

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday, 16th May 2016 at 7.45pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Fleming, in the chair, Cllr Clayton, Cllr Evans, Cllr Stangoe, Cllr Whitmore, District Councillor Ray Herring, the clerk and seven members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Abu-Hejleh, Cllr Cushing, County Councillor Andrew Reid, Mrs Clements, Mrs Macfarlane, Mrs Watson, Mr Marr, Mr Sutch.

Minutes: Those of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20th April 2015, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising: None directly.

Reports:

Suffolk County Council. *(Written Report from Cllr Andrew Reid).*

The manifesto promise in 2013 that Council Tax would not be increased for four years continues to be upheld, through continued savings. The National Adult Social Care levy of 2% was implemented to help fund the National Living Wage.

Suffolk County Council Children's Services has been rated good by Ofsted, and is in the top 22% of local authorities in the country. While meeting its savings targets, the service is also improving its provision.

Educational attainment is improving, as demonstrated by GCSE results, and SATS tests, and Suffolk has improved in the national ranking to 134th place out of 152, an improvement of 6 on last year.

Suffolk featured strongly in the the chancellor's budget announcements, with the go ahead for both the third crossing at Lake Lothing in Lowestoft, and a new wet dock crossing in Ipswich.

Work continues on the Broadband rollout, and so far 35 cabinets have been enabled, and over 3000 premises have been reached under the Superfast Extension Programme, out of a target of 1000 cabinets and 50,000 premises by the end of 2019. Reaching the most rural areas remains a priority.

Rural transport provision has been redesigned around the needs of the users, and this new excellent provision has been achieved at reduced cost. The needs of vulnerable users, particularly the elderly and disabled have been taken into account, to produce a streamlined and efficient service, which will be easier to use and will give greater access to the public transport network.

A £1billion devolution deal has been announced for East Anglia, negotiated by councils from across the region. Decisions currently made by government on such things as infrastructure, growth, employment and skills will be made in East Anglia in the future. A Combined Authority will need to be created, with a directly elected mayor. Certain powers and responsibilities would be devolved to the East Anglia Combined Authority, under the chairmanship of the mayor, including responsibilities over the transport budget, local authority roads, and planning and housing, and powers over a new additional £30 million a year funding allocation, and responsibility for taking forward skills provision and the designing of a new National Work and Health Programme. It is proposed that the first mayoral elections will be in May 2017.

Suffolk Coastal District Council. Cllr Ray Herring

Council Tax has increased by just under 2% this year. This is disappointing, but put in context it is less than £3 per year for a Band D property. Services have to be properly funded and a strong economy built. Funding from central government has been cut, and Suffolk Coastal also froze its portion of the council tax, and along with the removal of the Revenue Support Grant, and the likely cutting of the New Homes Bonus, total funding will be reduced from over £3.6m in 2015/16 to around £500,000 in 2019.

The cabinets of Waveney and Suffolk Coastal are developing a business case to explore the possible benefits of a formal merger. They already work in partnership, and since 2008 have made £16m efficiency savings. The proposal is at a very early stage, and would be subject to a lengthy and full democratic process, and would not be implemented before the 2019 elections.

The two authorities have produced the East Suffolk Business Plan, setting out details of their key priorities and ambitions between now and 2023.

The devolution proposals for East Anglia will be worked through and voted on later in the year.

£1.68 million is being invested in creating affordable homes. The funding has come through Section 106 money which has built up over the years. One possibility is that the council will act as developer, working with colleagues on town and parish councils, buying land, building the houses and selling them. 175

affordable homes have been built in the District since 2010/11.

The selected preferred bidder, subject to contract, for Melton Hill is Active Urban Property Group. Work on the new offices, to be called 'East Suffolk House' opposite Melton Railway Station is progressing well, and the potential moving in date will be this autumn. The move will reduce running costs, and will save £8 million over 20 years.

Suffolk Coastal District Council's Customer Services runs from Woodbridge Library, and this is part of the plan to provide more services in the heart of the community.

Communities have been supported through the year from councillors' Enabling Communities Budget, and local projects and initiatives have been supported across the district.

Brown bins will still be collected free of charge, in order to further support the area's good recycling performance.

Regeneration of areas in Felixstowe continues which will help boost the economy of the town, and bring more tourists to the area.

Work to install an 'intelligent lighting system' to all streets and footpath lights has now been completed. Most lights will switch off between midnight and 5.30am in line with other districts and boroughs in the county.

There will be a new website soon: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk, which will be clearer and more accessible through smartphone devices and tablets.

Questions: Mrs Nicholls asked if the council sells the compost it produces. Cllr Herring replied that because meat waste etc can be included, the end product cannot be sold to the public, but it is treated, and used as agricultural slurry.

Woodbridge and District SNT.

Changes since the beginning of April mean that parishes no longer benefit from personal attendance from an officer or PCSO on a regular basis.

A mobile police station timetable is being worked out, and information about this will follow.

