

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Virtual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021

PRESENT: Councillors D. Wensley (Chair), J. Tresidder, J. Shaw, M. Walters, M. Smith, J. Carter, F. Ward and H. Houston, District Councillors T. Wright & A. Dent, County Councillor C. Channon. Apologies from P. Jarvis.

The **MINUTES** of the Virtual Council Meeting held on 24th November 2020 were approved by all. The **MINUTES** of the Planning Meeting held on 7th January 2021 were approved by all.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Tresidder has presented an invoice for refunding of work on the War Memorial site.

County Councillor Christine Channon reported she had attempted to engage with a contractor in Crediton near Southfield Lodge about HGVs and large tractors damaging the road, but without success. She asked Highways if a notice could be put to say “No HGVs except for Access”.

District Councillor Alan Dent reported:

- He had attended a LORP meeting this afternoon with residents in Frogmore Lane and the Environment Agency. A specialist had explained with charts that severe flooding should be a rare event. **Councillor Wright** said that despite the reassurances, some residents remained concerned.
- Cllr. Dent warned that resurfacing will be completed on Friday at West Hill, Budleigh Salterton.
- There has been a huge increase in cardboard waste, so if recycled items were not picked up, the company would return to pick it up a day or so later.
- He confirmed the planners have stipulated caravans at Pooh Cottage could not be occupied by the same family for more than 60 consecutive days and not again within 30 days. **Councillor Wright** confirmed this.
- He warned there have been over 13 Covid deaths in this area. It is essential everyone wears masks, observes social distancing and stays safe.

MATTERS ARISING from the previous Minutes: None.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Budget & Precept: A detailed discussion took place. Some statistics were provided by Cllr. Wensley and Cllr. Walters on precepts from nearby Parishes, but Councillor Wright warned that

comparisons needed to be like for like, as we have the expenses for our Toilets, for example. All voted in favour of the Precept for 2021/22

Devon Carbon Neutral Plan: Councillor Tresidder will provide a summary when the Devon draft Plan is issued in the Spring. He has responded to an online survey on behalf of the Council. Cllr. Wensley invited Councillors to submit their individual views if wished. He personally had concerns over damage / removal of hedging and hedgerow tree saplings when trimming. Councillor Carter pointed out that farmers take their responsibilities seriously to keep hedging in good order. Cllr. Wensley highlighted re-localisation and democratic approach principles set out within the Plan.

Phone Mast: The Clerk reported that replacement trees had been planted below the mast and all trees would be mulched again in the Spring. A letter had been received from a member of the public who was pursuing his own concerns with the Ombudsman.

Amendment of Standing Orders to cover Clerk's absence: It was agreed to amend the Standing Orders to enable the Chair or Vice-chair to temporarily provide cover pending the nomination of a third person to manage urgent affairs in the absence of the Clerk. The Clerk's list of recommendations would form part of best practise in the future.

Offer of £500.00 worth of wildflowers from the OVA: The Council was grateful for this offer and Councillor Ward offered to follow it up.

Consideration of Benefits of Committees or Sub-committees: Councillor Wensley submitted some notes on advantages and dis-advantages. Several councillors gave suggestions of where sub-committees might be useful – Prompt Action Fund, Planning or Traffic for example. Councillor Wensley advised that terms of reference would need to be presented to Council for approval before any sub-committee was formed. It was generally agreed that it was preferable to create a Committee for a specific project work area which had specific terms of reference, including targeted outcomes, and that the committee would be terminated upon completion of the task. It was also felt that the inclusion of non-councillors with specific expertise or interest onto a committee was to be welcomed.

Reports

Chair: Councillor Wensley attended the Annual DCC Budget address to parishes. Matters such as Covid, social care, potholes etc. were discussed. Broadband partnership provision has not been managed well in the county and DCC are investigating new partnership options. It was noted that the press had reported how a supplier had begun installations of full fibre in the East of Exeter area.

Clerk: Village services are back to normal. The toilets will be refurbished from 1st February 2021 and re-opened in April. They were shut on 31st December and made safe. Council granted the Clerk permission to look at ideas and costs for renovating the Yettington Phone Box. Councillors were in favour of its potential move to the Yettington Hall site. The Clerk is attending meetings, set up by Devon Communities, to share best practise during Covid, with organisations around our Parish. The Clerk attended an online meeting of ELMS, and minutes from the meeting have been

circulated. She will collate feedback from Councillors to pass on. Councillors Wensley & Carter briefly discussed hedgerows and the need to protect them.

