

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Judith Venning
Clerk to the Council
01395 489155
clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk

1 Chichester Way
East Budleigh
Devon
EX9 7ER

Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21st July 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 Councillor Melanie Martin.

Apologies: District Councillors Henry Riddell and Charlotte Fitzgerald.

Chair, Councillor Tresidder thanked the Clerk, Judith Venning for her work for the Parish Council over the past five years and presented her with a large plant, being a gift from all the Parish Councillors. Councillor Wensley also gave his personal thanks for her support and her work on setting up new processes for the smooth running of the Council. Judith thanked the Councillors for their support and friendship during her tenure. The new Clerk, Lucinda Francis was welcomed. She will start her training with Judith on 12th August 2025, with Judith's retirement taking place on 31st August 2025.

The **Minutes** of the Parish Council meetings held on 17th June 2025 and the **Planning Minutes** of 2nd July were approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – County Councillor Nick Hookway reported that Vicarage Road will soon be resurfaced. He said it can take two years for any traffic orders, such as lowering the speed limit to be implemented. He said that there are plans to close the A376 while a roundabout is constructed for the Dinan Way extension. There may be a diversion for several weeks via Knowle towards Colaton Raleigh and potentially through East Budleigh. He will keep the Council informed. He said there was dis-satisfaction with the local Bus Service and the County Council was trying to address the problems with Stagecoach.

Councillor Wensley highlighted the potential additional increase in traffic from the Frogmore Road development with a potential need for traffic lights at the junction into East Budleigh. Councillors were waiting on an invitation from Bloor Homes to look at the Frogmore development before the planning application is submitted.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor Martin sent a late report:

“Local Gov Reorganisation. Local Government Reorganisation is now being lead by John London, Sidmouth District Councillor who is also the new Deputy Leader of EDDC. Previously Paul Arnott, but he is now steering LGR for Devon County. To date the preferred option for Devon is - The retention of the existing unitary of Plymouth plus two unitary authorities One being South Hams, Teignbridge, West Devon, and Torbay And the other uniting east Devon, mid Devon, North Devon, Torridge and Exeter. The options were submitted to Jim McMahon, Minister of State (Local Government and English Devolution). They have come back asking for the proposals to be further developed and we have until 28 Nov to do this. Next steps - Andy Wood, Director of Place, is putting together a team across all districts to start data sharing and to create a plan of how people services such as SEND (Special Ed Needs and Disability) , Adult Services, and Housing will be delivered effectively in the future. - A meeting with Town and Parish Councils is on the radar but no date has been set yet and won’t be until the new team have further info to share. - Re Devon County Council, as this is now a new administration, it remains to be seen what information will be forthcoming, they have not yet met. **Budleigh Salterton Toilets** An internal meeting took place last week to discuss the Budleigh toilets. Issues on the following matters were discussed and will be further scrutinised at a future public meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, date to be advised. Project. Management Communications Signage Temporary facilities Costs Resources Teething issues Budget Lessons learned Next steps with subsequent sites.”

Councillor Martin also said discussions were taking place following requests from residents for exemption or reduction to fees for use of the new toilets on Budleigh sea front. She will investigate what arrangements are in place for people with Radar keys.

Matters for Discussion

Massachusetts Twinning Invitation: Councillor Tresidder opened a discussion on the invitation from the Mayor of Salem to establish twinning links with East Budleigh. Members of the Roger Conant Group and History Group were invited to comment. Maria Malinowski read out her email:

“Dear Council, I am writing in response to the twinning invitation received from Salem, Massachusetts.

It is a true honour for the City of Salem to extend an invitation to twin with East Budleigh. East Budleigh should accept the invitation with good grace and welcome the historic connection.

Given the vast distance, I see this mostly as an online relationship. We could add a twinning link to the East Budleigh website front page and provide details there covering the Roger Conant story. This could include a guide to download. I am in the process of writing “10 things to see at All Saints” which includes the Peacemaker painting and could be included.

If people from Salem want to visit East Budleigh, the link could carry details of Raleigh’s Rest. It may be appropriate to have a local contact listed for the Roger Conant Group. I would not support the expense of new twinning signposts naming Salem but do feel we could have a signpost naming Roger Conant the Peacemaker in addition to Sir Walter Raleigh.

