

The Annual Meeting of Eyke Parish Council took place on Monday, 13th May 2019 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs. Clark, Cushing, Fleming, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore, the clerk and three members of the public. District Councillor James Mallinder attended from 7.50 to 8.10pm.

Apologies: Cllr. Abu-Hejleh.

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

Election of Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Thomas, proposed by Cllr. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. Cushing and carried unanimously.

Councillors then signed their Acceptances of Office.

They were reminded that their Declaration of Election Expenses and Register of Members' Interests must be completed and returned online by 30th May. There was also a reminder that the parish council is signed up to the Suffolk Local Code of Conduct; the clerk will forward details to Cllr. Clark.

Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Whitmore as a member of the PCC, in relation to the donation under Finance 5.

Minutes: Those of 11.03.19 and the planning meeting of 18.03.19, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. Cllr Cushing reported that the meeting held last week had identified an outline of what refurbishment is desirable. Cllr Clark is looking into funding sources, of which there seem to be quite a few, but the first step is a costed business plan. Proof of ownership and charity status is also required, so currently it is a matter of pushing forward on all fronts.

From the floor, Mr Smith, agreed to develop a brief for options, including an outer skin, which would improve insulation, and deal with the problem of damp. Once the structure is sound, the cosmetic side can be attended to. He asked for access to any historical documents relating to the hall. The clerk will retrieve these from Aquabridge. He will also talk to Mr Fisher, who has years of experience in running the hall.

Mr Macfarlane has been approached about running a social bar in the hall. The clerk will follow this up again. The steering group is meeting again on 20th June.

2. Elephant & Castle. A response from East Suffolk Council dated 20th March states that so far there appears to be no breach of planning. The owner has indicated that she plans to have a pub and cafe which may not need a change of use, if the cafe is ancillary to the pub. A query was raised about the listed status of the garages at the back and the ongoing work to turn them into a hydrotherapy facility.

3. Traffic Issues. A reply from Mr Chester at SCC regarding the vehicular capacity of the A1152 states that there is not a clearly stated capacity for this road in any local or national policy guidance. The criteria would be those of highway safety, affected by lack of footways, carriageway width, lack of opportunities for pedestrians to cross the road in safety or increased numbers of collisions. Councillors felt this gives a positive basis for the parish council's possible response to future applications.

A letter from Mr Smith to Suffolk Police was also read. He pointed out that speed limits are regularly ignored, leading to potentially dangerous situations. He asked for regular, high profile police presence to assist with this. He has received placatory responses, with no promise of any action.

In response to a query about the Community Speed Watch organisation, Cllr Cushing, who had done the training along with Cllr. Abu-Hejleh, felt it had limited value.

It was agreed that Mr & Mrs Debenham should be approached for permission to cut back some foliage on the tree in their garden which blocks the flashing 30mph sign.

4. Suffolk Coastal Local Plan. This was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination on 29th March, along with representations. The documents are available online and in the local library, and the public hearing is expected to be held in the summer.

5. The generous donation of £600 from Cllr. Reid's Locality Budget towards the deer fencing was acknowledged.

Reports:

1. Tree Warden. Mrs Clements attended the Tree Council AGM on 29th April in Ufford where it was reported that Ash Dieback is the worst tree disease to hit the country since Dutch Elm in the 60's. It is estimated that up to 90% of ash trees will die. The costs for dealing with this will have to be borne by the individuals and organisations on whose land the trees grow, as no government funding is available. The Tree Council asks for as much input as possible from local people and especially tree wardens. Mrs Clements has identified several within Eyke, and plans to keep an eye on them, and 'shadow' plant saplings where possible, with the co-operation of landowners.

On a happier note, the copse is doing well, with new growth looking good. The ones which died over the winter will be replaced in the autumn, using the Woodland Trust free sapling scheme.

2. ESC Deben Ward Councils Meeting: 25.4.19. Cllr Stangoe reported that she and Cllr. Cushing attended. The purpose is to bring the parishes within the ward together to share information and discuss common issues. About 20 people attended, and a major issue was the state of the roads, and in particular the removal of the cats' eye, which it appears may not be replaced. (*The parish council agreed to write to the Highways Department complaining about this.*) Other issues included the wrong dates and times being given for road closures and public transport. Roadworks.Org and a Highways Reporting Tool are available online to make it easier to keep updated regarding roadworks and to report highway issues. The next meeting is on 25th July at Bawdsey. It is hoped that Cllrs. Cushing and Stangoe will attend, along with the clerk.