Recreation & Dog Forum: Councillor Smith has been ill, so unable to monitor recent events. Councillors expressed wishes for his improving health. The Clerk mentioned problems with dog mess at the bottom of Brookfield Road. Councillor Tresidder said the recreation ground was in good order and increasingly used by residents for their daily exercise.

Parish Paths Partnership: Jon Roseway is in the process of replacing stiles with gates, in collaboration with EDDC. Estimated cost from the P3 funds will be £500.00

Community Shop: Shoppers may now enter only one at a time, which increases safety for all. Groceries will continue to be delivered to those who cannot collect.

Village Hall: Maintenance and plans for the future continue during Lockdown.

Councillor Tresidder continues to look at the potential for **Electric Car Charging** in the village.

Green Corridor: Councillor Ward continues to look at plans for planting. The farmer will be enclosing the field alongside the 'Green Corridor' path soon. Trees for the **Nature Trail** will be planted by Clinton Devon Estates, on our behalf. The Clerk is purchasing the agreed items, some of which will be held until after Lockdown, when Volunteer groups will be able to install the bench and rubbing posts along the track, with the ongoing assistance of Clinton Devon Estates.

Emergency Action: On behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Walters has formed a Community Collaboration with the Village Hall, All Saints Church, Drake's School and the Community Shop. This meets online when further updates or activities are due. Volunteers from all groups delivered Christmas puddings to elderly people and those living alone, taking the opportunity to offer support. The next joint initiative will be "Sandbag Day" when sandbags will be delivered to vulnerable properties in advance of any flood warnings. Councillor Walters and the Clerk will devise a suitable leaflet to the residents.

"Devon Communities Together" has a YouTube video for home-owners in respect of flood defence, with potential grants for flood gates. Reference will be given in the leaflet. Councillor Walters asked Councillors to check the draft **Emergency Plan** version 4, with a view to endorsing it at the February meeting. Meanwhile he hopes to include a list of people with useful skills in the village and urged councillors to assist with identifying such assistance.

Traffic Matters: Councillor Houston circulated a report on current issues. She spoke to the Highways representative Emma Stamp and will be walking round the village with her to highlight problem areas. The parking difficulties near Brookfield Road are a matter for the police. Some of the inconvenience is caused by the short-term construction issues at the Pound. Emma is supportive of the setup of a Speed-watch group. A sign such as "20 is Plenty" could be considered. Councillor Shaw is assisting. Councillor Carter highlighted the damage caused by dumper trucks in Kersbrooke. Councillor Wensley advised Councillor Houston of the issues during Bicton Horse Trials and the existence of a monitoring group. He advised that any large expenditure for the Council on road signs might need to be budgeted in a new financial year.

Councillor Dent said if required signs are included with other needs known to Highways, they can be amalgamated under one Traffic Order and reduce costs to the Parish.

Cricket Club: Councillor Carter said the Club wishes to build the clubhouse themselves but needs to be aware of difficulties with construction vehicles accessing the land. He congratulated the **LORP** committee on their handling of the issues. Councillor Houston advised him that approval from Marine Agencies can take 12 weeks. Progress can be checked online.

East Budleigh Phone Box: Plans are being developed but practical work is on hold until after Lockdown.

Planning: No late notifications.

Councillor Wensley asked Councillors to study the **Local Area Plan** and give feedback at the next meeting. Councillor Carter pointed out that our own Neighbourhood Plan will remain relevant. District Councillor Dent said, as the District Council has withdrawn from the Exeter plan, this Local Plan is important. It is revised every five years.

Accounts and Finances: All invoices were approved for payment. Financial Reports were all accepted. Councillor Wensley pointed out that some expenditures had varied this financial year due to Covid restrictions or additional measures.

Part 2 - Exclusion of the Press and Public

Consideration of **Part 2 item** on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined at Paragraph 1 to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to an individual) on the grounds of Data Protection and confidentiality.

- Clerk's employment and Conditions of Service matters.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm

There were no Topics raised by Councillors or Members of the Public.

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 23rd February 2021