

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2025

RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK – All correct

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Derek Wensley, Angie Canning, Jim Ferrers, John Tresidder, & Jim Carter and District Councillors Melanie Martin and Charlotte Fitzgerald (from 6.45 pm).

ABSENT: Parish Councillors Louis Allan and Kathy Moyle BEM and District Councillors Henry Riddell and County Councillor Nick Hookway

Derek Wensley, the Chair praised the outgoing County Councillor Christine Channon who had given 30 years of outstanding service to the community. The whole Council gave their thanks.

Councillors Stood down. Councillors and the Clerk thanked the outgoing Chair, Derek Wensley for his smooth running of the Council over the preceding five and a half years

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor John Tresidder was voted in as Chair. All in favour.

DEPUTY CHAIR

Councillor Jim Ferrers was voted in as Deputy Chair. All in favour

The new Chair, Councillor Tresidder, endorsed the comments of the Council and praised Councillor Wensley's immense contribution to the Council as Chair. He had reviewed policies regularly and brought his knowledge and familiarity of planning procedures, the Neighbourhood Plan and other regulations to the discussions on planning applications. He hoped that Councillor Wensley would continue in his role as advisor on Planning.

Councillor Tresidder referred to a phone call he received from a parishioner which appeared very negative. They criticised the recording of Minutes. Councillor Tresidder reassured her that all rules were correctly followed.

The **Minutes** of the Parish Council meetings held on 21st April 2025 were approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – none

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Martin said Budleigh Salterton was experiencing complaints because of the lack of available toilets. It is hoped to resolve this in time for the Summer visitors. There are plans for a small kiosk to be placed at the top of Steamer Steps, to provide refreshments in place of the beach café which was damaged in earlier storms. She has also arranged for a Councillor to talk to the Council about pursuing the 20 is Plenty Campaign. The Clerk will contact her for a date.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

1. **Appointment of Councillors to Specific Tasks:** Councillors agreed to continue in their existing roles. Councillor Wensley confirmed he will represent the Council on Landscape Recovery, the Local Plan and Planning. He advised that the Clerk and a Councillor should attend the Otter to Exe meeting which occurs about four times a year.
2. Councillors approved the updated **Standing Orders**
3. Councillors approved the reviewed **Risk Assessment**
4. Update on **Clerk Vacancy:** Councillor Wensley confirmed some applications had been received. It was agreed that Councillors Tresidder, Ferrers and Wensley would interview the applicants and liaise with the Clerk over setting a date and place. Councillor Wensley pointed out that the Contract of Employment will need to be reviewed and amended to meet current legal requirements.

District Councillor Fitzgerald reported that the District Council re-elected Paul Arnott as their Leader and John Lowden as Deputy. Paul is also the representative for Devon County Council as part of the new unitary authority. A new portfolio has been set up to cover the Heaths & Seas project. Reports on this are delayed. Richard Jeffries is Chair. Councillor Fitzgerald was elected as vice-chair of the District Council.

REPORTS

Outgoing Chair Councillor Wensley – he presented the Annual Review:

Introduction:

The past year has been another relatively uneventful one in our parish with no major issues. This may be not such a bad thing after an earlier period of negative national press publicity. More recent reports have been more favourable and pictures of East Budleigh seem to regularly feature on East Devon's publicity documents. Fortunately, levels of crime and anti-social behaviour remain very low and the parish is relatively free from littering. In general, people are happy to live in the parish and it remains a desirable location to move to.

Having a broad range of community facilities and organisations is an important factor in this cohesiveness, but getting sufficient volunteers to support these groups remains challenging.

Activity Plans:

With the Lower Otter Restoration Project now naturally maturing, its success is evident by the number of visitors. The reconstituted pathways are very popular for circular walks with scenery and wildlife changing according to the tidal movements and seasons. The associated new cricket facility with The Holt refectory is also very popular.

The new project this year is the Heaths to Sea Landscape Recovery initiative. This is targeted to meet Government initiatives relating to nature and ecological recovery to build a more sustainable

environment for the future. The scheme spans 4,500 hectares of agricultural hinterland linking three parts of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve in East Devon. The focus includes river / floodplain restoration (R. Otter and tributaries) and woodland creation. The scheme is currently in its planning and research phase.

Housing development has become a major factor resulting from revised Government targets to build more houses. East Devon D,C. has been earnestly working on its Local Plan to include commercial and residential development plans through to 2042. Each town and village has been allocated an housing target, which for East Budleigh is 30. A new development site for approximately 22 dwellings has been identified off Frogmore Rd and together with existing developments, the overall target will have largely been met. The Parish is seen as modestly sustainable, but within the context of a National Landscape envelope, a proportionate amount of development has been allocated.

Once the Local Plan is fully finalised, our parish will need to revise its Neighbourhood Plan accordingly and incorporate other aspects of change in our community and environment.

Traffic speed through East Budleigh is seen as an issue for some. Whilst the speed warning signs in East Budleigh and Yettington continue to be effective in calming traffic on the arterial routes, there is concern with the village road itself. Previous Parish Council initiatives requesting “20 is Plenty” and / or 20mph signage have been rebuffed by County Highways as there is insufficient evidence to make it onto the priority list.

The toilet / car park area and Recreation Ground have been running fairly smoothly this year, but parking in the village remains a perennial problem.

