

The Annual Parish Meeting for Eyke took place on Monday, 9th May 2022 at 7.45pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe and Whitmore, Cllr. Andrew Reid, SCC (8.20 – 8.35) Cllr James Mallinder (*from 8.00pm*), the clerk and twelve members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Thomas, Mrs Clements, Mr Sutch.

Minutes: Those of the Annual Meeting of 17th May 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising: None directly.

There was no request for an adjournment for a parish forum.

Reports:

1. Eyke Charities. *Report attached.*

2. Churchwardens' Report for the year ending 31.12.21. *Report attached.*

3. Eyke School report presented by the head teacher. *Report attached*

In answer to a question regarding funding and class sizes, Mrs Fairweather explained that because funding is based on the number of children in the school, a reduction in numbers is likely to be the direct cause of a reduction in the number of classes from five to four, and each class would be bigger. Five classes would be just about viable if there are 125 children in the school.

4. Cllr. Mallinder, East Suffolk Council. He explained that his main aims as a District Councillor are to preserve and protect the area, and to support doing what is right for the community. He is actively involved in the issues around traffic in the area, and is always ready to support local councils with planning issues. Currently, there are enforcement issues with parking signage at Bawdsey and an assault course which has sprung up without permission on Sutton Heath. He asked the public to keep him informed of any matters of concern.

He has been actively involved in helping those in need in the area, accessing funds for some for food, heating and so on.

Looking after the environment and sustainability is an important and major part of his role. He was pleased to report that waste trucks are being changed to run on hydro treated vegetable oil, and that over the next couple of years there will be big changes in the waste collection service, with a weekly food waste collection being introduced, more sorting of recyclables prior to collection, and the aim of reducing landfill collection to once every three weeks. *His current monthly report is attached.*

5. A.C.E.S. A report was given by Jemma Redfern, regarding the fundraising committee at Eyke School. Some very successful events have been held recently: a cake sale, which raised £180, a disco which raised an excellent £400 and now they are focussed on a Summer Fete, on 18th June. The pressing need is to raise funds to replace the outdoor play equipment.

6. Village Hall. Mr Weavers and Mr Smith then briefly explained the work already done, and that in the pipeline: the kitchen, now finished, then the toilets and removal of the stage under way. Work is planned to improve the lighting, including the installation of wall up/downlighters. Plans are still awaited from the architect before work can commence on the end wall and the roof.

Cllr. Clark added that fund raising has to continue, and that Cllr. Mallinder has been very supportive in this regard. Thanks are due to the volunteers, who have put in an estimated 1600 hours, saving a vast sum of money. A joint recent effort to host a coffee morning by the church and the village hall committee raised about £540 to be shared equally between the two groups.

Cllr. Fleming proposed thanks to all those involved.

7. Recreation Ground. Cllr. Whitmore reported some fly tipping, including garden waste, and some evidence of drug taking. The doggy bins are well used. He has noted nettles and brambles are growing up

around the new fence. This will need to be monitored, and possibly sprayed to avoid future problems. He continues to make weekly checks of the area, including the playground and its equipment. It was agreed that the rec. should be cut about three times in the year, to encourage the use of the area, including the football pitch. Enquiries will be made to see who could do this. Suggestions were made which the clerk and Mr Cushing will follow up. The clerk also mentioned the missing slat on the seat inside the play area.

8. Millennium Group. *Report by Mrs Pooley attached.*

9. Tree Warden's Report. *Report by Mrs Clements attached.*

10. Cllr. Andrew Reid. County Councillor, Suffolk County Council. *Report attached.* Cllr. Reid apologised for his late arrival: this was the third meeting of the evening, and the last before going home. Cllr. Clark asked about the demand led electric bus trial running from Framlingham via Wickham Market to Campsea Ashe, and a further route through to Snape Village and The Maltings, and wondered when it would end. Cllr. Reid said he expected the trial to end later this year, and to conclude with a "soft" consultation, i e with the service users. Mr Weavers asked who should be contacted about footpaths. Cllr Reid said to contact him.

11. On behalf of the parish council, Cllr. Fleming then expressed his thanks to all in the village who help to keep our facilities up and running: the church, the hall, the rec, the school. The year had been relatively quiet for the parish council, and with one big expense, that of the new fencing at the rec, which cost over £6000.

Cllr. Mallinder added his thanks to the parish council: he always enjoys his visits to Eyke, and regards the council as particularly hard working.

Finance:

The parish council accounts were available for inspection, and details will be on the website in due course.

To receive Items for Information:

Mrs Nicholls raised the issue of the poor state of the pavements through the village: water does not drain away, leading to splashing from vehicles, and children walking round puddles and into the road: the pavement near the school is particularly bad. Others present backed this up. Mr Mann agreed to take some photographs to illustrate the problem, which can then be presented to Cllr Reid and SCC. Meanwhile, the clerk will alert Cllr. Reid to the problem.

In the absence of other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.