

The Annual General Meeting of Eyke Parish Council took place on 12th May 2014 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Mr Fleming, Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Cushing, Mr Smith, Mr Whitmore, the clerk and two members of the public.

Apologies: Mr Mutton

Election of Chairman: Mr Fleming was proposed by Mr Whitmore, seconded by Mr Smith and carried unanimously. He then signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

Election of Vice Chairman: Mrs Abu-Hejleh was proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mr Cushing and carried unanimously.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minutes: Those of 10.3.14, and the extraordinary meeting of 31.3.14, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Traffic calming. The start date has been deferred from 14th April to 14th July at the latest, as a result of the very heavy workload experienced by SCC repairing potholes and deteriorating roads following the wet weather over the winter. Mrs Abu-Hejleh asked if there was any news on the moving of the speed limit at the south end of the village. The clerk will chase this up.
2. Bentwaters Planning Application. This will be followed up further at the meeting on Wednesday, May 14th when the Parish Council will frame its response to the amended application.
3. Suffolk Preservation Society. The Parish Council agreed to join at a fee per annum of £30.

Reports:

1. Mrs Abu-Hejleh attended the SALC meeting on 17th March and the Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan Drop In Event on 6th May. The former meeting covered topics including the East Suffolk Partnership, Public Health, The Sustainable Communities Act and dealt with issues such as poor and patchy mobile network coverage and broadband. The latter will be discussed at the next meeting. The other matters touched on were local police stations, the East Rail Partnership and the changes in planning guidance which have in some cases led to a weakening of certain policies.

The major concern felt by Mrs Abu-Hejleh at the latter meeting was that the projected number of new houses within the plan, another 430 over the next 15 years, plus the pressure from SCDC and developers to increase this number further would lead to a significant rise in traffic volume through Eyke. It was agreed that Eyke Parish Council would respond to Rendlesham about this in strong terms.

2. Mr Cushing attended the seminar on the new public access system for the planning service at SCDC in March. It is generally felt that the site is easier to use, although there are still problems to be ironed out.

Planning: Permission granted under the Town and Country Planning Act for improvements and upgrading of existing forest access road off B1084 into Rendlesham Forest to enable safe access and egress by forestry vehicles.

Finance:

1. End of year accounts, financial statement and annual governance statement. Mr Fisher has checked these and found all in order. All were agreed and signed.
2. Cheques were agreed as follows: Eyke PCC (donation) £350.00; Eyke and Rendlesham Village Hall (donation and hall hire) £350.00; Little Leaders Childcare (donation) £100.00; Suffolk Preservation Society (annual membership fee) £30.00; East Suffolk Travellers' Association (4 year membership) £75.00; S.A.L.C.(subscription) £170.00; Mrs J Pooley (stationery, printing and telephone expenses) £125.00. The current account balance at 31.3.14 was £5020.01
3. Review of financial control for safeguarding public money. Following new guidelines, it is now

possible for parish councils to do away with the need to use cheques signed by two councillors, and to use internet banking, as long as there are strict safeguards in place. This would have some advantages for Eyke Parish Council, although the parish council does not have enough transactions in the year for it to be imperative to change. It was agreed to consider the matter at the March 2015 meeting, prior to the new financial year.

Dates of meeting for the next year: 2nd Monday, every other month at 7.00pm.
Next meeting: 14th July 2014.

In the absence of Any Other Business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm.