suggested a joint press release to raise awareness of this, and DAA are very happy to collaborate.

### **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)**

The SIDs on Oak Hill (owned by Devon County Council) and Budleigh Hill (owned by the Parish Council) are still not working. The Oak Hill one has been reported to DCC on a number of occasions, most recently on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025. The online tracker states that the report has been passed to the contractor for investigation or action, with an estimated assessment date of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025. However, no further information is provided. I am not sure how to escalate this, maybe County Cllr Nick Hookway can help? The SID on Budleigh Hill fails due to the solar panel being shaded by trees. It was agreed at the October Parish Council meeting that we should look into having the trees cut back.

### **Training**

I have now completed all three modules of the DALC Clerks Essentials training course, which I have found very informative. I am due to attend the 'New Clerks Finance Training' and the 'Introduction to VAT' courses this month, both of which are well timed as we approach the financial year end. I would also benefit from attending the new DALC webinar 'An Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning & Design Codes' in February.

### **Website**

I am gradually refreshing the layout and appearance of the website.

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**Village Hall Report (Cllr Louis Allan)**

The village hall has been well used over past weeks with a variety of parties and private functions in addition to the usual user programme.

After a short wait we were pleased when Openreach installed the full fibre connection to the hall on 23 December. Our new internet service provider is Zen who have a first class reputation for customer support and guarantee no price increases for the duration of the contract. It is noteworthy that the routing of the fibre 'X' cable from the local spine to the hall will make it very straightforward for the village shop to change to full fibre when required.

The next meeting of the Village Hall Trustees will be on Monday 19 January.

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**Community Pub (Cllr Angie Canning)**

Nothing of any import to report from the pub other than a very busy Christmas period and thanks to the support of the dedicated team of volunteers, we kept the pub open for every session, including lunchtime on Christmas Day!!

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**Salem Chapel (Cllr Kathy Moyle, BEM)**

I have been in touch with Mr Peter Arnold of Historic England, Bristol at least eight times leaving messages for him to back to me, this has not happened. I did ring today on the 12-1-2026 but have not had any come back, so I rang the Business Team at Bristol and have been told by them that Mr Peter Arnold will get in touch with me tomorrow. I don't think much about the way Historic England has dealt with me about Salem Chapel and the fact that we are only trying to find out what is going on? I believe the changeover will take place sometime in January.

How much time have we got to see what is going on? I believe Mr Dan Davey is just a front as Chairman of the charity, and has a conflict of interest. Now we know that Tricolour Associates are going to be the people that will own it, why have we not been told this, why is it all coming out in drips and drabs, why not be more open about it all, when you look them up you can see all the buildings and places, they name but you don't see any photos or what they have really done. I find it a worry that they will get Salem Chapel for free. Mr Peter Arnold never brought up during phone calls anything about Tricolour Associates, why?

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**Yettington (Cllr Jim Ferrers)****Pot Holes**

I have emailed BBC Spotlight to see if we have the most repaired 50m section of road

W251914304 Lamprice Farm repaired December 25  
W251914303 Lamprice Farm be assessed reported December 25  
W261929272 Lamprice Farm reported 11 Jan 25  
W261925727 Lamprice Farm reported 5 Jan 25

**Previous repairs**

W251890293 Lamprice Farm reported August 25  
D253947183 Four Firs Repaired August 25  
D253947184 Four Firs Repaired August 25 D253947185 Four Firs Repaired August 25  
W251875072 Uphams Repaired August 25  
2 holes at Lamprice Farm repaired June 24  
W251852281 Uphams reported 21 April 25 highways couldn't find it!  
W251852280 Uphams reported 21 April 25 highways couldn't find it!  
W251852281 Uphams reported 21 April 25  
W251852280 Uphams reported 21 April 25  
W251842614 Lamprice Farm reported March 25  
W251824999 Lamprice Farm completed 04 Feb 2025  
W251826531 Uphams completed Feb 2025  
D25391340 Lamprice Hill completed Feb 2025  
D253913478 Lamprice Hill completed Feb 2025  
D253913392 Lamprice Farm completed Feb 2025  
D253913393 Lamprice Farm completed Feb 2025  
D253916529 Southfield Lodge 11 Feb with contractor  
W241791695 completed Oct 2024  
W241757806 completed July 2024  
W241757805 completed June 2024  
W241751949 completed May 2024  
W241717412 completed Feb 2024  
W231639207 completed June 2023  
W231639205 completed June 2023

These repairs all done on a half mile section of road. How do we get a permanent repair.

**Defibrillator**

Tested and working correctly

**Flooding**

Nothing to report.

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**Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Report (Jon Roseway)**

I've done the annual paths survey and documented it using the forms from last year. It is attached below. Please complete the accounting form and send them all to the Devon CC PRow group (you may want to wait until the forms for this year are issued as

the template may be changed). I've said that the annual maintenance grant is not required - you can change that if you wish.

I have the parish's strimmer and accompanying paraphernalia, plus a few hand tools in my garage. John Tresidder agreed that I should keep these items until my replacement is identified. I am allowed to use the strimmer for small jobs I do for East Budleigh in Bloom, under their insurance. I also have a physical file of documents and maps plus digital files relating to P3 activities.

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