Next year 2026, being the 400th anniversary, a Peacemaker Festival has been supported by the All Saints Parochial Church Council. All Saints will hold a Peacemaker Festival next summer to commemorate Roger Conant born in East Budleigh (1592) and the 400th anniversary of his founding Salem, Massachusetts (1626). The Bishop of

Exeter, Bishop Mike has accepted our invitation to address the Peacemaker Festival. The Peacemaker Festival is planned to run over the weekend 16/17 May 2026: Saturday - All Saints peace-themed music concert addressed by the Bishop (fundraiser for All Saints) Sunday - Village music with Drakes School, and village musicians, followed by a simple buffet hosted by All Saints.

Ian Blackwell, a member of the Roger Conant Group said that following further discussions with the representatives from Massachusetts, it was felt that links between the two groups and official recognition would be more appropriate. Councillors were in favour and supported the plans for celebration. Stephen Jones confirmed the Clerk had submitted an article to the Parish News to gauge public opinion.

The Clerk confirmed there is a webpage for local groups on the Parish Council website, where appropriate information on Salem, Roger Conant and the History Group can be placed. She confirmed that the Roger Conant group was given approval by the Parish Council some time ago to pursue the addition of a sign at the entrance of the Village, referencing East Budleigh as the birth place of Roger Conant. Councillor Wensley agreed to be the representative on the Parish Council for further progress reports.

Have Your Say Survey: Councillor Tresidder encouraged everyone to take the survey on their opinions for the reorganisation of local government. The Clerk agreed to promote this through the usual channels.

Traffic Matters: Councillors Tresidder and Ferrers have had discussions with Tracy who runs a very successful Speedwatch in Yettington. She provided statistics to show their success and the action then taken on offenders. She confirmed the Speed Indicator Device was a great help in lowering speeds. Councillor Moyle raised the continuing problem with large vehicles. Councillor Tresidder recalled a meeting that took place in 2019 with all parties, to find a solution on access to the international Horse Trial. The only alternative would be if land could be purchased to bypass the main Yettington Road. Signage had been improved by Clinton Devon Estates. Councillor Wensley said Otterton had what may be unofficial signs through the village promoting “20 is plenty”. Councillor Martin will find out where the signs came from. Councillor Carter expressed his concern at traffic passing through Kersbrook and across to the Cricket Club.

Traffic in Green Lanes: Councillor Tresidder had completed a DEFRA request, highlighting the problem of green lanes having dual use for motorcycles, such as our Nature Trail.

REPORTS

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

CHAIR’S REPORT

I am very pleased to report that Lucinda Francis will be taking up her post as the new Parish Clerk and RFO on 12th August. This gives us a really useful overlap before Judith Venning’s retirement at the end of August. Judith will be greatly missed; she has been such a good support to the Council and has been very effective in keeping the Council running smoothly.

I met with the Roger Conant Group and Karen Scalia, who is organizing part of Salem's quadricentennial celebrations in 2026. She delivered a letter from the Mayor of Salem City, which has been circulated. The Roger Conant Group are working on some exciting plans to celebrate this anniversary in the village.

I attended a meeting of the Otter to Exe group, which brings together Chairs and Clerks from local parishes. It was very interesting to meet them all and talk about common interests.

East Budleigh Community Shop

On the management front, Anne Davies has now retired after many years of excellent work since 2009. Sophie Wilkins has joined the team as her replacement. Mel Ferrers plans to retire later in the year and her successor, Katherine Jayasekera, will start training for the role in mid-September.

Green Spaces & Recreation Ground : Nothing to report – not much grass to cut, but plenty of watering needed!

Emergency Resilience: No emergencies to report!

1. **Clerk – Village Matters and Correspondence:** May the Clerk ask Bagwells to investigate problems with the exterior lights and general wiring at the Public Toilets? The outside light appears to stay on all the time. – Permission was granted.
2. I have emailed Highways again asking for them to prioritise repair of the SID on Oak Hill. The Highways officer seems to have inspected the wrong SID and I pointed this out to him in April. Their ref ENQ251844427
3. I received an email from a concerned resident reporting further collisions at Brick Cross due to the conflicting road markings. I emailed Emma at Highways to ask if this is being prioritised, and also copied in Nick Hookway, as this was previously being pursued by Christine Channon. Emma responded to say she would visit the site on 10th July 2025 to assess the problem and would pass her observation to the Traffic Officer.
4. Jon Roseway reported weeds clogging the stream at the Rolle Arms bridge. I reported it on the "report a problem" website. But, if the water is flowing through successfully, the Environment Agency prefer to leave it alone, rather than to have cut weeds floating down the brook.

P3 report by Jon Roseway: Nothing to report. The Clerk has received notice that Jon will retire at the end of the year, so a new Path warden will be required. Councillors were asked to search for a suitable person to take over. The Clerk said training and equipment can be provided.

