

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Virtual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30th March 2021

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

A vote was taken on an application to be co-opted to the Parish by Kevin Quant. All were in favour and welcomed his return.

The **MINUTES** of the Virtual Council Meeting held on 23rd February 2021 were approved. The **MINUTES** of the Planning Meeting held on 19th March 2021 were approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

County Councillor Christine Channon – Councillor gave her report on the year's events. Many things have been achieved and plans are being made for a bright future. Her report is annexed to these minutes. The matter of the layby was raised. This has now been filled with earth and grassed over. Cllr. Channon and Cllr. Jarvis both recommended further planting of trees and plants in this area.

District Councillor Paul Jarvis spoke about the difficulties of returning too early to face to face meetings. NALC are still lobbying parliament and the law courts to extend the date from early May 2021, with some flexibility for what people feel most comfortable with.

MATTERS ARISING from the previous Minutes: None.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Climate Change – Reports from Devon County and Devon Communities had been shared with Councillors. This will become an issue that will change the focus on everything the Council does. Councillor Tresidder continues to monitor developments with County. Several Parish Councils have already declared a Climate Emergency and are developing policies to support it. Councillor Wensley suggested this subject be shared with the East Budleigh Collaboration Group in order to involve local groups at an early stage. Councillor Jarvis agreed that even Parish Councils can take steps for change, especially if they include the School children in their projects. Councillor Jarvis said that the collaborative response that had occurred during Covid was a brilliant example of what can be achieved.

S106 & CIL – Councillor Wensley provided a list of all potential and current projects being develop with funding from S106 and from CIL. Councillors approved all the expenditures. They

approved of the new play equipment and sheltered seating that is planned for the Village Hall Playground. See appendix 3. Councillor Houston kindly volunteered to project manage the fitting of a second gate on the Recreation Ground.

End of Year Budget – The Clerk had provided a forecast for the year end. Councillor Wensley highlighted that we had now built up our reserves to a better level covering about 5 ½ months expenditure.

Design Codes – A vigorous discussion took place on this detailed subject. Councillor Wensley said that Sue Cooper was giving her time free of charge, to assist the Council. Sue Cooper had provided notes and suggestions and now asks for the Parish Council to consider them. Councillor Carter said that actions need to be agreed with farmers and Government and the ELMS project was working to address that. Local landowners may have their own agricultural plans too. He advised caution in coming to conclusions when other people may want to be involved, as they were with the Neighbourhood Plan. He felt that a group might need to be established to work on the Codes.

Councillor Wensley felt Sue's work was comprehensive in respect of East Budleigh village, but there were other Parish communities to consider. Sue had specifically excluded Bicton Park, however, due to its special heritage attributes. Councillor Carter will talk to Kevin Quant about matters to the North of the Parish. He felt it would be good to meet informally for a wider discussion. The Design Codes build upon the existing Parish stance with regard to the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan.

Council took a vote. It was agreed that Sue should exclude matters being addressed by ELMS for the moment and that Councillor Carter would discuss trees and hedges further with her. It was also agreed that Sue should take full account of the Devon Carbon Plan.

Council felt that net zero carbon footprint in 2030 was optimistic but that the Parish should develop plans to set achievable carbon reduction targets. Councillor Houston said we need to look at the options that relate to our car parks and other assets. There needed to be a balance between aspiration and practicality. Councillor Walters was concerned about how more modern dwellings fitted with the aspirations of the Design Codes. Chimneys may have been removed in some cases and large windows and exterior lighting could impact bat flight paths, He also felt that there was a heavy emphasis on bats but that other environmental species such as bees did not feature. He pointed out the difficulties of making 1960s dwelling more energy efficient. Councillor Wensley explained that Sue had identified 14 categories of development area within the village covering different eras and house style etc.

We may need to lobby EDDC in matters of planning in respect of energy efficiency as new dwellings are still being built without now accepted measures to reduce their carbon footprint. Councillor Jarvis said EDDC faced challenges in respect of affordable housing.

