

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Monday, 12th May 2014 at 7.45pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Mr Fleming, in the chair, Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Cushing, Mr Smith, Mr Whitmore, Cllr. Andrew Reid (from 8 – 8.20pm) and nine members of the public.

Apologies: Mr Mutton, Cllr. Marson, PCSO Hawkes, Mr Marr.

Minutes: Those of the last Annual Parish Meeting were read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising: None directly.

Reports:

Councillor Andrew Reid, SCC.

The County Council's portion of council tax remains frozen for the fourth year in a row, and savings of £38.6M over the next year will be found to meet the budget gap. Important projects are still going ahead, including 'Raising the Bar' which aims to drive up educational standards across the county. With its partner, Care UK, the County Council is supporting the building of 10 state of the art care homes. The road maintenance budget has been protected from cuts.

The County Council is committed to improving GCSE results, and although still below the national average, Suffolk climbed 5 places in the national league tables to 137 out of 151 local authority areas. Although the cabinet supported the change to two tier education in the Bury St Edmunds area, the decision was challenged by Labour, so this will be subject to a review this month. It is possible that the whole schedule will have to be reconsidered, but if the cabinet eventually decides to press ahead, the changes could still be made in time for September 2016.

Government funding will be available to upgrade the A14, and following intensive lobbying, the plans to toll part of the road have been dropped. This is good news for the local economy. Under discussion is the plan to extend the A47 into Lowestoft and create a new river crossing in the town.

There will be a £1.5M investment to establish a local apprenticeship service in Suffolk, to increase the number of apprenticeships available by involving and supporting employers, young people and the community and increasing the level of awareness of the benefits of apprenticeships.

Suffolk and Norfolk have signed up to a cross border partnership, aimed at saving money by joining forces and avoiding duplication, and at providing the best possible service.

The 'Better Broadband' service has now been rolled out to 13,000 properties, and the county has been given an extra £5m to help make high speed fibre broadband available to the hardest to reach communities. The aim will be to have a coverage target of up to 95% with superfast speeds (24 megabits per second) A suitable supplier is being sought for the additional work required.

Cllr Reid then took a question from Mrs Cutler, chairman of FOES regarding cuts to education funding. She explained the constant battle to find the money to keep the school in good repair and to buy essential items for the children. Cllr Reid stated that the education budget was protected from cuts, and that he had some limited funds at his disposal through the Locality Budget to help local projects, and invited Mrs Cutler to apply.

Mr Fleming thanked Cllr Reid for attending and speaking. Cllr Reid then left the meeting.

Councillor Jane Marson SCDC (Written report)

Council tax has been frozen at the same level as 2010/11, and the budget set at £12.125 million is a net reduction of just over half a million on last year. Each district councillor has a budget which can be used to aid community projects. Applications can be made online.

Through consultation with activity groups large and small, it is hoped to produce a leisure strategy which will enable people to access facilities throughout the district. Details of the focus group will be sent to parish councils.

The Boundary Review final draft is now being considered which will reduce the total number of district councillors, and among other things change the ward of Hollesley with Eyke: the area will increase to include the Orford ward, but Hollesley will be lost. The basis of this is the number of electors per district councillor, not the size of the ward, or distances to be travelled.

EDF will be carrying out an additional stage of public consultation, probably towards the autumn.

The Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership has now set up its charity which will be used to handle all funds for

use of flood defence maintenance and improvements. Suffolk Coastal will support the delivery of the new government grant scheme *Repair and Renew* which offers up to £5000 for works which improve a property's resilience or resistance to flooding, by paying up front for the work carried out by an approved contractor, before claiming the cost back from the government.

Suffolk Waste Partnership's *Plastics – Know Your Place Campaign* has been shortlisted in the Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative category at this year's Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management.

There has been concern about the flying part of the Bentwaters Application. For clarification: flying (which means taking off and landing) at the site shall be limited to one annual air show and 480 flights (or 960 movements) annually and no more than 20 flights (or 40 movements) in any one week which are not part of an air display, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Ipa. This level of flying has been the same over the last few years and this is a regularisation of the whole planning permission at Bentwaters.

Woodbridge and District SNT (Written report from PCSO Hawkes)

There have been 9 reported crimes since 12.5.13: 3 thefts from the shop, 3 other thefts, one from an employee, a public order offence and a common assault. This is low in comparison with places such as Wickham Market, Ufford and Otley, but higher than Bredfield, Dallinghoo, Debach, Burgh and Boulge. The current SNT priorities are to increase road safety by reducing speeding through Ufford on the B1436, and to tackle anti social behaviour including vehicle nuisance in Rendlesham and Otley.

The next priority setting meeting will be on Wednesday, 30th July at 7pm in the Seminar Room at the Lindos Centre in Melton.

Villagers are advised that there has been an increase in burglaries in the surrounding villages, and are asked to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Car crime is also an issue, so last minute checks are advised when leaving your car.

Neighbourhood Watch (Written Report from Mrs Macfarlane and Mrs Watson.)

It has been another quiet year.

A Police Community meeting was attended about ongoing matters of interest in the surrounding area to get an update on the latest situations. It was interesting to hear about problems other villages are facing. There were no matters of concern in Eyke at the time.

