

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday, 14th May 2018 at 7.45pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Fleming, in the chair, Cllr Abu-Hejleh, Cllr Cushing, Cllr Stangoe, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Whitmore, the clerk and four members of the public. From 8.20pm: Cllrs Andrew Reid and Raymond Herring.

Apologies: Cllr Howlett-Thomson, Mr Sutch, Mr Marr, Mrs Watson, Mrs Macfarlane, Mrs Wong, Mrs Snowden.

Minutes: Those of the meeting of 8th May 2017, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

There were no Matters Arising.

Adjournment for Parish Forum: none requested.

Reports:

1. **Neighbourhood Watch.** *(Written report: Mrs Macfarlane and Mrs Watson)* Most villagers have joined Eyke Nextdoor, so this vehicle is now used to circulate information, with the hope that those without online access will be informed by their neighbours. Joining Police Connect is also recommended. There is now more emphasis on Neighbourhood Watch doing more for their own community, and more volunteers would be welcome, to spread the responsibility and give the time which the current volunteers do not have. Member details currently held are within the GDPR guidelines, but an updated form for new members can be found on the Eyke Nextdoor site. The past year has been a quiet one.

2. **Eyke Charities.** *(Written report: Mr Sutch)* The charities gifted £150 in cash to Eyke villagers and £115.89 in the form of books to Eyke school leavers in the year ending 31.12.17. Income exceeded expenditure: income £331.93; expenditure £265.89. Total assets at the end of the year were £10,202.15, and growth has been steady over the past 5 years, from £7792 in 2013. The anticipated spend in 2018 should fall within the expected income.

3. **Eyke School.** Lucie Fairweather, the acting head for the past year and now confirmed as permanent head introduced herself and described the focussed approach to learning, where subjects are taught over a longer period to give greater depth and understanding of the subject area. Apart from maths, the current academic focus, wide-ranging topics have included Spring, the Romans, and Space. English will be focussed on later this term.

A whole school focus has been developing Growth Mindset, with the aim of encouraging the children to develop the way they work collaboratively and independently.

There is a strong connection with Eyke church, with weekly visits and special services.

Additions have been made to the buildings and grounds: a new climbing frame has been built in the playground, and there is now a covered walkway between the changing rooms and the swimming pool. This will enable the pool to be hired to an outside company, and thus to pay for itself. It is a very important asset for the school, but one which would be impossible for the school to maintain out of its own funds. There is also an outdoor classroom, to be used as a quiet, reflective area.

The school has also achieved well in sports, finishing 3rd in the Pyramid Schools' Swimming Gala, and doing well in the Suffolk Cross Country Championship.

4. **Friends Of Eyke School** *(Written report given by Ms Fairweather on behalf of Mrs Snowden.)* The Xmas Fayre was badly affected by the bad weather in December, but since then there have been various successful activities, including bake sales, an Easter disco and a Secret Santa, as well as a Xmas wreath making event. The school has been signed up for the co-op tokens and an easy fund raising app where the shopper can do online shopping through the app and the company donates a percentage of the shop to the school. Over £2000 has been raised in total, which has helped towards outings and a new sports equipment shed. The summer fayre will be on 7th July.

5. **Eyke Village Hall.** The hall has been used regularly by the Parish Council, the Over 50's Club for meetings, sales and their Christmas Party, by the PCC for their Spring and Harvest Supper. There have been

private parties, quiz nights, yoga and tai chi classes. The hall accounts show a surplus of £59.16. A sound system has been purchased for £1700. thanks to £1000 contribution from Cllr Ray Herring's Enabling Communities Budget.

Refurbishment is now needed, and to help with this the snooker table has been removed, and once the electrics are tidied up, it is hoped the stage area can be used more. Thanks are due to all who help to keep the hall in a reasonable condition, and especially to Mervyn Whitmore for his work outside.

The annual village report has been made to the Suffolk Local History Society.

Plans to change the structure of the running of the hall are still ongoing.

It was then agreed that having exhausted all avenues, the only option is to take proper legal advice, and accept that in order to put the hall on a sound footing for the future, a significant cost will be attached. The clerk will look into this.

6. Recreation Ground. Cllr Whitmore reported that the play area continues to be well used, and finally a new back plate has been fitted to the basketball post. The removal of the ragwort on the football pitch is now in hand. There are no drug problems there at present, and the police make occasional visits to check.

7. Millennium Group. *(Written report: Mrs Watson)* The main activity this year has been the installation of a defibrillator in the redundant phone box outside the shop. Purchased by the parish council for £1, the group then purchased the defibrillator itself from the British Heart Foundation, and were guided through the rest of the installation by The Community Heartbeat Trust, who supplied the heated cabinet. The box was refurbished and repainted, and a local electrician carried out the necessary electrical work to install the cabinet. BT will pay for the small amount of electricity needed to maintain the cabinet. The Millennium Group has entered into a Managed Solution Agreement with The Community Heartbeat Trust, and the latter now has responsibility for the equipment, as long as regular checks are carried out and logged online with the Webnos Governance system. The facility is now live with the Ambulance Service. Later this summer a seminar will take place in the hall, run by The Community Heartbeat Trust, designed to show people from the village how to use the equipment with confidence in an emergency. This will be well advertised, and it is hoped as many people as possible will attend.

