

The Annual Meeting of Eyke Parish Council took place on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

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

There were no apologies for absence.

**Election of Chairman:** Cllr. Fleming was nominated by Cllr. Cushing, seconded by Cllr. Clark and carried unanimously.

**Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr. Thomas was nominated by Cllr. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. Abu-Hejleh and carried unanimously.

*Cllr. Fleming then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.*

*There were no Declarations of Interest.*

**Minutes:** Those of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and the planning meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising:**

1. Playground sign. The parish council approved the sign which has been designed by Raymac, and can be produced by them for £28.85 plus vat. It was agreed that fixing holes would be drilled when Cllrs. Fleming and Cushing had established on receipt of the sign what sort of support would be best.

2. Traffic issues and letters to Mr Ridley, Head of Coastal Management, and Mr Baker, Chief Executive, at East Suffolk Council.

Cllr. Cushing explained that documentation regarding the traffic issues in Eyke Street had been sent by Special Delivery to both in mid March, and when no acknowledgement was received by 1<sup>st</sup> May, the clerk chased this up by e mail, and was told that nothing had been received.

Cllr. Cushing followed this up with Royal Mail, as he had the signed for receipts for both. They were unable to assist, as documentation at their end is only kept for 10 days from delivery, but clarified that the XPI digital signature was that of the postman, and beside it was printed the name of the recipient, in both these cases, Marsh.

The clerk followed this up with Mr Baker, who verified that someone employed by their facilities management provider has that surname, and although she is aware of the internal process in this regard, could not recall receiving the packages. She was then conducting a thorough search of the reception area at the council, in case the documents had fallen between desks. There was no apology.

In addressing the contents of the packages, which the clerk then sent by e mail, there was no acceptance of any of the points regarding the traffic, and dangers to pedestrians, and a reliance on the view that the Independent Planning Inspector regarded the latest Local Plan as 'sound'

Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh and Cushing felt that even at consultation their views were ignored, and now the best way forward is to act as one voice with other local villages who are also suffering. This Joint Villages approach had resulted in a Zoom meeting including other councillors and officers at East Suffolk.

Cllr. Abu-Hejleh pointed out that in considering the local plan and the acceptance that the village could support 65 more houses, reference was made to the shop and the pub being facilities in the village, neither of which we now have.

3. New housing in Eyke. There is a considerable amount of site activity at the moment. A member of the public had talked to one of those taking part, who expressed the view that a part of the site is not suitable for development because of poor drainage. The clerk had contacted the owner a few days ago for an update. He says that site assessments are indeed going on, but there is nothing to report at this stage. He gave his assurance that he will definitely let the council know when there is, and there will be ample time for views and concerns in the village to be made. Mr Adams who owns the hedge which adjoins the area in question has also sought reassurance that the oak saplings he planted along it some years ago, and which are now

about 14 feet tall are not damaged and the hedge not interfered with in any way. Mr Robinson has passed this concern to the agent handling the prospective development.

4. Repairs to height barriers and bolt on playground gate. Cllr. Fleming will make a final approach to his nephew, and if that fails, the council will need to research other options. He will aim to fill the holes on the rec. with the remaining planings this week.

5. Electricity lanterns upgrade costs. The cost for replacing all the lanterns in Church Lane and Staverton Close would be £2086.76 plus vat for the new energy efficient LED lantern, including a monitoring system which would allow the parish to turn them off at a specified time (e.g. 11.30pm to 5.30 am) The cost without this facility would be £1926.76 plus vat. There could be additional costs with the unit in Staverton Close, because of its proximity to the overhead live cable, or if traffic management is required. There is no reason to go ahead with this at the moment, but if a light fails, the council would need to consider this.

**Finance:**

1. The Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was put before the council and approved.

2. The Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was put before the council and approved.

3. The Certificate of Exemption was 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, with the addition of Cllr. Stangoe, who will check the accounts and reconciliations on a half yearly basis. The small number of transactions do not merit a quarterly inspection.

6. Current balances: Community Account: £18104.50; Rate Reward Account: £8601.09; Business Savings: £118.63.

7. Cheques to be agreed: Information Commissioner (Data Protection): £40.00;

SALC Subscription:£191.08; Mrs J Pooley(Annual Expenses): £125.00; Suffolk County Council (Annual electricity and Maintenance): £528.93; Cllr. Cushing( Special Delivery postage): £13.70; Raymac Sign for Rec, including postage: £41.57;

*At this point Cllr. Whitmore declared and interest and took no part in the following discussion.* Donation to Eyke P.C.C: It was agreed that this year, in view of greatly reduced income as a result of Covid, a donation of £1000 would be made.

**Dates of meetings for the next year:** The second Monday of every other month.

Next Meeting: Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021. 7.00pm.

**To Receive items for Information:** None

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.