

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.45pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Mr Fleming, in the chair, Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Mutton, Mr Smith, Mr Whitmore, Cllr. Andrew Reid, Cllr. Jane Marson, and six members of the public.

**Apologies:** Mr Cushing, PC Warne, PCSO Graeme Hawkes, Mr Marr, Mrs Watson, Mrs Macfarlane.

**Matters Arising:** Traffic issues. Mrs Abu-Hejleh reported that the Bentwaters planning application is still undecided. She, and other residents at the south end of the village feel that the 30mph limit needs extending just a little, and with traffic problems in the village becoming ever more pressing, she suggested that at least some of the traffic calming measures discussed last year should be considered using whatever money might be available.

At this point Cllr Reid announced that he had heard today that a £20,000 bond was being released by Suffolk County Council, which would be available in its entirety for traffic calming in Eyke.

This surprising news was enthusiastically welcomed by those present, and it was agreed that Mrs Abu-Hejleh, on behalf of the Traffic Working Party, would in the first instance arrange a meeting with Mr Chenery, followed by a full Parish Council Meeting with him at a later date, to look at the projected plans in further detail.

### **Reports:**

**Cllr Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council.** The County Council has frozen its share of council tax for a third year, and is seeking to achieve further savings through increased efficiencies, to compensate for the reduction in grants from government.

Libraries and residential care homes have now been transferred to outside companies in order to secure their future and to benefit from investment.

A review is underway of 2700 publicly owned buildings, with a view to releasing capital through shared use. From December 2014 a new energy from waste facility will be open, diverting 252,000 tonnes of waste a year from landfill, and creating electricity for 30,000 homes. This will add to Suffolk's green credentials, and save council tax-payers money.

The County Council is working with other councils and with business partners to create a fertile environment for economic growth, jobs and increased prosperity. It is working in partnership with BT to deliver the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme. By 2015, 9 out of 10 properties will be connected to fibre-based broadband, with speeds of at least 10Mbps.

The County Council is also working with Parish Councils and other statutory consultees to push for the best deal for Suffolk should the plans for Sizewell C go ahead. The main aim is to build an enduring legacy in the form of infrastructure improvements, education benefits and jobs, as well as to protect the environment.

Driving up standards in education is priority, and 'Raising the Bar' is an ambitious project to aimed at doing this, through collective understanding and raised awareness of opportunities open to young people. SATS results have risen in the areas which were reorganised as part of the Schools Organisation Review, which is a very positive early sign.

**Councillor Jane Marson, Suffolk Coastal District Council.** The Council has frozen council tax again this year. The shared facilities between Waveney and Suffolk Coastal have produced massive cost savings.

A new planning system is coming on line this year, which should expedite most applications, although not Bentwaters!

Suffolk Coastal is in the top 20 of best local authorities. It has the highest employment rate in England, boosted by Martlesham Heath and Felixstowe. £100,000 is available to encourage businesses in the local area.

After 30 years, Felixstowe south sea front is under development.

The council is aiming to get empty homes back into use, and to encourage the creation of new homes with a 'Homes Bonus' which will reward not just new builds, but conversions of barns, offices etc. Second home owners now pay 100% council tax.

The district council has funds to help where needed to reduce the impact of the Localism Bill.

The reduction in the number of district councillors from 55 to 43 is a good idea where there are centres of population, but not so for sparsely populated rural areas.

Suffolk Coastal is looking to relocate its offices in the Melton area: the current site is not really fit for purpose, and is highly valuable.

Mr Fisher raised the point that the drive to localism means council tax payers will have to pay more towards their parish's precept, so council tax will rise. Cllr Marson thought this would level out, and the amount is small at precept level.

**Woodbridge and District SNT.** (*Written Report from PC Warne*) Seven crimes were reported during the year, a reduction from last year, when there were 15. The mobile police station service is to be stopped due to cutbacks, and the police station is being sold. The SNT team will operate from a flat above the Woodbridge Job Centre. The current priorities are: reducing speed through Sutton, parking enforcement in Woodbridge Thoroughfare and Cumberland Street, and tackling anti-social behaviour in Wickham Market. The next priority setting meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August, in Eyke Village Hall. Hare coursing is increasing, and anyone who sees an incident should report it immediately giving as much detail as possible, but under no circumstances approach or confront the offenders.

**Neighbourhood Watch.** (*Written report from Mrs Macfarlane and Mrs Watson.*) It has been another quiet year, with no problems reported in or around the village. Flyers and information sheets were circulated to all households last summer. Police Community Meetings at Eyke and Bredfield were attended, and the need for speed to be monitored whenever possible along The Street registered.

**Eyke Charities.** Mr Mike Foster, the treasurer, reported an income of £250.30, and expenditure of £229.10, comprising books for school leavers: £119.10, and £110 to the elderly, for the year ended 31.12.12. There is £1575.03 on deposit, which includes £600 ringfenced for village hall funds. £2000 has been paid to the Village Hall.

