

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Virtual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th April 2021

PRESENT: Councillors D. Wensley (Chair), J. Tresidder, J. Shaw, M. Walters, J. Carter, F. Ward and H. Houston, M. Smith & K. Quant

All welcomed new Parish Councillor Kevin Quant to the Council.

The **MINUTES** of the Virtual Council Meeting held on 23rd March 2021 were approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

PART ONE

MATTERS ARISING from the previous Minutes: Councillor Wensley referred to the Climate Change discussions and reported that, following a discussion with the Collaboration Group, it seems that each group is taking its own measures and currently there are no parish wide initiatives.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Design Codes. Councillor Carter pointed out that landowners such as CDE needed to give their input to the discussions and from the ELMS discussions. Councillor Carter requested that the pages that show woodland and hedgerows should be removed from our report as they may be inaccurate. Councillor Ward pointed out that developments via the LORP project also affect decision making. Council voted to submit the report to EDDC for comment subject to the minor changes.

A grant of £210.00 was agreed for **East Budleigh in Bloom** and £500 for **All Saints Church (churchyard)**. Council accepted the offer from All Saints Church to address the Council about their work & to then consider a further donation subject to funds availability.

Review of Standing Orders, Risk Register, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations:
Councillor Shaw produce suggested amendments to documents. He asked Councillors to send him any amendments for consideration. He will produce final versions for recommendation at the next meeting.

An update of **Community Actions** was examined by Council. There is continuing work to be done in relation to “greening” the environment. “Little Saplings” has closed. A Tree Warden has not yet been found. The Clerk will check if nearby Parishes have a need for a lengths man and the possibility of a shared resource.

Street Trading Application by The Wandering Pig for Pizza sales in the village was approved. A Street Trading Application by Global Street Kitchens to serve hot food in the Village Hall car park, had been approved by the Village Hall Committee. The Council approved the application.

Reports

Chair: Councillor Wensley reminded Councillors that the May meeting will be the Parish Council AGM. The Chair will stand down and nominations made for election of a Chair and Vice Chair. End of year reports will be made including plans for the future. All Council meetings must be held in person.

Clerk: The Clerk said the Rain Gauge was provided by funding from DDC, but it is unlikely they want it returned. A stone wall of the bridge near the Rolle Arms has been badly damaged. The Clerk reported it, but it has been classed as non-urgent and placed on a list for repair in due course.

Correspondence: The Clerk received an email from “Airband”. This Company appears to have been approved by Devon County Council and others under the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme, and plans to roll out fast fibre in the Parish. Council agreed that we take up their offer of a presentation at a future meeting subject to confirmation of public sector contract process having already taken place.

Yettington & Speedwatch:

1. Councillor Kevin Quant reported that he has set up a group of volunteers who have received training to hold Speedwatch in Yettington. He agreed to liaise with Councillor Houston over their plans for a similar initiative for East Budleigh and share best practice. Both initiatives were approved by the Council.
2. A request to repair the finger post in Yettington has been placed on the Devon County Council list for non-urgent repairs
3. Council discussed the placement of a bench in memory of Councillor Bernard. He will approach Mrs. Barnard about a suitable plaque and consult the residents on where they would like the bench to be sited.
4. Councillors suggested that a tree might be planted in the Queen’s Platinum year in 2022 (Feb 6th, celebration June 2nd), possible in the green space in Yettington. To be confirmed nearer the time.

Recreation Ground: John Tresidder confirmed some dog waste had been found on the Recreation Ground. Mike Smith confirmed all was well on Saturday evening. Councillor Smith will try to speak to the dog owner whose dog is fouling the pavements in Oak Hill.

Parish Paths Partnership: Council voted to keep the gate on Footpath EB14 and Middletown Lane because they believe it prevents dogs and children from running out into the road.

Community Shop: Councillor Tresidder reported sales are up and footfall is steady at 3,200.

Village Hall: Chris Dearsley has stepped down as chair, and Joe Murphy has been appointed. Nick James and Sam Houston have joined the Trustees.

Interim Carbon Plan. Councillor Tresidder has attended the Devon Climate Network via zoom. Council asked him to investigate the implication if the Parish Council signs the Climate Declaration & to check on decisions of nearby parishes. He will report back at the May meeting.

Police and Crime: Councillor Kevin Quant will take over the duties as the Council representative on the Councillor Advocate Scheme.

Phone Box & VIP Room: The Village Hall were delighted to enable the Parish Council to refurbish the VIP room with facilities and information for the community. Fresh costs for signposting from the Phone Box and to improve the VIP room were approved. The Clerk is awaiting confirmation from EDDC that CIL may be used for this purpose.

Wildflowers and Nature Trail: Councillor Ward has completed some spring planting. She will resume further planting in the Autumn.

Emergency Action Plan: Councillor Walters has stored new Emergency Signs in the locked box by the Shop. A new padlock and keys will be fitted by Councillor Tresidder and keys passed to the Shop, Councillor Walters, and the Clerk.

Traffic Matters: Councillor Houston said she is still trying to arrange a visit from Emma Stam of Highways. When they meet, she will address residents' concerns over speed and parking, a potential Speedwatch group and the need to protect the bridges outside the Rolle Arms. Councillor Houston is obtaining fresh quotes for installation of a wooden gate on the Recreation Ground. She will also obtain a suitable permanent notice asking dog owners to keep an eye on their dogs. She is completing various procedures in this respect.

Cricket Club: Councillor Carter reported work has started on the Cricket Club. He will continue to monitor the LORP constructions as they proceed. The project is due to complete in Spring 2024.

Planning: Councillor Ward asked why planning applications did not include measures to reduce Climate Change. Councillor Wensley explained that we are guided by current planning law and, unfortunately, carbon emissions and energy reduction features are not written into planning law at the moment. We were obliged to judge planning applications on what was presented and within the current legislation and guidelines. The Parish Council has no say in the Building Regulations that might cover some aspects, particularly with regard to new housing developments.

Councillors viewed the planning application for **Ref 21/1010/FUL, 2 Wynards Close**. They had no objection to the changes.

Accounts and Finances: The Final Accounts & Accounting Governance Statement for the year to 31st March 2021 were presented to Council. Councillor Wensley explained the year showed an underspend due to Covid & reduction in services and a reduction in VAT due to changes of suppliers. The bank balance has returned to normal levels with a tolerance of five and a half months in hand. **Council approved the Accounts for submission to the Internal Auditor.**

The Clerk presented bills for payment. **All were approved.** The Clerk explained that BHIB insurance would supply free Village Planning software, if we agree to insure with them for three years. Any increases would only be in line with inflation. This was approved. The Clerk would check that the insurance company would not have automatic access to our Planning records.

Councillors approved the Financial Records for April 2021.

Any Other Business: Councillors Walters reminded Council of the Police Commissioner and Devon County Council elections coming on 6th May & reported that he will be one of the Polling Clerks.

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

PART TWO

A closed session was held for Councillors and Clerk only.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 25th May 2021 in the Village Hall