

CHAIR'S REPORT (Cllr John Tresidder)

No issues to report. On the maintenance front I have started a refurbishment of our telephone box – starting off by getting the door open! If the weather ever improves, I have sufficient paint to smarten it up. In Spring, Ray Marrs is going to reprint the posters and pictures in the phone box and VIP. The Village Heritage Tour leaflets are popular here and in the shop.

You will have seen the comprehensive programme of events planned in May for the Peacemaker Festival, organized by Maria Malinowska and the Roger Conant Society. In a further ceremony to celebrate Roger Conant and his founding of Salem, Massachusetts 400 years ago, there is going to be a Zoom link between our two communities on 12th June.

EAST BUDLEIGH COMMUNITY SHOP

The Community Shop AGM will be held in the Village Hall at 6.00 pm on Monday, 23rd February to approve the annual accounts and report. The meeting is for members only, but new members would be very welcome on the night for a one-off payment of only £5.

Turnover in the financial year was £289,184 (£280,000 last year) with a profit of £10,767 (£3,607 last year).

GREEN SPACES & RECREATION GROUND

No incidents or problems to report! The Devon Air Ambulance surveyor made a visit last week and reported no problems with our recreation ground as a landing site. The East Budleigh Football Club have been helpful in keeping them informed of pitch issues, and have undertaken to carry out the necessary monthly floodlight test. The Parish Council funded the recent repairs to the remote lighting controls.

EMERGENCY RESILIENCE

No incidents to report despite what seems like continuous rain! Sandbags have been dispensed on request and are still available outside the shop. Keeping drains clear has again minimized the risk of flash flooding.

Clerk's Notes and Correspondence (Lucinda Francis)**Junction of B3178 and Sleaf Hill, Brick/Bicton Cross**

The Clerk of Otterton Parish Council has emailed on behalf of the Councillors to seek help from the East Budleigh with Bicton PC to reduce the number of accidents and near misses at this junction. This was raised by District Cllr Charlotte at our November meeting. The issue is believed to be to the placement of the arrow on the B3178 dedicated lane for northbound traffic turning right onto Sleaf Hill towards Otterton. This is causing some drivers to take the lane on the wrong side of the cross towards oncoming traffic. The junction is within East Budleigh with Bicton Parish, but the issue impacts on Otterton residents. Otterton Parish Councillors Ian Simpson (Chair) and Richard Witherby (Vice Chair) are attending our February PC meeting to discuss potential actions to address this issue.

Toilets Electricity Contract

As agreed at the last meeting, we have signed a three year fixed tariff contract with current supplier British Gas Lite. The unit cost is 34.26p/kWh, with no standing charge. This translates into an annual cost of c£550 based on their estimate of our annual usage.

Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

Devon County Council has streamlined the scheme and issued new guidance. A key change is that issues on footpaths are now to be reported using the “report a problem facility” on the Devon CC website, instead of directly to the P3 team, to enable wardens to respond more efficiently. Jon Roseway kindly completed the annual survey forms prior to his retirement. I will shortly send these and our annual grant form for 2026/27 to the P3 team. Our P3 account balance currently stands at £1,170.48. Following Councillors request at the last meeting I have invoiced Devon CC for their purchase order for the 2025/26 minor maintenance grant (£30 per mile of footpath) and the cost of strimming training for one person. This totals £670, so will bring our P3 balance to c£1,540. Devon CC do not permit large amounts of money to be carried over, although doesn't specify a limit. Do we want to claim the minor maintenance grant of £320 for 2026/27?

