

CHAIR'S REPORT (Cllr John Tresidder)

No issues to report. I recently had to contact East Devon District Council who answered the phone in seconds and resolved the issue on the spot after it took a government agency over 14 months to respond to me!

The City of Salem Massachusetts has passed a resolution which is attached to this report, which celebrates our links – as a sister community. As you know the East Budleigh History Society and the Roger Conant Club have an exciting range of activities lined up to mark this historic date. 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. Details of all the events are to be found in the Parish News.

EAST BUDLEIGH COMMUNITY SHOP

The Community Shop held a successful AGM and approved the annual accounts and report. They have added to the number of members and are about to co-opt new committee members. At the AGM members discussed ways in which turnover and footfall could be increased.

GREEN SPACES & RECREATION GROUND

Sincere thanks to Alan Murdoch and Ernie Barnes who (helped by me!) spent a day clearing weeds and vegetation from our car park, and disposing of a huge trailer load. The car park is now looking really tidy.

Elsewhere, no problems to report. There are some nice spring flowers appearing at the memorial, and I have trimmed the hedge (before the birds start nesting) and given the grass its first cut now that the weather is drying out a little.

**EMERGENCY RESILIENCE**

David Whelan, the East Devon District Council Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Officer, has provided an excellent service with very accurate and detailed local weather and flood warnings, which is really helpful to us.

Cllr. John Tresidder.

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING EAST BUDLEIGH, ENGLAND, AS A SISTER CITY

Whereas: Roger Conant was born in the village of East Budleigh, Devon, England, in 1592; and

Whereas: in 1626, Roger Conant founded the English settlement that would become the City of Salem, establishing one of the oldest and most historic communities in the United States; and

Whereas: Roger Conant's leadership and vision helped establish a stable and enduring community that became a cornerstone of Massachusetts Bay Colony and American history; and

Whereas: the City of Salem honors Roger Conant's legacy with a prominent statue that has stood in the heart of the city since 1913 as a tribute to its founder; and

Whereas: this City's name is derived from an ancient word for peace; and

Whereas: both Salem and East Budleigh share a deep appreciation for history and the transatlantic bonds that unite our communities; and

Whereas: a Sister City relationship between East Budleigh and Salem will strengthen the friendship between two communities united by a shared history;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the people of Salem do extend a hand in friendship across the Atlantic Ocean to the people of East Budleigh, Devon, England; and
2. That the City of Salem does hereby designate the Village of East Budleigh, Devon, England, to be a Sister City; and
3. That the City of Salem shall endeavor to establish and formalize ways to demonstrate this unique and special relationship, including possible cultural exchanges, historical research collaboration, educational programs, heritage tourism, and more; and
4. That this resolution honors the legacy of Roger Conant and celebrates the enduring connection between the community of his birth and the community of his founding.

Clerk's Notes and Correspondence (Lucinda Francis)**End of 2025/26 financial year**

I have chased EDDC Streetscene for their invoice for the year, and Clinton Devon Estates for the Recreation Ground rent invoice. This is to ensure these large payments come out of the 2025/26 budget. Estimates of these invoice amounts were approved at the February Parish Council meeting.

Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

We have now received the 2025/26 minor maintenance grant (£30 per mile of footpath) and the cost of strimming training for one person, totalling £670. This brings our P3 account balance to £1,840.48. I have submitted the annual survey, annual grant, and parish finance forms for 2026/27 to the P3 team as required.

Highways

I have emailed Emma Sampson, Devon County Council Highways Officer for the Parish about: Near misses at Brick/Bicton Cross B3178/Sleap Hill junction due to drivers turning the wrong side of the monument; Concerns raised by a member of the public about traffic safety at the Vicarage Road/B3178 junction, and the non-functioning of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Oak Hill.

Banking arrangements

I have asked the Clerks of the Otter to Exe parish councils about their banking arrangements. Barclays, Lloyds and Unity Trust are recommended for being straightforward to deal with, and able to facilitate the dual authorisation of payments. I will do some further research and report the options to a future meeting.
