

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Cushing, Mr Evans, Mr Fleming, Mrs Stangoe, Mr Whitmore, District Councillor Ray Herring, Mrs Clements and the clerk.

**Apologies:** Councillor Andrew Reid, PC Andy Warne.

**Election of Chairman:** Mr Fleming was proposed by Mr Cushing, seconded by Mr Evans, and carried unanimously.

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

All councillors then signed their acceptances of office, and declarations of election expenses.

**Declaration of Interests:** Mr Fleming declared an interest as a relative in the planning application on the agenda and would take no part in the discussion.

**Minutes:** those of 9.3.15 and extraordinary meeting of 2.4.15 having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising:**

**Play Area.** Mrs Clements was then invited to give an update on the playground. She is pursuing various sources of funding, including SCDC, the Pears/Britten Foundation and Adnams. In order to be considered in the current funding round from Suffolk Coastal Capital Grants, the application needs to be submitted by 29<sup>th</sup> May, and a quotation is required to accompany it.

Mrs Scurrell is pursuing the access of funds from the Sports/Play fund held for the village at SCDC, which currently stands at £8476.36

Mr Cushing has obtained several quotations, and the one which seems most suitable is from Sovereign for £19,000. It was agreed to use this quotation as a base for funding applications. The plan will be to pick and choose elements from various sources, to keep the costs down as far as possible.

It is also desirable to involve the parents at the school and people in Eyke. Mr Cushing has been to Nelson Potter's and believes that the company would provide the fencing at a good discount, and it would be one of the jobs which parents could be involved in.

There will be ongoing expenses including safety inspections and grass cutting.

It was agreed that the clerk would approach Cllr Reid, to see if he has any funding at his disposal.

Mrs Abu-Hejleh and Mrs Stangoe will consider ideas for fund raising in the village.

It was felt that a meeting is needed with Mrs Scurrell again, to update and push the project on with the involvement of the school. It was agreed that the clerk would suggest Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Mr Fleming expressed the council's thanks to Mrs Clements and Mr Cushing for all the work they have put in.

**Traffic calming and road repairs.** The second VAS is now installed and working. Mrs Abu-Hejleh has spoken to Mr Chenery, and the budget has now run out, without the installation of the gates at the south end of the village. Mrs Pooley is to check with Cllr Reid about funding for this.

Various potholes have been reported, including very recently one along Low Road, where a cable has become exposed. The clerk will also remind Highways about the drain cover in The Street which is uncomfortably noisy, and which has already been reported several times.

The bank outside Mr and Mrs Debenham's bungalow is encroaching over the path. The clerk will ask for it to be cut back.

**Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan.** Suffolk Coastal District Council decided to 'make' the Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan part of the Local Plan for Suffolk Coastal District at a full council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March, following a referendum where 96.8% of the electorate who voted were in favour.

***Eyke Fete: 19<sup>th</sup> July.*** Councillors were reminded of this date, and that marquees etc will be erected on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6pm at the Old Rectory. The fete will start at 1pm on the Sunday.

### ***Reports.***

***District Councillor Ray Herring.*** Cllr Herring presented a wide ranging report, covering the recent election, where there has been a reduction to 42 councillors from 55, covering 26 wards in total.

Although SCDC has succeeded in freezing its portion of the council tax for the fifth consecutive year, through shared services, and working in partnership with Waveney District Council, and other providers, there are still challenges ahead, with a predicted budget gap of £2.71m to fill over the next 4 years.

Relocation to new offices at Melton should result in significant savings and the costs will be met through the sale of the existing office site and the nearby Cedar House.

The Enabling Communities Strategy has enabled District Councillors to support local initiatives and projects to the tune of £220,000 for 300 projects over the past two years. Other funding has also supported diverse activities such as helping disabled young people, the elderly, tackling loneliness, flood protection, and community development.

175 affordable homes have been built since 2010/11. The Section 106 system has been replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy, which should bring clarity and consistency to the system, and should also speed it up. Neighbourhood Plans are being developed across the district. The Council is disappointed that a further challenge from NANT (No Adastral New Town) has been issued, which will delay the creation of new homes and jobs across the district.

The local economy is strong, with new investment expected in the near future, and with a very low unemployment rate of 0.7%.

Work continues to protect the fragile coastline, and to upgrade homes to superfast broadband.

Councillor Herring then left the meeting.

***Woodbridge and District SNT.*** The annual report from PC Warne details 7 crimes in the village through the past year. The current SNT priorities are speed monitoring and enforcement in the Woodbridge and District area; parking monitoring and enforcement in this area particularly around schools and any other areas of concern in the community; through patrols and crime reduction awareness of rural dwelling crime to reduce opportunity of such offences. The next priority setting meeting will be on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7pm in Woodbridge Town Hall. The mobile police station will be in Eyke on 22<sup>nd</sup> June between 2 and 3.30pm.

***Little Leaders Child Care.*** A note of apology has been received from Mrs Ali, for not attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April, because of family illness. She reports that all is well at the pre-school, with numbers increasing. The lease is still an ongoing problem, as there has not been a new one for 4 years.

***Suffolk Association of Local Councils.*** Mrs Abu-Hejleh attended on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Graham Newman, the cabinet member for Roads, Transport and Planning at SCC spoke first, and covered the issue of dealing with the backlog of potholes to be filled amongst other things. With a faster method – Velocity Patching - it is hoped to speed up the process.

The speaker from Suffolk Police talked of the challenge of financial constraints on policing, and of the need to work with other organisations to deal with social welfare issues. Crime has changed: Cybercrime is the new thing.

The area chairman, Tony Fryatt, talked about affordable housing, the level of which is appalling in some areas. The system of one new house in three built having to be affordable does not work. If parish councils could work with district councils in identifying local need and suitable land this could be a way forward, which has been successfully achieved in Germany. However, it could be difficult to get local landowners to relinquish the land.

Topics for the next meeting could include : someone to streamline the running of Parish Councils; the demands on doctors from increased population in new housing.

### ***Planning:***

1. Application DC/15/1615/FUL Proposed single storey and two-storey side and rear extensions together with front porch (existing detached garage to be removed.) Roshure, 28 Church Lane, Eyke. Councillors supported this application.
2. Permission: Removal of existing double temporary unit and replacement with new double temporary unit in existing position at Eyke Primary School.

### ***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. Current balances (at 31.3.15) Current account: £7804.40; Business Savings Account( 63294757): £11,317.36; (30175048): £117.95. It was agreed to hold a substantial amount in the current account, in order to have funds readily available when the work on the play area commences.
3. Cheques agreed as follows: Mr Cushing (Jewson) sheet insulation board for bus shelter: £12.10; S.A.L.C. Subscription: £174.00; Mrs J Pooley, stationery, phone and stamps: £125.00; Eyke PCC donation: £500.00; Little Leaders Childcare donation: £100.00; Eyke and Rendlesham Village Hall donation: £350.00
4. It was agreed that nothing has changed regarding the administering of the parish council financial arrangements, and existing guidelines are followed to safeguard public money.
5. Mrs Pooley raised the need for a third person to be able to sign cheques. It was agreed that Mrs Abu-Hejleh would do this.

### ***Any Other Business.***

1. The next SALC meeting will be on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr Cushing expressed an interest in attending.
2. Mr Whitmore reported incidents offly-tipping on the rec, mostly broken furniture, which Suffolk Coastal cleared today.
3. Mr Whitmore also reported a rusty grating near Staverton Close, Church Lane, which the clerk will report to SCC.

Next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015. 7.00pm Eyke Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.