Banking arrangements

Councillors asked me to look into banking options, following the introduction of a £4.99 monthly charge for our current account, and the low interest rate (1%) paid on our capital account. Both accounts are currently with Santander. Free business banking doesn't really exist these days, most banks charge a monthly fee and/or transaction fees. A number offer fee-free current accounts for “not for profit” organisations, aimed at clubs, societies and charities, not necessarily parish councils. In common with most High Street banks, the Santander service is “one size fits all” designed to meet the needs of businesses, which fails to recognise that Parish Councils do not function in the same way. NALC have been working to help banks understand what local councils are, how they work, and what sector they are in. A particular issue with Santander is that it does not facilitate the two signature authorisation of payments when internet banking is used, which means we are currently not acting within our Financial Regulations. One potential option is Unity Bank which has a good understanding and dedicated support for local councils, and online single, dual and triple authorisation of payments. It charges £7 per month for a current account. Unity also offers an instant access deposit account currently paying interest of 1.95%, with higher rates available for notice or fixed term accounts. Other banks to consider are HSBC, Metro, NatWest and Barclays. I will continue to look into the various options.

Defibrillators

The pad-paks (cartridge combining the battery and electrode pads) on both of our Heartsine Defibrillators are due to expire on 1st March. In researching the price for the replacements I have learned that there are supply chain issues. Our supplier advised that the earliest they are likely to be available is the end of March. I have ordered and paid for the replacements so that we are higher up the queue when they become available. The supplier has made a number of suggestions for mitigating the risk whilst

we wait, namely short-term hire, or trading in our existing ones for a different model. Both of these options are quite expensive. My understanding is that the expiry dates are the time at which the manufacturer no longer guarantees the pad-pak components, rather than the packs ceasing to function.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

County Councillor Nick Hookway has raised a Member Enquiry about the non-functioning SID on Oak Hill. I do hope that this will lead to it being repaired.

Reporting of potholes

As requested at the January Parish Council Meeting, I have checked the reporting of potholes on the Devon Highways website. The website is set-up for the reporting of potholes, so there isn't (to my knowledge) a way of getting a list by parish. It is possible to view a map showing live cases, and this is currently showing around 10 potholes across the parish. The reporting facility highlights that Highways are currently experiencing unprecedented high levels of potholes and carriageway defects across Devon's road network.

Village Hall Report (Cllr Louis Allan)

The revision of policy documents to support funding bids for the hall refurbishment are in hand as is the process for the identification of the first contractors.

The full fibre broadband is working as advertised and has been well received by hall users.

The repair of the mini roundabout in the play park is in hand but must wait until the weather improves before work can start.

The Trustees are pleased to announce that there will be no price increases for hall use in the forthcoming financial year

The next meeting of the Village Hall Trustees will be on 30 March and the AGM will be held on 18 April.

Community Pub (Cllr Angie Canning)

Nothing to report

Local Liaison/Salem Chapel (Cllr Kathy Moyle BEM)

I am not very happy about what is going on with Mr Dan Davey and Historic Chapels Trust and tricolour and Historic England, and many others were fingers in the pie. I feel there is a conflict of interest with the Chapel and the new charity. I feel that Mr Peter

Arnold who's dealing with the change for Historic England is not being very clear with what is going on.

Mr Arnold was going to speak to me long before Christmas about many worries raised by myself and others. This did not take place until February when Mr Arnold phoned me. It seemed that many of the points raised did not have any answers for myself or for other people. The main worry by Mr Arnold was that Mr Dan Davey should have involved the Parish Council at the start of of it all. It's a bit late to do this now. I understand that Mr Dan Davey will need more help with the opening of the Chapel. I did ask why Mr Davey had not visited the Chapel for any events, if only to meet members of the public to get their thoughts on the events and the Chapel which would be of help to him. Mr Peter Arnold told me that he didn't was it because people have busy lives and he didn't have the time. This seemed funny to me because Mr Dan Davey wishes to turn the Chapel into a new usage as a community heritage and arts venue with events and workshops. You think he would wish to meet members of the public to get some thoughts on what they like in the Chapel and what events they like. If he can't find time to visit once in the last year how will he find time to open Chapel and also do his job at Bicton. So I do have to have many worries on all of the unanswered points raised. I believe all this will need change of use, but will EDDC grant it? Mr Arnold seems to think that they won't need change of use. In the past when Judge Polion owned the Chapel he couldn't get change a change of use for art and craft and it was only Grade II not Grade II*. The CIO was set up in October 2024 and have not yet taken ownership of the Chapel. There is only their record on the Charity Commission website. The CIO is East Budleigh Salem Chapel number 1210405.

