

## EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK** – All correct

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors Derek Wensley, Jim Ferrers, John Tresidder, Jim Carter, Kathy Moyle BEM, County Councillor Nick Hookway and District Councillors Melanie Martin, Henry Riddell and Charlotte Fitzgerald.

**Apologies:** Parish Councillors Angie Canning & Louis Allan

The **Minutes** of the Parish Council meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Cllr. John Tresidder is on the shop committee so exempted himself from voting on the new Village Hall/Shop planning application

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – the new County Councillor Nick Hookway was welcomed to the meeting. He sits on the Exmouth Town Council. He is Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure, Culture and Sport at EDDC. He sits on the schools scrutiny committee at DCC. He had spoken to Emma Sampson of Highways about the ongoing problems outside Lemprice Farm. She confirmed it is on the list for a proper repair. The Clerk pointed out it has been on the list for two years now. Councillor Ferrers said the area had received temporary repairs on 17 occasions in the last 18 months. Councillor Carter pointed out that the road is used to access the equestrian centre which means heavy vehicles regularly use the route. Councillor Hookway said that any anti-social behaviour such as speeding on Budleigh Road, should be reported to the police on phone 101, or preferably on the police website at “tell us about it”. Evidence would be needed to support the activity.

Highways are planning to extend the 30mph on Budleigh Road past Kersbrooke & the Cricket Club.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

District Councillor Martin said decisions were being made on Tuesday about devolution. She will report back on the progress.

District Councillor Fitzgerald said the Lime Kiln toilets on Budleigh seafront were opened today. The toilet in Brook Road has been closed for some time and may be removed in order to extend the carpark. Ideas would be welcome on how to revamp the High Street which is currently looking a little neglected.

## MATTERS DISCUSSED

### REPORTS

1. **Update on Vacancy for new Parish Clerk.** Chair John Tresidder reported that interviews had been held and the successful candidate, Lucinda Francis, has agreed to start on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The draft contract was approved by Councillors – **specifically the starting salary will be £15.84 per hour, 12 to 15 hours, (starting at 15 hours per week but subject to review after a few weeks in the job) starting at point 18 on the 18-23 range on salary scale LC2. A home working allowance of £26 per month was also agreed.** Council also agreed that Lucinda be the sole operator of the Santander Bank Accounts with full rights and James Ferrers to be added for “view only”  
Councillor Tresidder said he was meeting with the new candidate this week to gain her signature on the agreement. Councillors approved all arrangements and thanked Councillors Ferrers, Wensley and Tresidder for their work on this. The potential new Clerk hopes to attend the Parish Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025.  
Councillor Wensley pointed out that due to the overlap between Clerks, whilst training is given, an additional cost of about £800 will be incurred, which would need to be drawn back from other parts of this year’s budget.
2. **Traffic:** The Chair asked for ideas on how to address the problem. He was waiting on District Councillor Jess Bailey to address the council on how to continue pursuing the 20 is Plenty campaign.
3. **Council Vacancies:** The Chair said there are three vacancies. He asked Councillors to look for potential Councillors. He would be happy to speak to any individuals who might be considering the role. Councillor Wensley said there may be environmental activists who would be interested in becoming Councillors.

**Chair – Councillor Tresidder - Resilience/Shop/Recreation Ground:**

### CHAIR’S REPORT

Recruitment for the new Parish Clerk on Judith Venning’s retirement at the end of August is well under way and should be signed and sealed by the next meeting. Interviews have been conducted by me, Cllr Wensley and Cllr Ferrers. Our thanks to Judith for help and support with advertising and making arrangements.

Salem Chapel: I have been in touch with Karen Scalia who owns Salem Food Tours in Salem, Massachusetts. She is organizing part of Salem’s quadricentennial celebrations in 2026. She will be visiting East Budleigh later this month conducting research into Roger Conant and meeting our Roger Conant Committee. I understand that she will also be delivering a letter to the Parish Council from the Mayor of Salem City.

**East Budleigh Community Shop :** After recent publicity the support for the shop is growing, and it is doing well financially. On the management front, Anne Davies is retiring next month, and Mel Ferrers is looking to retire later in the year. Recruitment for replacements is going well, and

will be announced In My Next Report.