Council agreed to plan for Design Code authorisation at the next meeting, if appropriate. A vote was taken, and all agreed to an approach that balances aspiration against reality was required.

Work Plans - Councillor Wensley said the Clerk will publish in the Parish News, the list of our plans for the future. (Appendix 3) ***A vote was taken. All were happy with the plans and for it to be published.***

Review of Standing Orders & Regulations – Councillor Wensley said the annual review of Standing Orders and Regulations was due. Councillor Shaw offered to do this.

Reports

Chair: Councillor Wensley said the regular reports in the Parish News had informed residents of our work throughout the preceding year. In respect of the Annual Parish Meeting, it was agreed, due to Covid safety considerations, to hold it later in the year.

Clerk: The Clerk reported two potholes had been filled quickly by DCC. Dog mess was occurring on a couple of sites but was difficult to stop.

Correspondence:

- A request had been made to address traffic issues when the regular bus service stops at The Pound. Councillor Houston offered to pursue this with Emma of Highways.
- A party had been held at the Village hall playpark, breaking Covid restrictions. The Trustees put out a strict warning on the Village WhatsApp, pointing out they risked having to close the outdoor facilities.
- Councillor Walters organised replacement of a flood gate.
- A resident in Oakhill was concerned at dog mess regularly appearing near her house. She had spoken to EDDC.
- County Council and Crime Commissioner elections are due on 6th May 2021.

Parish Paths Partnership: Nothing to report.

Community Shop: Councillor Tresidder provided a full report. Extracts were: The 12th Annual General Meeting took place on 25th February using Zoom. A small deficit was reported for the last financial year, but the shop has seen a significant increase in turnover since October, and the average basket value has doubled since the same period last year. The management committee members were re-elected, with Paul Smith as Chair.

Village Hall: The AGM is on 27th April 2021. Chris Dearsley will stand down and it is expected that Joe Murphy will assume the interim role.

Devon Climate Emergency Council Support Network: The recent online survey was completed by 1,300 respondents. Over the next few weeks, the Net-Zero Task Force will be preparing a consultation report that will summarise the main recommendations, which will be published on the Devon County Council website. Councillor Tresidder plans to carry out a survey about Electric Chargers.

Wildflowers and Nature Trail – Councillor Ward reported the Nature Trail was almost completed and seeds were being sown around the Parish. Interpretation Boards will be erected by the end of April and Children's Nature Kits available from the shop. Councillor Ward would like to encourage the school to place bug boxes and similar items on the trail. Councillor Wensley thanked her for her hard work.

Prompt Action Fund – Councillor Walters reported all funds spent, with an overspend of 28p. The final Emergency Plan is on the website and a copy has been sent to Devon Communities Together, for use by the authorities. Councillor Walters applied to purchase further warning signs for use in a variety of emergencies. This was agreed.

Traffic Matters: Councillor Houston is waiting to do a walk round the village with Emma Stamp from Highways. Other matters are on hold. Councillor Carter thanked Councillor Dent for sorting out a problem with soil being removed from a building site and dumped in a field.

Cricket Club: Councillor Carter said the field had been ploughed. The Environment Agency tested the stream between Up Ottery and Kersbrook, as part of the LORP monitoring.

Planning: Ref 21/0526/FUL: Leeford Plantation, Knowle Hill, Budleigh Salterton. Councillor Wensley supplied observations.

Recommendation:

21/0526/FUL No objection provided the foul waste disposal proposals meet all the required environmental standards and that residual odours are not overbearing.

21/0529/FUL No objection provided the foul waste disposal proposals meet all the required environmental standards and that residual odours are not overbearing.

Accounts and Finances: All invoices were approved for payment. Financial Reports were all accepted. The Clerk confirmed she had found a cheaper energy supplier for the Electricity for the Public Toilets.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

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

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 27th April 2021

See Appendices on following pages.

