

## EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Virtual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

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

The **MINUTES** of the Virtual Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved. The **MINUTES** of the Planning Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were none.

**County Councillor Christine Channon** – reported an increase for Adult Care and Health £21.678 Million, Children’s Services increase £11.398 Million, Covid Grant £14.823 million, £600,000 extra for potholes and drainage. She said that 4 x 4 vehicles and motorbikes had churned up the track around and beyond Shortwood Common leading to East Budleigh. She contacted the Public Rights of Way person who will be tidying it up. Clinton Devon Estate will put barriers of logs across to restrict its use by motor bikes. It may be necessary to obtain a traffic order to make it clear that motorised vehicles may not use the track. **Councillor Wright** remarked that it is currently a Bridleway which does prohibit motorised vehicles.

Cllr. Channon was delighted to report that Drake’s School are doing well and staff and children are looking forward to returning in March.

Kier Construction will start work on the LORP in March and have applied for temporary use of a space on Lime Kiln car park to site their compound.

**District Councillor Alan Dent** - reported there will be a full District Council Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to set the Council Tax. It is expected to confirm an increase of £5 (3.1%), making the tax for a band D property £151.78. He reported that EDDC had tarmacked the cycle lane from Bear Lane to Exmouth, which although welcome, has caused an increase in use by cyclists and pedestrians with ensuing difficulties, despite notices advising cyclists to keep to the left side.

**District Councillor Paul Jarvis** spoke about the Poverty Working Panel of EDDC. They had learnt from a representative of Citizen’s Advice that there has been an increase of 37% in requests for assistance. The organisation has been very effective in directing people to appropriate assistance. He asked that the Citizen’s Advice organisation be advertised widely. It should be made clear that there is no stigma attached to the need for help. Redundancies have increased and more people need support.

**MATTERS ARISING** from the previous Minutes: None.

## **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **1. Local Area Plan**

Cllr Wensley had circulated a report regarding the Options Appraisal for the EDDC Local Plan. Discussions took place regarding the Parish Council response. With regard to the Housing related sections, it was felt that there were 3 options available to the Council:

1. A response along the lines of the existing Neighbourhood Plan, which had been consulted upon by parishioners, albeit a while ago now.
2. A desire for increased housing development at a level which would require a further meeting to determine. This would necessarily be caveated that no parish consultation had taken place.
3. That the Parish Council would not respond and that it would be for individual parishioners to respond.
  - The Council resolved to submit a response based upon Option 1.
  - It was further resolved that the Parish Council fully supported the principle of protection within the AONB.
  - It was also resolved that the Parish Council would not respond to the other sections of the Local Plan consultation and that this would be left to individuals.

It was noted that this was only the first stage of the consultation process and further response opportunities would occur in due course.

### **Parish News**

Council agreed to make a grant of £150.00 to cover additional costs caused by Covid 19. The Magazine is seen as an essential vehicle for keeping residents informed of local issues and events.

### **Appointment of a Tree Warden**

There were no volunteers. The position to be advertised in our next Magazine article.

### **Local Flyer**

At the request of Councillor Carter, a flyer is to be placed in the next Parish News, encouraging residents to give their opinions. Cllr. Dent kindly offered to meet the cost of this useful initiative.

### **Design Codes**

Detailed information had been provided by Sue Cooper, The Codes will provide parameters and constraints for developers at a higher level to obviate the need for local scrutiny of individual planning applications. However, it is thought that there would still be individual scrutiny at local level for applications within an AONB. Consultation with residents would occur before Design Codes are finally agreed. It was agreed to hold over fuller consideration for a later meeting.

### **Reports**

**Chair:** No further matters

**Clerk:** The salt bin in Brookfield, which was in disrepair has now been replaced. The Public Toilets have been refurbished and will reopen as planned on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The Clerk gained permission to do urgent repairs to Yettington phone box.

**Correspondence:** Cllr Wensley had responded to the mast correspondence, received on 12th February 2021. The Parish Council reaffirmed that it would take no further action regarding the planning approval and associated conditions regarding the mast as it would be impractical and unreasonable to do so, since Vodaphone had fulfilled its obligations under the planning approval. Cllr Wensley would respond further to the correspondent to this effect.

A letter was received from a resident listing concerns for the welfare of wildlife on the building site at The Pound. Council said there were no apparent breaches of planning or wildlife regulations that would require further investigation with external organisations and hence no follow up action was proposed at this time.

**Parish Paths Partnership:** Jon Roseway continues to replace stiles with gates, in collaboration with EDDC. Council congratulated him on the appearance and structure of the new gates.

**Community Shop:** The end of Year Report shows a small deficit. Prices have been raised slightly, but average sales per transaction have more than doubled and sales are buoyant.

**Village Hall:** No further news

Cllr. Tresidder will provide a report on the **Interim Carbon Plan** which is due out shortly. He is in talks with ZPN Energy over the potential for **electric car charging points** in the village.

The results of the **Police and Crime** Commissioner's annual survey show that residents of Devon want money invested in visible neighbourhood policing, technology and crime prevention. The crime types that were judged most in need of addressing were anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and road traffic offences. These results will influence the work on the budget. By the end of March 2022, there will be an increase of 141 police officers. 2,551 reports of alleged Covid offences have been made on the Police website and 270 fixed penalties issued.

**Wildflowers and Nature Trail** – Councillor Ward reported the trees will shortly be planted along the Nature Trail and all other items will arrive soon. She has ordered 5 Rowan Trees from the OVA grant. Council agreed that one should be donated to Yettington Hall. The Hall Trustees had confirmed their approval for the planting. Cllr. Ward is meeting with residents to identify areas for wildflower meadows. Councillor Carter suggested plaques might be placed below the trees with suitable quotations about trees.

**Community Action:** The Collaboration Group have distributed 40 gift vouchers to elderly and isolated individuals in the village, for use at the Community Shop. Funds came from the Prompt Action Fund.

Council approved the final version of the **Emergency Action Plan**, which can now be submitted to the emergency services. Sandbag day had been cancelled due to liability constraints.

**Traffic Matters:** Councillor Houston is waiting to do a walk round the village with Emma Stamp from Highways. Other matters are on hold.

**Cricket Club:** Councillor Carter warned of traffic congestion when the LORP work starts and hoped that good signage would be in place to warn motorists. He said Jacqui Best has now left but was to be congratulated for all the work she did on the project.

**Planning:** No late notifications.

**Accounts and Finances:** All invoices were approved for payment. Financial Reports were all accepted. The Clerk gained permission to investigate a potentially cheaper energy supplier for the Electricity for the Public Toilets and to sign up to a new deal, once agreed with the Chair.

The meeting ended at 9.09 pm.

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

**Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**