

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 9th May 2022 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Fleming, Stangoe and Whitmore, the clerk and seven members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Thomas.

Election of Chairman: Cllr. Fleming, proposed by Cllr. Cushing, seconded by Cllr. Clark and carried unanimously.

Election of Vice Chairman: It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting, to give Cllr. Thomas the opportunity to stand, if she so wishes.

Cllr. Fleming then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as chairman.

Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Whitmore declared an interest as a member of the PCC in donations to be discussed.

Minutes: Those of the 28th February 2022 and the planning meeting of 21st March 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. The noisy drain cover in Eyke Street has now been repaired, much to the relief of those living nearby.
2. Traffic Issues. Cllr. Cushing reported that he attended a meeting of the Joint Parishes Traffic Initiative on 3rd March, and there will be another in a couple of weeks. Progress is slow, but on a positive note the help of a retired Transport Planner has been enlisted, and Cllr. Cushing has today circulated his commentary to councillors. This should avoid the need to spend a considerable sum on achieving this through a paid service.
3. Recreation Ground. The clerk has sourced two 'No Dogs' signs. Cllr. Cushing will take them and fix them to the playground gates, and at the same time measure the height barrier with a view to ordering a sign for that.
4. Sale of The Elephant & Castle. The moratorium period expires on 30th May, and there has been no word on any progress with a community bid.
5. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The one event scheduled is the Afternoon Tea on Sunday, 5th June. The clerk has established from Cllr Mallinder that it will be in order to use some of the funds from the Enabling Communities Budget, previously earmarked for VE Day celebrations which did not take place because of covid, to support it.
6. Festival of Suffolk. The Lord Lieutenant's Torch Relay, covering 550 miles around Suffolk, will arrive in Eyke on 30th May, and arrangements are now in hand for Eyke's torchbearer, Cllr. Whitmore to meet the relay in Eyke Street. Mrs. Liz Morrison will be the bearer through Spratt Street. The Clerk will pass the details to Cllr. Clark for the Council's Facebook page.

Other Matters:

1. Upgrading the street lighting. The lights through the village are being upgraded by SCC to more efficient and environmentally friendly LED lanterns.

It was noted from the floor that this work has recently been completed.

It was agreed to look again at the next meeting at the possibility of upgrading the parish council owned lights in Church Lane, particularly in view of the increasing cost of electricity. With an annual bill last year for electricity and maintenance of £537, it was felt to be a worthwhile exercise.

2. Post 16 travel. If enough interest is generated, it could be viable to have a dedicated bus to take students to and from College in Ipswich. This has been flagged up in the newsletter, and Cllr. Clark will put it on the parish council facebook page. Interested parties need to register an interest online by the end of May.

Planning Decision: Planning Application DC/22/0537/VOC went to the referral panel on 19th April, as the Parish Council's objection was contrary to the officer's recommendation. The referral panel did not support the parish council's objection, and it was therefore delegated back to the head of Coastal and Development Management to be issued in line with the officer's recommendation of approval.

Finance:

1. The Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2022 was put before the council and approved.
2. The Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2022 was put before the council and approved.
3. The Certificate of Exemption was put before the council and approved.
4. Mr Fisher, the internal auditor has checked the accounts and found all in order.
5. In reviewing the financial control for safeguarding public money, it was agreed that all remains as before, and existing guidelines are followed. Cllr. Stangoe will continue to check the accounts and reconciliations on a half yearly basis. The small number of transactions do not merit a quarterly inspection.
6. Current balances: (at 1.4.22) Community Account: £3772.00; Rate Reward: £8601.96; BPA: £118.63
7. Request from A.C.E.S Parents' Association at Eyke School. The group is trying to raise money to replace the outdoor play equipment, and plan to hold a Summer Fayre on 18th June. They ask if the parish council would be prepared to support with a draw prize or other donation. It was agreed to donate £50 to be given as a cash prize, and also to offer a free half day use of the village hall, when work is complete.
8. Cheques to be agreed:
 - S.A.L.C. Subscription: £190.84
 - Information Commissioner for Data Protection Fee: £40.00
 - Mrs Pooley Annual Expenses: £125.00
 - Mrs Pooley for payment to Thurlow Nunn in respect of "No Dogs" signs: £32.93;
 - Donation to Eyke P.C.C. towards grasscutting: £750.00
 - Donation to A.C.E.S: £50.00

To Receive Items for Information:

Cllr. Cushing and Mrs Clements were thanked for their work in planting and tending the Jubilee Oak.

Dates of meetings for the next year: This will continue to be the second Monday of every other month.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.