Appendix 1:

County Councillor's Report for East Budleigh With Bicton Annual Parish Meeting 2021

What a strange and rather frightening year this has been. It is good job that we were not able to look our crystals balls twelve months ago and see the year ahead. The Covid pandemic has brought out both the best and the worst in us. I am full of admiration for the residents of East Budleigh and Bicton for the way in which you have displayed such excellent community spirit and concern. You have sought out the vulnerable, kept the shop open, held virtual Parish meetings, and even made masks for a care home. It is at times like this we see the value of close-knit small communities. The staff at Drake's School have done an excellent job in both continuing to teach children of key workers whilst at the same time providing on-line lessons for children who were not permitted to attend. I am pleased to report that attendance is now at 95%.

Now we need to move on. We need to regenerate our economy and help businesses and families recover from the damage that the pandemic has done. Devon County Council has made a commitment to lead on such a recovery. Part of the reason that we managed to keep the effect of Covid limited in Devon is due to the fact that Team Devon has worked in collaboration with Districts, Towns, Parishes, Health, Police, and the Voluntary Sector to support Devon residents over this pandemic. Let us hope that this will continue in the future.

Devon CC organised food vouchers for the 15,000 young people eligible for free school meals over Christmas and Easter holidays. We have invested in skills and training, supporting Bicton and Exeter Colleges and more recently rescued the Flybe Academy. We have also made major improvement to some of Devon's vital road arteries and in spite of delays during the lockdowns several key roads in my ward have now been resurfaced. A multi-million-pound programme to install fast Broadband is under way and soon the access to Wi-Fi in East Budleigh should be greatly improved. The need for technology over the last twelve months has made this a key priority.

With respect to Climate Emergency, we have already reduced the carbon footprint of Devon by 50%. Currently, you may have noticed that we are changing streetlights to LED lamps, which not only save money but carbon emissions. I am delighted that East Budleigh is planting so many new trees and we need to look for more land to further this work as it offsets the carbon footprint.

During the year I became a member of the Advisory Board for the Budleigh Hospital Health and Well-being Hub (which incidentally in April will be remarketed as Seachange to make it sound more inclusive). They have done some splendid work during the last year co-ordinating volunteers to deliver meals, shop and support vulnerable people and it is wonderful how many local people have volunteered for this work. There is a plan to open a new medical day support unit at the Hub quite soon.

It has been a very busy year. Virtual meetings are too easy to arrange at little cost, so unfortunately both the number and the length of them has increased considerably. Most of our officers have been working from home and it has taken much longer to get answers to questions and queries. I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council and the Clerk for all your support. You are the eyes and ears of your local community and play a very valuable role. I would also wish to thank Alan, Paul and Tom for working with me as a team. It is the only way to get things done! **Christine Channon 30th March 2021**

Appendix 2:

Capital Project and ad hoc Revenue Finance proposals

The Parish Council needs to finalise projects and expenditure for the S106 capital funding as a matter of some urgency and to also agree the desired interim project expenditure for the CIL Capital programme. There are also a few ad hoc project proposals from the Revenue budget 2020/21. Some of these have previously been authorised by the Parish Council and now authorisation is sought to complete the proposals below:

S106 Open Spaces project Avail fund = £3924	Estimated Cost	Approved Parish Council	Approved EDDC	Comments
Nature Trail	£1,575	Yes	Yes	Nearing completion
Inner gate to Rec (Wynards)	£403	Yes	Yes	Approved Sept / Oct 2020
Playpark shelter / bench	£2,019	No	Yes	
Total	£3,997			Excess £73 to be funded from underspent Hall budget
S106 Sport / Play project Avail fund = £5,007	Estimated Cost	Approved Parish Council	Approved EDDC	Comments
Spinner, Basketball hoop	£5,007	Approved by consultation exercise 2017	Yes	At planning stage for installation in the playpark
CIL project Avail fund = £8,459	Estimated Cost	Approved Parish Council	Approved EDDC	Comments
Toilet refurbishment	£6,091	Yes	Yes	Complete
E. Bud Phone Box refurb	£140?	Yes	Yes	Asset approved by Neighbourhood Plan
Yettington Phone Box refurb	£1,525?	Yes	?	Asset approved by Neighbourhood Plan
Total	£7,756			Approx figure
Ad Hoc Revenue project	Estimated Cost	Approved Parish Council	Budget	Comments
Flyers for Nature Trail	£23	Indirectly	S137	
Notice Board in car park	£630	No	Reserves	Complement toilet refurb and visitor focal point. 2020/21 has been underspent overall.