The exceptional rainfall this winter has once again put our flood resilience plans under test, but there have been no major incidents.

The future of Salem Chapel remains unresolved, but the local group has been operating the facility for community events under an agreement.

Clerk – Village Matters and Correspondence

1. The Clerk was asked by a resident for permission to pay for and site a “Sit and Chat” bench beside Wynards Road, opposite Trefusis Way. Highways have no objection as long as it does not cause an obstruction.
2. A resident fell on Monday 5th May 2025 when entering the Village Hall car park from beside the bus stop. She asked me to forward her concerns over a kerb down into the carpark where she fell. The Village Hall has painted yellow lines at this access point to increase safety.
3. The Parish Council organised the VE day portion of the May Day celebrations. This was well attended by residents. Thanks were given by Drake’s School, which enabled them to raise more funds than usual for the school.

P3 report by Jon Roseway:

“ I have done the annual paths inspection and found only minor items missing, such as a small number of way markers. The report was delivered to Devon Highways PRoW dept at the end of March. I have said that the parish does not need the annual grant for 2025 because there are adequate funds in the P3 account for operational expenses. There was no grant awarded in 2024 for the same reason.

A contractor from the village has cut sections of two paths that were getting overgrown. I have cleared vegetation around various gates on the parish paths and will continue to do so as necessary.”

Resilience/Shop/Recreation Ground: - Councillor Tresidder:

EAST BUDLEIGH COMMUNITY SHOP

The shop has had some very constructive feedback and suggestions from the community after circulating their request – and will be taking action. Overall the community was really complimentary about the valuable services. It would still be very useful to hear from anyone who does not use the shop so they can work to attract more customers!

GREEN SPACES & RECREATION GROUND 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, avoiding some very prolific wild flowers. I have now planted out the summer bedding for the Memorial, and will try to keep up with watering - just hoping for some rain for the grass!

EMERGENCY RESILIENCE - No incidents to report despite the occasional storm warning. I have cleared a number of drains around the shop area. The sandbags were put to very good use supporting the maypole! Thanks again to the Clerk for the circulation of weather warnings!

VILLAGE HALL/DRAKES SCHOOL: Louis Allan sent in a report:

1. The big news is that the VH refurbishment planning application was submitted at the end of April.
2. The storage trolleys for the new chairs have arrived and the existing chairs are now up for sale online.
3. Work has started repainting the no-go/hazard markings in the hall car park in vibrant yellow - the work will continue once more paint arrives.
4. Drake’s School held a very successful May Day Fair on Bank Holiday Monday with dancing, competitions, fund raising activities and a huge choice of refreshments, including special WI cakes! The event was very well supported by the village and the sum raised by the PTFA amounted to over £2700.

The Clerk reported the Village Hall planning application has been delayed whilst they obtain a further report.

Community Pub – Councillor Angie Canning: The pub survey results were collated and analysed, and some actions are being taken in light of the results, particularly with the food offering. It is now hoped that customers will support the pub by trying the new menus and giving further feedback.

There will be a pub tidy up weekend on 24 May when it is hoped people will volunteer to help with some of the decorating and general upkeep jobs that need to be done.

Local Liaison/Salem Chapel – No report

Cricket Club & Kersbrooke

The Cricket Club is doing well and coping with car parking problems at the moment. Councillor Carter has reported a couple of potholes in Kersbrooke. Mr. Westonage is currently clearing his site, following acceptance of his planning application. Construction items will need to be secured against theft.

Yettington/Climate Change – Councillor Jim Ferrers

“Pot Holes

2 new holes have appeared at Lamprice Farm to be reported
W251852281 Uphams reported 21April 25 highways couldn't find it!
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Previous repairs

W251852281 Uphams reported 21April 25
W251852280 Uphams reported 21April 25
W251842614 Lamprice Farm reported March 25
W251824999 Lamprice Farm completed 04 Feb 2025
W251826531 Uphams completed Feb 2025
D25391340 Lamprice Hill completed Feb 2025
D253913478 Lamprice Hill completed Feb 2025
D253913392 Lamprice Farm completed Feb 2025
D253913393 Lamprice Farm completed Feb 2025
D253916529 Southfield Lodge 11 Feb with contractor
W241791695 completed Oct 2024
W241757806 completed July 2024
W241757805 completed June 2024
W241751949 completed May 2024
W241717412 completed Feb 2024
W231639207 completed June 2023
W231639205 completed June 2023
These repairs all done on a half mile section of road. How do we get a permanent repair.”

Planning Matters:

Re 9 Trefusis Road: This planning application has been accepted, with several amendments made to the original application.

Rolle Arms: Councillor Wensley reported that planning permission has been granted but with several provisions about construction activities.

Frogmore Road Development of 5 houses:- groundworks were input several months ago. The plot is now up for sale.

Frogmore Road Development below Syon House – 25 homes:- Lestyn John of Bloor Homes will be arranging a further meeting with Councillors prior to submission of plans for this development.

Financial Reports:

Council approved the AGAR (Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/25, which was signed by the Chair and Clerk. Accounts for the end of year to March 2025 were also approved and signed off by the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Council reviewed the Financial records including the Budget for April 2025. All were approved. The Clerk has applied for the VAT refund for 2024/2025.

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on
Monday 16th June 2025 at 6.0 pm in the Village Hall