Derek Wensley – Landscape Recovery/Heaths to Sea: Councillor Wensley said discussions were now focused on Home Farm. The concept for the future is 1. To protect the rivers, brooks and contributories in the Lower Area. 2. To turn the steep grassland to scrub with appropriate grazing to encourage wildlife. 3. To extend the forestry further up the hill towards Mutters Moor.

Village Hall/Drakes School: - Louis Allan.” The planning application for the refurbishment of the Village Hall is still awaiting a decision from the planning authority. The Hall Trustees were disappointed that, after an extension to the consultation period there were such negative statements by villagers claiming there has been no evidence of meaningful engagement with the wider community and expressing concerns about additional noise, traffic, and general activity (which) would have a detrimental effect on the quality of life for residents. Fresh supplies of vibrant yellow paint have been obtained and the painting of the no-go/hazard markings on the hall site has restarted”

The Clerk said she had communicated with Nick James who confirmed only one objection of the plans had been lodged with the Planning department. This came from residents who had previously given their approval.

Community Pub – Councillor Angie Canning: “Following the pub survey, valid points were acted upon and the pub remains committed to trying to serve the needs of as many customers as possible.

As ever there is a need for more volunteers to help keep the pub open for everyone. It doesn’t have to be a massive commitment, but we do need commitment!

Ciderfest and live music will just have happened before the meeting which will hopefully have been a success”

Councillor Canning said the pub had an extremely successful few days with music events, Morris dancers and Happy Hour.

Local Liaison/Salem Chapel – Kathy Moyle BEM – Councillor Moyle said she had received no further updates on the sale of Salem Chapel. Councillor Tresidder said he was communicating with Heritage Trust for more information, including the number of open days required.

Cricket Club & Kersbrooke: Councillor Carter said the gates were now being closed at the Cricket Club over night to prevent unauthorised entry.

Yettington/Climate Change – Councillors discussed the likely cost of repairs to Yettington Road. Councillor Ferrers asked if Council could discover the cost spent so far. He suggested a cheaper option would be to purchase appropriate machinery, which would achieve long lasting repairs and save costs in the long run. Councillor Tresidder offered to speak to County Councillor Hookway to obtain the information.

Pot Holes in Yettington:

D253947183 Four Firs Out with contractor for repair

D253947184 Four Firs Out with contractor for repair

D253947185 Four Firs Out with contractor for repair

W251875072 Uphams reported 10th July

Previous repairs

2 holes at Lamprice Farm repaired June 24

W251852281 Uphams reported 21April 25 highways couldn’t find it!

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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.

Devon Climate Emergency

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/3daf503>

Defibrillator

Tested and working correctly

Flooding

Nothing to report.

Speed watch Statistics for Yettington

Site	Month	Total	No Action	Letter 1	Letter 2	Further Action
CSWKE16A	Feb25	10	2	7	1	0
CSWKE16B	Feb25	6	3	3	0	0
CSWKE16A	March 25	4	1	3	0	0
CSWKE16B	March 25	7	0	6	1	0
CSWKE16A	April 25	9	1	9	0	0
CSWKE16B	April 25	13	0	13	0	0
CSWKE16A	May 25	6	0	5	1	0
CSWKE16B	May 25	21	1	18	2	0

Planning Matters:

Kerslake Farm 25/1420/AGR:- Whilst the siting of the lagoon is satisfactory from a visibility viewpoint, it is noted that the proposed lagoon appears to be sited at around 65m altitude compared with the farm and residential dwellings below to the South in Yettington sited at around 25 – 30m altitude. Perhaps a surveyor could assess whether there is any potential risk of flooding should a leak arise from the lagoon?

2 High Street, East Budleigh 25/145/FUL:- The Parish Council has no objection to the loft conversion per se. It is noted, however, that the property is at the end of a terrace of six brick

houses in the conservation area and is directly opposite the village shop / hall / car park complex. Two other houses in the terrace have installed roof windows, but in dark grey framed colour to match the roof slates in both cases. Therefore, in this context, for this application, use of dark grey colour framed roof windows to match the roof slates, rather than white uPVC, would be less obtrusive when viewed from the village complex and Wynards Rd and would better match the existing conservation area street scene.

The Clerk will submit all reports to the Planning portal.

Financial Reports:

Council reviewed the Invoices and Financial records including the Budget for July 2025. All were approved.

A resident spoke on behalf of other residents in the Parish to thank Judith Venning for her work as Clerk and to welcome the new Clerk, Lucinda Francis.

The meeting ended at 7.37 pm

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on
Monday 15th September 2025 at 6.0 pm in the Village Hall