Comments regarding Revenue budget financial year end position – projected estimates.

The major projected underspends are as follows:

VAT £1,314	Due to no VAT on SW Cleaners, reduced VAT on Streetscene
Streetscene £1,239	Grass cutting only charged part year due to Covid.
Flood / emergency £506	Unpredictable budget and as such has been deleted and will be covered by reserves from 2021/22 as agreed in January 2021 on precept setting.
Various	Insurance (£322), Hall (£218 - £73 above), Reserves (£800 - £630 above),

The major projected overspends are as follows:

Toilet cleaning £812	Additional cleaning due to Covid
Salaries £439	Under budgeted in 2020/21, has been increased for 2021/22 in precept.

Projected overall position:

Due to the implications of the pandemic, there have been some abnormal and unpredictable under / overspends in 2020/21. This could result in an increase in the bank balance (General Reserve) of around £2,500 - £3,000 at the year-end, bringing the balance to approximately £12,500 - £13,000.

Around 3-4 years ago, the balance was £13,000 but this dipped by £3,500 due to the 30mph unbudgeted sign. Therefore, the balance has been restored. The recommended reserve is between 3 to 12 month's expenditure. The 2020/21 projected balance would represent about 5 ½ month's expenditure, so well within bounds.

It is anticipated that expenditure in 2021/22 will be as budgeted.

DRW 24/3/21

Appendix 3:

PLANS AND PROJECTS FOR EAST BUDLEIGH WITH BICTON PARISH COUNCIL IN 2021/22

1. Respond to parishioners concerns and keep parishioners informed through 'open' working and comprehensive website.
2. Consult with parishioners on matters of importance or significant value.
3. Respond to the ongoing implications of the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. EDDC Local Plan ongoing consultation (developments including environmental and housing in East Devon towns and parishes)
5. EDDC future Planning legislation consultation (including Design Codes and implications for the Neighbourhood Plan)
6. Respond to Planning applications
7. Devon Carbon Plan and climate change implications for the Parish. Develop parish plans using the templates available and monitor parish carbon footprint.
8. Ongoing programme of tree and flower planting. Complete the Nature Trail project.
9. Monitor and participate in developments relating to the Environmental Land Management Scheme
10. Neighbourhood Plan ongoing implementation
11. Traffic monitoring and proposals for further safety
12. Collaborative working with the newly formed parish group (Hall, School, Church, Shop, Council)
13. Support parish group volunteers and communicate items of interest (e.g., grant availability)
14. Arrange a parish tidy up day.
15. Ongoing emergency planning, including flooding, requirements.
16. Ensuring that footpaths are safe and usable.
17. Monitor use and tidiness of the Recreation Ground.
18. Ongoing implications of the Lower Otter Restoration Project and the France And Britain electricity cable project.
19. Ensuring parish amenities and assets are well maintained, including the car park and toilets.
20. Ensuring that Assets of Community Value are monitored for that purpose.
21. Telephone boxes refurbishment and use
22. Implement capital programme improvements to village green and Rec.
23. Monitor and encourage developments relating to full fibre broadband implementation.
24. Ensuring the conservation area is appropriately maintained in line with the Conservation Report 2020
25. Ensuring that Council Tax funds are spent in the best interests of parishioners and take advantage of any grants available or funds for improvement works.

If you want to be part of the plans to protect and improve our environment, please consider becoming a Councillor and adding your voice to our discussions. DRW 24/3/21