The constabulary website now contains accessible information on burglaries, speeding and so on.

The point of contact is Sgt Scott Cullum.

Telephone: 101

Email: woodbridge.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch. *(Written report from Mrs Macfarlane and Mrs Watson)*

Following the Suffolk Local Policing Review, the Community Watch Liaison Officers have been moved to a new community focused role. A PCSO will become a point of contact within the local SNT, although they will also be covering other areas of work. The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association will take on the responsibility of maintaining a database of our Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

Although the local group has been fairly inactive over the last few years, due to few problems in the village, they continue to keep up to date with the SNWA information, and to circulate it as necessary. The Village NW signs will be cleaned during the summer, and hopefully an updated list of members' households prepared.

Households are recommended to sign up to Police Connect, to get information quickly and easily.

Eye Charities. *(Written Report from Mr Sutch)*

The Charities gifted £110 in cash (11 x £10 gift envelopes) to Eyeke villagers, and £136.80 in the form of books to Eyeke school leavers during the calendar year.

Income in the year was £323.19, and expenditure was £246.80.

Total assets were £8308.48 at the end of the year, which was more than last year, and reflected a growth of 1.76% after expenditure. The total yield was 3.82%

Funds provide an opportunity for capital growth as well as generating income, but times are currently very uncertain. However, as the income continues to cover the expenditure, it is best to stay as we are.

The Charity Commission online records have been updated as required.

Eyeke CEVC School. Mrs D Scurrell, headteacher.

The school has 112 on the roll, 7 teaching staff, four of whom are part time and 6 support staff. There are also 3 midday supervisors and a temporary cook, while the post is advertised to replace Mrs Hassan and Mrs Dickens.

Pupil numbers are rising to 120, and new pupils are joining through the year. The school is promoted as a

school of choice within the locality and beyond.

Close relationships are fostered between the school and The Old School House Nursery, and with the church, where children attend Key Stage worship. Rev Janice Leaver maintains close links with the school. Mrs Sutch, Mrs Hassan and Mrs Shaw, all from the village continue to serve as governors.

Varied topics have been covered this year: flight, London, past and present, rivers, climate and ancient Greece.

'End of Year Expectations' are a challenge, with questions still to be answered on how to gauge the 'expected standard'. Through the use of an online tracking tool, the school is confident that it can measure attainment and show the pupils' progress. There are many uncertainties in education and it has been agreed that the school should become an Academy, as part of the Diocesan Multi Academy Trust, subject to approval by the Secretary of State for Education.

The learning environment, including buildings continues to be improved, and the cleaning company takes good care of the school and grounds, including the pool, which was open at least once a week during last summer holidays to allow pupils to swim.

The school was delighted to be invited to the opening of the playground, and thanks were given to all involved, and for including the school in the planning and fund raising.

Thanks were also given to Eyke Charities for the gift of the leavers' books. It is hoped that the 14 leavers this year will benefit, too.

A warm welcome was extended to anyone who would like to visit the school.

Friends Of Eyke School. Mrs Kim Scopes.

Mrs Scopes reported that there have been many fund raising events during the year, both for FOES' funds and outside charities.

The major ones were the Summer Fayre, which raised £963, Painting by Coins £90, Christmas Fayre £2686, Christmas cards made and sold by the children £243.50, Secret Santa £185, Gardening Club £74. "Race For Life" raised £1295 for cancer research.

During the year a marquee was purchased, costing £500, the cost of which is gradually being funded through charging outside stallholders to come and sell their goods at school events.

Adnams have provided a grant towards the cost of revamping the nature area.

FOES have funded entry into the Maths Challenge Day at £4 per child throughout the school, and as well as this funded the Easter disco as a thank you to parents.

Outings to Duxford and The Greek Experience, and a Fire Station Trip have been funded, along with the purchase of equipment, easter eggs, plants and seeds for the gardening club, and a camera, and trellis and fence posts for the Early Years Garden.

A newsletter has been introduced to keep parents up to date with events. The cost of projects is kept down by parents and friends volunteering their skills: for example an outside classroom area, which will only cost the price of the materials used, not the labour involved.

Future projects include the Summer Fayre, on 2nd July, 1980's disco for parents on September 24th, with the Elephant and Castle providing the bar.

FOES would like to put to the Parish Council the possibility of a car boot sale, and a firework display on the rec.

Work to be considered for the future is the revamping of the outside play equipment.

It was agreed to put an item on the agenda of the next parish council meeting on July 11th regarding the use of the rec by FOES for a car boot sale and firework display.

Eyke & Rendlesham Village Hall. Mr Mike Fisher.

Mr Fisher reported that the hall has been used regularly by the Parish Council, the Over 50's Club and the PCC. There have been various private parties, Salsa dancing classes, an after school club, and yoga classes. The annual accounts are available for inspection. There is a surplus of £825.07, after a donation of £1000 towards the cost of the new play equipment on the rec.