**Eyke School.** Mrs Kelway, the headteacher, reported on a year of varied activities, including a residential trip for years 5 and 6, sports day, and attending outside concerts and events.

There are well attended before and after school clubs, including a variety of sports, drumming, choir, art and a pilot for a breakfast club.

The pool heater has now been replaced, and Mrs Kelway thanked the parish council for its donation. The pool is used daily by the school and the pre-school has two sessions a week, as well as 2 sessions run by Mrs Smith for her Triathlon Club.

The school has a small amount of funding to support families in difficulty, so that children can attend out of school activities. The fund is regularly overspent, and the parish council should be aware that there is a considerable amount of rural deprivation in this area.

Numbers coming to Eyke are likely to reduce, as the roll for Rendlesham has been increased.

Eyke Charities are to be thanked for the Year 6 leavers' books. 18 children will be leaving this year, and it is hoped that they will be able to receive books too.

There is a vacancy for a dinner lady: it is hard to recruit lunchtime staff, and the school is also 2 Foundation (church) governors short.

The Ofsted inspection in December 2012 was stressful, but the school was rated good in all areas by the inspector. Permission has been granted for the new car park area, beside the existing village car park. The lease is now being prepared.

Mrs Kelway leaves to take up a new post at Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School in September, and interviews for the new head will take place in the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Friends Of Eyke School.** Mrs Kelway reported that FOES continues to thrive. The chair is Kerry Cutler, treasurer is Gill Brigginsshaw, and Wendy Kelway is the Secretary.

Fund raising is taking place for the new car park.

Events in the year have been a beetle drive, Christmas Fayre, bingo, and easter egg hunt and quiz.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June there will be a Summer Fayre, with all the usual attractions.

A question was raised regarding the recycling bank in the playgroup car park. The clerk will write try to find out what is happening with this.

**Village Hall Report.** Mr Fisher reported that the hall has been used regularly, by the Parish Council, the Over 50's Club for their meetings and events, by the PCC for Harvest Festival and Spring Suppers, and by the Millenium Group. In addition there have been various private parties, Salsa Dancing lessons and elections. The accounts for the year have been checked, and show a deficit of £310.03, after completing the work to upgrade the toilet facilities to include provision for disabled access.

Moves are still ongoing to change the manner in which the hall is managed, and hopefully this will be completed in the current year.

Thanks are due to the ladies of the Sunshine Club for the wonderful job they did in cleaning the hall prior to the Christmas Party, and to Mervyn Whitmore for keeping the outside of the hall free of weeds and litter.

A copy of the accounts is available for inspection.

**Recreation Ground.** Mr Whitmore reported that although doggy bins are provided, some dog owners do not use them.

There has been a problem recently with overnight unauthorised camping, with litter, bottles and even a tent being left over the hot embers of a fire. These have been cleared up, and the parish council is addressing the issue.

There has been some fly tipping of old wheels and tyres, plus a number of heaps of ashes, and as always there are many rabbit holes and mole hills.

**Millennium Group.** (*Written report from Mrs Watson*) The group is still active, even though the numbers are small. In conjunction with the parish council, the group organised a hog roast, music and games in The Rectory Gardens, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Brigginsshaw. Tickets sold out, and despite a cold evening, everyone enjoyed the occasion. In April this year an Over 60's lunch was organised, when 17 people enjoyed a meal of chicken casserole and potatoes boulangere with peas, and a glass of wine, followed by plum crumble, tea, coffee and chocolates. The group supported the Christmas tree festival in the church, and also erected the outside tree, courtesy of Swanns Nursery. We hope to organise at least one event during the coming year, and would welcome new members.

**Eyke Pre-School Playgroup.** Mrs Ali, who took over the playgroup three years ago, gave a very positive report. There are 44 children on the roll. A great deal of work has been done inside and outside, including new toilets, and kitchen, and generally renovating to such an extent that the house has been completely transformed. There are parties, events and outings for the children, and fund raising activities throughout the year.

The links with the school are very good and strong.

The playgroup is grateful for the parish council's donation to its funds.

Mrs Ali asked about advertising in *Inside Eyke*. Everyone agreed that the playgroup is worth an article in its own right, and Mr Marr the editor will be contacted about this.

**Village magazine: *Inside Eyke*.** The clerk apologised that she had omitted to bring the report prepared by Mr Marr, but she and Mrs Abu-Hejleh were able to confirm that the magazine has had a good year, and that Tim Marr was doing a really good job as editor. The magazine is self supporting, through its advertising, and continues to seek items of interest from anyone with a story to tell. It is very well received in the village and beyond.

**Parish Council.** Mr Fleming thanked all those who attended the meeting, and who gave reports: this is what keeps the village ticking over. The Parish Councillors work hard to deal with village matters, and currently there is one vacancy, since the resignation of Mrs Atkinson, who is to be thanked for all her hard work during her time in office. The major issue under consideration at the moment is traffic calming. Special thanks go to Mr Whitmore, for all his unsung work in and around the village.

**Finance.** The parish council accounts were available for inspection.

In the absence of any other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.