Because I have many worries about what is going on, and many unanswered points I will not help in anyway with Mr Dan Davey even if the Parish Council proposes to help because I fear that very much that we will lose the Chapel. People taking the Chapel over are doing it for the wrong reasons. The Historic Chapels Trust and Historic England just want to get rid of chapels and really don't care what happens to them.

YETTINGTON (Cllr Jim Ferrers)

Pot Holes

D263990215 pothole lamprice 5th Feb
D263990204 pothole past lamprice 5th Feb
D263990210 pothole past lamprice 5th Feb
D263990201 pothole past lamprice 5th Feb
D263990199 pothole past lamprice 5th Feb
D263990190 pothole past lamprice 5th Feb
D263981131 pothole sandy cross 29th Jan

Previous repairs

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
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.

**Budleigh and Raleigh ward, February update 2026
(East Devon District Council Cllr Charlotte FitzGerald)****Budleigh Almshouses**

The Shandford Trust Almshouses are now open for applications. The three properties, located next to Seachange in Budleigh Salterton, will be complete and ready for occupation from May. This first tranche of housing is aimed at older people, and eligibility is dependent on a number of factors, including pension income and savings. (I understand that the trust members are interested in developing more almshouses along the same model to follow, which may not be specifically for older people.) To find out more or apply for one of the three available properties, which are suitable for

individuals or couples, please see the website. Please have a think about members of your parish who might be interested in a place.

Rights for Rivers

I am a signatory to a motion coming before Full Council on 25 February which if passed will formally establish a right of rivers in our district to flow freely from pollution. This follows a similar motion at Devon County last year and many others across the country and draws attention to the responsibility of the council to act to protect its rivers from pollution. It will be an opportunity to look at the cross-agency work carried out by East Devon District Council to protect our rivers and identify areas for better and more collaborative working opportunities with our delivery partners. It recognises the imperative on the council to do what it can to improve water quality and to bear down on other actors causing pollution, especially as we look toward council unitarization.

Local Plan Reg 19 second consultation

The Reg 19 second consultation concluded on 26 January. Representatives of the Exmo_20 campaign attended Strategic Planning Committee in November 2025 to query whether a 400m buXer zone should be left *outside* the planned site area in order to protect the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) the other side of the B3179, which lies in East Budleigh parish. It was concluded by the committee, following lengthy discussion with oXicers, that this would put the buXer zone at greater risk than if it were left within the site. The 400 metre 'buXer zone' surrounding the SSSI is a nationally mandated area of limited development, specifically to contain no housing. Therefore, the local planning authority, EDDC, could not develop housing on it even if it wanted to. The buXer zone would be better protected if it were left within the development site boundary, as the local authority will then have the ability to ensure that any allowable development that does occur in this space is most suitable for protecting its neighbouring habitat. This might for example take the form of biodiversity provision (to deliver the biodiversity net gain required by law from the development) or sports and recreational facilities (without floodlighting and perhaps under cover).

Playing Pitch Strategy

EDDC has finished consulting on its revised playing pitch strategy, which looks at what provision is needed to match need for football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches within the timeframe of the new local plan (between now and 2042). Having joined a debrief call, I identified a lack of understanding about the connection between Budleigh & Raleigh Parishes and the scope for playing pitch provision arising from the allocation of the Exmo_20 site. I will take this up with relevant council representatives in the coming month to ensure they understand the need from this ward, which currently has a dearth of provision for all of the above – except cricket!

Cricket club retrospective planning applications It has come to my attention that Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club has been making a number of retrospective applications driven by complaints sent directly to EDDC planning enforcement, without the club having prior information or an opportunity to check and make good the infringement. This is a small and nascent club which struggles to find the £600 payable for each new application, nor the volunteer resource to complete lengthy applications.

Please can councillors be mindful of this and advise your networks accordingly. I would hope that as a courtesy, organisations – especially charitable ones – subject to planning enforcement would be notified before formal action is taken.