Thanks are due to Mervyn Whitmore for keeping the outside area free of weeds and litter.

The annual report to the Suffolk History Society has been made detailing the life of the village the organisations within it.

The Parish Council is to take over the running of the hall, although the fine detail has still to be agreed.

Land Registry is to be contacted again as the first step. Cllr Evans offered to look through the documents to find a way forward, as he has some experience in this field.

Recreation Ground. Cllr Whitmore.

Cllr Whitmore inspects the area on a daily basis.

There is still the severe perennial problem with rabbit holes, for which there seems to be no solution.

Litter is collected daily, much of which appears to be related to drug taking.

The Parish Council is going to put up more 'No Dogs' signs on the entrance to the playground area, which, it is hoped, will deter owners from letting their dogs enter.

Eyke Millennium Group. (Written report from Mrs Karen Watson)

The past year has been rather successful and a joy to organise. In August there was an afternoon tea party to celebrate VJ Day in the Village Hall, which was decorated for the occasion, and the group who served tea were dressed as 'Nippies'. People generously donated wonderful food for the occasion, which was much enjoyed.

Swanns kindly provided the Christmas Tree for the outside of the church, which the group decorated, along with one for the festival inside.

In February it gave the group great pleasure to organise an 80th birthday tea for Mervyn Whitmore. Over 70 people came, and again food and drink was very generously donated. The group organised a photo album of the occasion, with copies for Mervyn, his three children, and one to be kept in the village archive. Mervyn's daughter Debbie and her husband were able to come over from America, and were hugely appreciative of the event.

There will be another afternoon tea to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on June 11th. Offers of help and food donations will be much appreciated.

Funds are now running quite low, so we shall look next to fund raising events to boost them.

Old School House Community Nursery. Sarah Brown.

Ms Brown reported that Alpha Nurseries, which already runs other nurseries, had taken over from Little Leaders in December.

Since that time, they have carried out considerable work in the house, putting down new flooring and generally refurbishing.

They are looking forward to building a good working relationship with the school, and enjoy using the outdoor facilities.

The Nursery is open from 8am to 6pm all year.

They can take up to 21 children, including 7 under two year olds.

Ms Brown appreciated the opportunity to make contact with the village.

Cllr Whitmore queried the wheelie bin in the parking area which needs emptying.

Ms Brown will look into this.

Village Magazine: Inside Eyke. (Written report from Mr Marr.)

Inside Eyke has had another solid year, with three issues produced, all of which were well received. Mr Marr thanked those who have given feedback and encouragement. Mr Marr's work commitments in South America over the winter meant that only three, not four issues were produced in the year, and this is likely to remain the pattern.

The mix remains the same: serious and less so, with an emphasis on local history, local people and their stories and local events.

The hunt is on for new content from new writers, and younger contributors would be very welcome, as would contributions from the school. The magazine is read widely through the internet, as well as closer to home.

Tree Warden's Report. (Written report from Mrs Clements.)

Mrs Clements attended several meetings relevant to woodlands and trees in general over the past year, all interesting and informative.

The copse has continued to flourish, despite losing 45% of the saplings during the exceptionally hot period last June, especially the small hardwood saplings. Fortunately, some of these have now sprouted from the bottom and are doing well. The hardier species such as rowan, hawthorn and wild plum are growing well and beginning to sprout above the tops of the protective plastic sleeves. Some horse chestnut and two good sized sycamore saplings have been planted recently.

Thanks go to Jan Stangoe, who has helped put down mulch matting around each sapling to negate the need for strimming. This is working well, except for the rabbits, who seem determined to dig the mats up.

With the help of Ron Cushing and Mervyn Whitmore, 5 fruit trees, free from Suffolk Coasts and Heaths, were planted close to the fence between the car park and the recreation ground. A further free 105 saplings should arrive from the Woodland Trust in November. Half will replace those which have died, and the rest will be planted in the hedgerow in Cracks Lane and towards the end of Church Lane, leading to the recreation ground.

Parish Council. Cllr John Fleming, chairman.

Cllr Fleming mentioned the major undertaking of the year, creating the playground on the rec. It is gratifying to see it being well used already. Thanks were due particularly to Cllr Ron Cushing, and Mrs Clements, for working so diligently on this project, and bringing it to fruition.

Also to be thanked were all the people who work hard to keep the village community alive, many of whom were at the meeting. Without their input, the village would not be the thriving place it is.

He thanked the members of the Parish Council and the clerk, and particularly Cllr Whitmore, for his continued efforts in keeping the village neat and tidy.

Annual Report: Dr Therese Coffey MP.

As time was pressing, this report was not read out, but is available from the clerk or the website.

Eyke Parish Council Accounts.

These were available for inspection.

To receive items for information:

Mrs Nicholls raised again the question of the narrowed pavement at the corner of Limes Farmhouse. Cllr Clayton will deal with this.

In the absence of any further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.