Regular updates of local crimes are received from the SNT, and any relevant information is passed on through the village newsletter, which goes to every household.

Households are encouraged to sign up to Police Direct, to keep abreast of latest information.

Eyke Charities.

Mr Sutch presented this report.

The charity continues to exist for the benefit of pupils at Eyke Primary School, Eyke widows and widowers, Eyke residents over 80, and All Saints Church, Eyke

The income this year was £289.04, the expenditure was £231.46 and the assets are £7,791.81

The income derived from investment dividends – funds managed by the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Association.

£130 was donated to Eyke widows and widowers, and Eyke residents over the age of 80 and £101.46 paid for books for Eyke Primary School leavers.

The charity trustees last met on 19.3.14, and will meet again on 19.11.14.

Eyke CEVC Primary School.

Mrs Scurrall, headteacher, who has been in post since September 2013, presented this report.

There are currently 130 pupils on the roll, and this figure should remain stable next year – 2014/15, but numbers could decrease the following year as Rendlesham increase their admission numbers. The aim is to make Eyke the school of choice for parents, and any ideas or offers of help from the parish council to promote it as the first class educational establishment it is would be welcome. It is an important resource for the community and should be valued and invested in.

There are 7 teaching staff, including 3 part time, and 7 support staff. The 4 midday supervisors all live locally and the two cooks who job share both live in the village.

There is a close relationship with Little Leaders Pre-School, who use the school facilities such as the pool, playground and hall. Most children move from the Pre-school to the School, and the relationship helps to ensure a smooth transition.

The church is used regularly for collective worship and thanks are due to Rev Janice Leaver for leading the worship, and also for her contribution as a Foundation Governor. Thanks also go to Mr Mike Fisher, for ensuring that the church is unlocked and warm for the children.

Mrs Helen Smith and Mrs Sandy Sutch are both regular helpers at school: Mrs Smith with a lunchtime Bible Club, and by playing the piano for worship and for the school choir, and Mrs Sutch as a governor, and as a helper on school trips. Volunteers are warmly welcomed.

The curriculum is topic based, with English skills taught discretely and then used across the curriculum. The topic is 'kicked off' using a 'hook', such as a visit to a place, or a visitor to the school, or the children's own experiences, and topics covered have included Fire! Fire! with a visit to Ipswich Fire Station, Invaders and Settlers - History off the page Viking Day, Eyke and Beyond – a walk around the village, Weather – a visit from a real-life Arctic explorer, amongst others. The topic themes change every two to three weeks.

Children learn best when there is joined up thinking in their learning, based on real experience, so this style of teaching will continue when the new primary National Curriculum is introduced in September. There will also be reforms in September to the provision of Special Educational Needs within education. Eyke is working closely with other schools in the Farlingaye pyramid and Kesgrave cluster to deliver the best education and learning experience to children whatever their starting point.

The learning environment enhances the whole learning experience, and a programme of reorganisation and refurbishment has begun. Class 3 has now moved from the portacabin into what was the library, which was achieved with minimal disruption to the children, and with the help of the whole team including governors, who painted walls, moved desks, chairs, books and other resources. There will be further changes over the summer holidays to relocate EYFS, the staffroom and the headteacher's office. Visitors are welcome.

Thanks go to Eyke Charities for the Year 6 leavers' books, and it is hoped that the 14 leaving this year will also receive a gift.

The plans for the car park have been shelved, as it would divert too much money from funds vital to the children's education. The Governing Body was in full support of this.

Friends Of Eyke School

Mrs Cutler, the chairman, reported a very busy year of fund raising and activities for the children. FOES has provided a playhouse, ball wall, basketball and playtime equipment, as well as easter eggs, and £3 is paid towards each school trip for each child. There is always a 'shopping list' of items to be provided, and contributions to be made to the various clubs in the school. Next on the list is the provision of an outdoor teaching area.

In order to raise the necessary funds, there have been quizzes, the Christmas Fair, and the forthcoming Summer Fair on 4th July, as well as bingo, and discos. A contribution from Eyke Parish Council would be very welcome.

Thanks go to Swanns Nursery, the Elephant and Castle, Mr & Mrs Shaw and Mr and Mrs Brigginsshaw, who have all been very supportive.

Eyke and Rendlesham Village Hall.

Mr Fisher reported that the hall has had regular use by the Parish Council, the Over 50's Club for meetings, jumble sales and their annual Christmas Party, the PCC for the Harvest Festival and Lent Suppers. There have also been other private parties, salsa dancing lessons and recently rehearsals by a newly formed choir. A full electrical survey has been undertaken for insurance purposes, and work carried out costing £782.14. The future management of the hall by the Parish Council is still in question, pending determination of title. A copy of the accounts is available for inspection.

Mr Fisher thanked all those who use the hall for keeping it in reasonable condition, and special thanks were given to Mr Whitmore, who continues to keep the outside free of weeds and litter.