3. Cllr James Mallinder, District Councillor. *Cllr Fleming welcomed him and congratulated him on his election.*

Cllr Mallinder was pleased to be elected to this ward, the largest in this area, with 10 parishes to cover. He is committed to working to support local communities and their infrastructure, including village halls and pubs. His remit will cover looking at river and sea defences, the environment, pollution and supporting volunteer groups. He will be keen to attend village events, and asked that the monthly newsletter is sent to him. He is a trustee of The Community Land Trust, which aims to provide affordable homes for rent on the peninsula, and has been awarded £455,000 to support the project, which will see new housing in Bawdsey. He would be keen to see this opportunity spread to other parishes. In response to a question from Cllr Cushing regarding the proposed 65 houses which could be built in Eyke, and which would probably be beyond the pocket of first time buyers, Cllr. Mallinder said that Community Trust housing is a stand alone project.

4. Woodbridge & District ASB Meeting. Cllr Whitmore had been unable to attend this. The clerk reported that nothing in relation to Eyke was reported in the minutes, but that drug issues in Rendlesham are currently presenting a significant problem. The next meeting is on Thursday, 16th May, in Woodbridge at 10.30am.

5. Eyke Old School House Nursery. This report had come too late for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Nursery has a new manager, Sophie Brooks. The hours are 7.30am to 17.30 pm. It maintains a strong link with the school, visiting once a week, and using the school playground. It is hoped to make changes to the outdoor area to give more flexibility for outside play, especially in the warmer weather.

Planning: Application DC/19/1449/FULA phased development of 75 dwellings, car parking, public open space, hard and soft landscaping and associated infrastructure and access. Land north of Gardenia Close and Garden Square, Rendlesham. It was agreed to make a representation regarding increased traffic, based on the information proved by Mr Chester in Matters Arising (3).

The clerk today had received Application DC/19/1517/FUL. Extension to agricultural processing barn. Building 723, Bentwaters Park IP12 2TW. As the accompanying letter was dated 1st May, with responses to be in by 23rd May, she contacted East Suffolk Council to ask for an explanation. It is possible that it was too heavy for the postage value. An extension to 31st May was given. The clerk has put in a complaint asking that procedures are put in place to ensure that this cannot happen in future to time sensitive correspondence. This has been supported by Cllr. Mallinder.

Councillors agreed that the only grounds for representation are on traffic, on the basis of Matters Arising (3) above. Cllrs. Cushing, Clark, Whitmore and Fleming will study the application and report back to the clerk in time for a response before the end of the month.

Other Matters:

1. Changes to Development Management at East Suffolk Council. Information on this is available from the clerk. Cllr Thomas has requested a copy of the letter.
2. East Suffolk Council 'Parish & Town Council' Planning Forums; County Lines Professionals Events. SALC Training Courses. All dates to be e mailed to Councillors.
3. New S.A.L.C. website. There are new log in details for councillors. The clerk has already forwarded these.

Finance:

1. The Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2019 was put before the Council and approved.
2. The Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2019 was put before the Council and approved.
3. Mr Fisher, the internal auditor has checked the accounts and found all in order. The new deer fencing has been added to the list of assets.
4. In reviewing the financial control for safeguarding public money, it was agreed that all remains as before and existing guidelines are followed.
5. Current Balances: (3rd May 2019) Current Account: £15,933.51; Rate Reward Account: £8,562.10; Business Premium Account: £118.35
6. Cheques to be agreed: S.A.L.C. (Subscription): £179.09; Mrs J Pooley (Annual Office Expenses): £125.00; Information Commissioner (Data Protection): £40; Eyke PCC (Donation): £600. It was agreed that in view of the hopefully imminent assumption of responsibility for the village hall, no donation would be made this year.

To receive items for Information:

1. Cllr. Whitmore reported that the barrier on the rec still needs attention, and that the rec is still vulnerable to travellers setting up camp. The posts still need to be concreted in, and Cllr Fleming will arrange for this to be done by his men in a couple of weeks. Cllr Whitmore strongly urged that Cllr Fleming should charge for his men's time, as well as the cost of the cement.
It was felt unnecessary to pursue an insurance claim for the cost of repair.
2. Revised Policing Model. The clerk will give Cllr Whitmore the relevant information.

Date of next meeting: Monday, July 8th at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall, and thereafter the second Monday of every other month.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.