**Green Spaces & Recreation Ground** Once again, the Recreation Ground has had no incidents have been reported on the litter, graffiti or dog front. I have strimmed and mowed The Pound again, preserving an interesting range of wild flowers. Great foraging for Guinea Pig food! The summer bedding for the Memorial has come on well and thank you to John Nelligan for his help with the watering.

### **Emergency Resilience**

Despite occasional thunderstorms we have seen off the threat of flash flooding by keeping drains clear and unobstructed.

On the Parish Council website there is a link to the Local Government Association Digital Switchover Hub which has a lot of information about the planned changes to telephone landlines. In particular there is essential advice for users of alarm systems like Telecare.

**Clerk – Village Matters and Correspondence:** Correspondence was received from Highways. This is to legalise the adjustments to two footpaths which were re-sited as part of the LORP project. Any comments must be lodged with Highways by 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025. No further action required by the Parish Council.

**P3 report by Jon Roseway:** Nothing to report.

**Derek Wensley – Landscape Recovery/Heaths to Sea:** There will be a meeting in July to discuss further progress with the Heaths to Sea initiative.

**Village Hall/Drakes School:** - Louis Allan. At the last parish council meeting on Monday 19 May, my report stated that the planning application for the village hall refurbishment had finally been submitted at the end of April.

Subsequently the Planning Validation Officer of East Devon District Council invalidated the application stating that, after all, a Flood Risk Assessment for the site would be required. After some to-ing and fro-ing and a few queries from a trustee, two weeks later the Planning Validation Officer conceded that, without realising, the council had been using out of date flood maps and that the correct version indicated that the village hall was not actually within the flood zones. This meant that the planning application could go through and it is now live online.

This is good news for the village hall trustees who might otherwise have spent over £3000 unnecessarily due to this error. However, one must wonder what else the planning office gets wrong and what other incorrect data or information has been or is being relied upon in the formulation of judgments and decisions.

**Community Pub – Councillor Angie Canning:** Nothing to report

**Local Liaison/Salem Chapel – Kathy Moyle BEM – Councillor Moyle** said she has written twice to the Historic Chapels Trust about inconsistencies with the choice of future Trustees of Salem Chapel, but had no reply. Councillor Tresidder offered to write a formal letter on behalf of the Council and will liaise with Councillor Moyle over the wording. Council agreed to this initiative.

**Cricket Club & Kersbrooke:** = Councillor Carter reported the Cricket Club is playing international games. The 30 mph speed limit will help but there are still problems with access for coaches which the club will need to address. Councillor Carter said elms were continuing to die back in Kersbrooke but are putting out suckers. Land owners and residents need to remove damaged trees.

**Yettington/Climate Change** – Councillor Jim Ferrers said potholes were still being repaired outside Lemprice Farm but not packed down tightly, so don't last long. The road is wet all the year round.

The Trustees of Yettington Hall held a meeting to look at ways to increase use of the Hall. Councillor Ferrers will ask them for a report on progress.

### **Planning Matters:**

**3 Pynes Close: 25/1152/FUL:-** No objections

**Village Hall: 25/0974/FUL:-** The Parish Council fully supports the proposed developments to the village hall and adjacent community shop, which will provide improved facilities for the community, included more flexible use of the building and greater scope for booking of smaller rooms in addition to main hall usage. The proposals provide for greater cohesion between the hall and adjacent community shop, and now becomes an integral co-operative entity, including covered walkways. The proposed toilet facilities will be fully up to date and there will also be external access to separate toilet cubicles that will be welcomed by users of the adjacent playpark and shop. The extension to the shop is also a much-needed improvement as there is a serious shortage of storage space currently.

This complex of buildings and facilities is essentially the social centre of the village and the proposals will further improve the social wellbeing of the community.

### **Financial Reports:**

Council reviewed the Invoices and Financial records including the Budget for June 2025. All were approved. A VAT refund of £22036.46 has been received for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

The meeting ended at 7.23 pm

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 6.0 pm in the Village Hall