On another matter, the Suffolk Local History Society have asked the someone is found to act as Village Recorder. As this was at the end of 2013, Mr Fisher accepted the challenge and produced a diary of events for the year. A second report, giving a short account of the annual activities of the various groups within the village was also requested and created, with the exception of the parish council, and Mr Fisher asked that in the future the parish council provides a short report of items discussed and agreed upon, and that copies of both reports are kept with the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Recreation Ground.

Mr Whitmore gave this report. In general, matters continue as usual: the moles and rabbits are still active; doggy bins are in place so dog walkers can clear up after their pets, which some do and some do not.

Repairs have been made to the chestnut fencing, which was vandalised, and a great deal of litter has been cleared up. Fly-tipping has been a problem, and there have been various fires. The regular weekly check continues to be useful.

A substantial oak tree was blown down in the storms of late October 2013. Within hours the main trunk and large branches had disappeared, which saved the Parish Council the expense of dealing with it, and hopefully brought some good to the person who removed it.

Thanks go to Mr Fleming for the cutting the main area of the recreation ground once again.

Millennium Group.

Mrs Pooley reported that 2013 was a quiet year following the Over 60's lunch in April. Although the intention was to organise a further event, the year slipped past and it was Christmas. The group did put up the tree outside the church, again with thanks to Swann's Nursery, who donated it, and had fun with the decorated tree inside the church for the Tree Festival. The theme was Christmas Number One Hits, which provided many familiar songs – and a few surprises too. The group hopes to be more active this year, and would welcome suggestions - and volunteers.

Eyke Pre-School – Little Leaders Childcare

Mrs Ali thanked the parish council for the opportunity to come and give an update. Finally, the lease is nearly ready. The numbers of children are dropping, and great efforts are going into advertising the Pre-School. Three and a half thousand leaflets have been delivered, there is a new sign and an upgraded website. The patio area has been fenced in. The aim is to make learning fun for the children, and they have enjoyed den building, with leaves etc from the rec, as well as all the other regular activities. Fund raising still continues, and the 'toddle waddle' was much enjoyed.

Inside Eyke (Written report from Mr Tim Marr, Editor)

The magazine continues to soldier on with a mixture of serious and not so serious articles. There was no Winter issue as Mr Marr was away for an extended period, and although the idea of a special children's edition was suggested, not enough material was forthcoming. It is, however, a good idea and one which will be returned to. The Spring issue has already been delivered.

Many people say how much they enjoy it, but most seem reluctant to put pen to paper, and currently a small band of helpers contribute about three quarters of the content of each issue. Any ideas or suggestions would be welcomed. What is needed is anything which comes genuinely from Eyke people, their thoughts, memories and experiences.

The magazine is very high quality and professionally produced, and it costs nothing. The aim is to keep it that way, but to move towards more colour photographs, whose impact is immeasurably greater than black and white. It is hoped that when the need arises, the Parish Council will be able to contribute. We think a village magazine is a vital, tangible touchstone of village spirit, and a genuine contributor to community cohesion.

Hedges and Woodlands Protection Conference. (Written Report from Judy Clements, Tree Warden for Eyke, unable to attend in person because of a broken bone in her foot)

This meeting was held at Rendham Village Hall on Saturday, 10th May 2104 and organised by SCDC.

The tree warden scheme was instigated in the the wake of the great storm of 1987, in order to monitor the lives of mature, broad leafed trees with the parishes. There are major problems, such as Oak Decline, Horse Chestnut leaf miner and now Ash Dieback, which was identified in the UK in 2012, with incidences of infection dramatically increasing since that time, and is worst in Norfolk, Suffolk and Kent. There are thought to be 1.6 billion ash trees in the UK, making it the third most commonly recorded tree, many more than there were elms in the 1970's.

This meeting was to inform interested parties about Ash Tree Dieback, and the problems created by the removal and flailing of hedgerows. It was lively, informative and well attended.

Mrs Clements aims to assess and photograph as many ash trees as possible within the next few months, and record those showing signs of disease. In the autumn, she aims to begin a programme of replanting, hopefully involving the children of Eyke School in the propagation of seeds, such as acorns, chestnuts and haws, with a view to replanting over the next 5 years, and to prepare for a 'post ash' Suffolk. She also would like to talk to farmers about replanting broad leaved trees in the hedgerows, as well as leaving sections of hedgerow in a more wild state to assist wildlife and to allow new saplings to grow.

There will be a further report when her plans are better formulated.

Parish Council

Mr Fleming, the chairman, gave a brief overview of the parish council's work over the year. The Bentwaters Planning Application, originally submitted in 2010, is still under consideration, because of last minute amendments, and the Parish Council will meet in two days' time to consider its final response. It has taken much time, and the parish council hopes that now, finally, a decision will be arrived at by SCDC.

The traffic calming measures were finally agreed, and the work was due to start in April, but had to be delayed until July, as a result of pressure on the County Council to repair roads and fill potholes after the wet winter weather.

Particular thanks go to Mr Whitmore for his continuous work in keeping the village tidy, and recycling as much as possible.

Additionally, Mr Fleming thanked all those who attended the meeting for their interest and involvement in village matters.

Parish Council Accounts.

These were available for inspection.

In the absence of Any Other Business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.