The Millennium Group would like to thank Cllr Ray Herring for a donation from the Enabling Communities Budget, Cllr Andrew Reid for a donation from his Locality Budget, and Eyke PCC and the New Year's Eve Committee for their donations which helped to provide this valuable community asset.

8. Eyke Old School House Community Nursery. *(Written report: Joyce Wong.)* The nursery is running well with 2-5 year olds in full capacity 2 days a week. The children make use of the school playground, hall, recreation ground and the local forest for everyday learning experiences. There is a weekly visit to the school reception class to prepare the older children for transition in September.

The nursery is happy to be given a strong "good" with elements of outstanding in some areas at the recent Ofsted inspection in February.

Due to complaints of fallen apples and for safety reasons the apple tree was cut down.

There will be considerable repair work and general refurbishment necessary to the nursery in the near future.

The nursery, which is open for 7.30am to 6pm, looks forward to maintaining the good working relationship with the school and enjoy using the outdoor facilities.

9. Village Magazine: Inside Eyke. *(Written report: Mr Marr.)* Mr Marr, as editor apologised for the continuing hiatus in the production of the magazine. There have been a number of difficulties, the main one being Mr Marr's increasing work commitments. It is hoped to have an editorial meeting very shortly, to get back on track, with a view to producing an issue over the summer.

10. Village Tree Warden. Mrs Clement reported that she hopes to have increased free time to put into her tree warden duties this year. Funding for tree wardens was withdrawn, leading to the creation of a volunteer group – Suffolk Tree Wardens – which has been awarded a grant of £2240 by SCC to hire sites for meetings, provide expenses for speakers etc. East Suffolk is sadly lacking in both tree wardens and in recruiting and administration. Mrs Clement has volunteered, along with a colleague from Ufford, to try and get the scheme off the ground in this area. Ash Die Back is still a serious problem, and it is anticipated that 95% of our ash trees will die in the next five years. Mrs Clements is monitoring their health in this parish by photographing them each year and reporting back to the Tree Council. Tree wardens have been asked to note important

trees outside woodlands in their parish. It seems there are no trees in Eyke with preservation orders on them, which is a matter of concern, and perhaps a reflection of budget cuts within SCDC. Mrs Clements hopes to rectify this, although it can be a challenging matter.

Locally, many of the saplings in Eyke's copse are doing well, but the area needs attention – weeding, strimming, staking, removing brambles and general care. Offers of help would be greatly appreciated, as at present only Mrs Clements and Mrs Stangoe are giving their time. A date of 15th June has been agreed, to carry out this work, and it is hoped to enlist help from parents and pupils at the school. It is possible that the help of a young person can be provided through Suffolk Coasts and Heaths.

11. Cllr Andrew Reid. SCC. The focus of this report was on three areas:

Finance: A saving of £23M needs to be made, and part of the budget plan is to use £3M from reserves, but this is clearly not sustainable in the long term. It was agreed that the general council tax would rise by 2.99%, the first increase since 2009. The cabinet will decide in June which of the options to take following the school travel consultation in a bid to find an affordable solution to a service which currently costs £21M per year.

Education. GCSE and A level results are on the rise. At GCSE level, from 7000 student entries, 2% more students are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths, compared with last year, and at A level and Tech Level the results for the 3000 pupils entered were above the national average.

With secondary school choice, 97% of pupils received one of their top three choices, with 91% receiving offers for their first choice.

Children's Services. A fostering campaign is being launched as more foster carers are urgently needed, particularly for teenagers. Currently, 820 children are fostered in Suffolk. The campaign aims to give an honest picture of what it takes to be a foster carer, and the difference this can make to a young person's life. Children's Services are now rated as good in all areas, following an Ofsted pilot inspection. Suffolk County Council's Children's Services is now in the top 25% of all Local Authorities.

Ms Fairweather expressed her concern over the school travel options. 20% of Eyke children are bussed in and the lack of free travel would impact hugely on them and the school.

12. Cllr Raymond Herring. SCDC. The new "super district council" of East Suffolk, created by the merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, will finally come into being after the local council elections in 2019. The journey began ten years ago, when Suffolk Coastal and Waveney started working in partnership, and over this decade savings of well over £18M have been made through increased efficiency and improved service delivery.

The move into East Suffolk House, at Melton has been a great success, with better conditions for the workforce and visitors alike.

The Council has pegged its council tax increase to less than £5 for the second year running. The Council's financial basis is sound, and the aim is to make more money from existing resources, rather than relying on central government funding. The local economy is strong, with BT, Felixstowe Docks, and Sizewell all in the region. Unemployment is low.

The transformation of the Deben Pool into a state of the art leisure centre continues, and plans are afoot to improve the facilities at Leiston Leisure Centre. A similar facility will be considered for just outside Felixstowe.

Tourism is important in the area, and again a cycling tour returns to the area, which brings a boost financially and healthwise to the region.

The council has now taken on civil parking enforcement, and will develop its strategies more effectively over the next 18 months.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have supported the apprenticeship scheme, with 43 trained since 2012. 70% have stayed with the council to develop their careers after completion of their training.

Cllr Fleming thanked everyone for coming to give their reports and for all they do in the community. If anyone wished to see them, the parish council accounts were available for inspection.

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