

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 8th July 2019 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Whitmore, the clerk, 10 members of the public, Cllr. Mallinder, East Suffolk Council (from 8.00pm), Cllr Reid, SCC, briefly at 8.30pm.

Apologies: Cllr. Thomas

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minutes:

Those of the Annual Meeting of 13th May, having being previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Adjournment for Parish Forum.

1. Mr & Mrs Barker explained that when Mr Barker's mother died in March, probate revealed that there were certain irregularities with the licence for their caravan site on the edge of the village. They will need to submit planning applications in order to put matters on a sound footing and asked for the Parish Council's support with this. There is no intention to increase its size or alter it in any other way.

They were assured that any planning application would be advertised and discussed in the usual way, and they would be welcome to attend such a meeting and would receive a sympathetic hearing.

2. Mr Watson raised the issue of the volume of traffic passing through the village. He was concerned that the developments being permitted at Bentwaters would cause a further enormous increase. Cllr. Cushing responded that this issue had been pursued doggedly by the Parish Council for more than twenty years. Bentwaters has been a significant problem, with much of the activity there unregulated at the outset. A meeting with SCC Highways in January 2019 to clarify the position on traffic volumes in Eyke Street reached no satisfactory conclusion. Developers seem to have *carte blanche* to build houses where they will. Cllr Fleming assured Mr Watson that the Parish Council responds to every planning application. With regard to those concerning Bentwaters, the only platform to respond on is the traffic. The Street was upgraded from a B road to an A classification in the 1970's, to allow street lights to be introduced, and the double bend at Rendlesham to be straightened, making the road safer for USAF service personnel.

Mrs Gallina questioned whether signs could be erected at the top of Creasey's Hill warning drivers that horses cross here to go down Church Lane. It is a dangerous spot with very limited visibility. This idea had been rejected before, given the number of signs already proliferating.

There was a query about the removal of the cats' eyes, which is happening widely across the area. This matter is being discussed by the Deben Joint Parishes Forum. Lack of verge cutting was also cited, and the possibility of having vehicle counters installed.

Cllr. Fleming suggested that concerned individuals should write to express their concerns to the Head of Planning at East Suffolk Council, and to their local councillors. It was suggested that Cllr. Cushing could provide guidance if necessary on this. The clerk will pass on details of names and addresses to anyone who wishes to do this.

At this point, it was appropriate to read the response of Eyke Parish Council to Planning Application DC/19/1517/FUL: Extension to existing agricultural barn: Building 723 at Bentwaters Parks, which covered many of the points raised regarding traffic issues, and argued against it.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. At the meeting on 20th June, it was agreed that work needs to be put in hand to upgrade the hall as soon as possible. In the first instance, a structural survey is needed. Mr Smith explained that he had approached four companies for quotations, but only one, Anderson Associates, based on Martlesham Heath, had come back with a price, of £450 - £600 inclusive of vat and disbursements. This was felt to be reasonable, and it was agreed to accept it. The clerk will reply to this effect, and ask them to liaise with Mr Smith, who will remove the necessary render etc. to arrange a mutually agreeable time.

Mr Watson, who is an architect, kindly offered to draw up plans, and will also liaise with Mr Smith.

As yet, the Charity Commission has not ratified the position of the Parish Council as trustee of the village hall as a CIO.

2. Elephant & Castle. East Suffolk Council has confirmed that the owner will be applying for Listed Building Consent, for the removal of the internal partition wall which they have already removed in the outbuilding.

There is currently no breach of planning control. There is also the possibility that the owners will apply to carry out some internal works to the first floor ceiling in the main property. East Suffolk Council is keeping a watching brief on this.

Reports:

1. Cllr. Reid, Suffolk County Council. In his absence, this was taken as read.

2. Cllr Mallinder, East Suffolk Council. He is now the Environment portfolio holder and was pleased to announce a trial in Southwold of less verge cutting in order to protect and enhance the environment, which could be rolled out across the area if it is successful. The Environment Committee is looking at promoting the greening of the East Suffolk area, and a clean air day.

A project *East Suffolk Means Business* has been launched with a new website intended to provide information and support for businesses to help them grow and thrive.

He flagged up the funding available for the village hall, but realised that the August 19th cut off date for the first round of applications would be too soon. However, if funds remain, there will be a second round, and he will be happy to support an application in this case.

UK Power Networks are providing free of charge packs for elderly and vulnerable people to use in an emergency, containing items such as a torch, and a cylinder to keep a prescription in.

Cllr. Mallinder suggested that cutting back round the village gates, and repainting them in bright white could be an effective traffic calming measure, and offered his help with this if required.

He also flagged up his intention to hold a 'surgery' for parishioners this autumn in convenient locations around the ward. There will be one in Eyke on 14th September from 11am to 12.30.

Cllr. Abu-Hejleh raised the matter of the Local Plan Examination which takes place on 17th September and felt that the Parish Council should be represented. Cllr Mallinder was not aware of this date.

3. Woodbridge and District ASB Meeting: 16.5.19. Cllr Whitmore had attended this. There had been no significant matters to report.

Other matters:

1. The rec: management plan for wildlife. Seph Pochin, an ecologist, has contacted the parish council with a view to managing some areas of the rec as a wildlife asset, as it has a decent range of wild flowers. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with him, to include Cllr. Stangoe, Mrs Clement, the tree warden and the clerk to discuss how this could be done. Meanwhile, the clerk is to ask Mr Hassan to cut the parts as he did last year, around the football and basketball areas, the playground and the pedestrian gate area. Cllr. Fleming will cut back the brambles and gorse, and the ragwort also needs attention.

2. The Citizens Advice AGM is on 10th July, and the Annual Report available.

3. Cuts to local bus services. As part of the drive to save £13M Suffolk County Council is set to remove public funding from certain services. Eyke is not affected, but one under threat is the 71, running between Sudbourne, Orford and Woodbridge. This issue is currently being looked at by the Deben Joint Parishes, and will be discussed at the meeting on 25th July, which will be attended by Cllrs. Cushing and Stangoe, and the clerk.

Planning Application:

DC/19/2537/FUL Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and converted loft space: 1 Church Lane, Eyke.

Councillors supported this application.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed: Mrs J Pooley: salary, April-June: £432.36; HMRC, 1st quarter: £108.00

2. Account balances: current account: £15,589.42; Business Savings: £8565.20; Rate Reward: £118.41

3. Annual audit. Having submitted all the required paperwork the auditor had contacted the council to say that as there had been no issues raised with the previous year's audit, and neither the council's annual income nor expenditure had exceeded £25,000, the council could declare itself exempt from review, which it duly did. The Certificate of Exemption has been submitted to the auditor and saves the £200 plus vat fee.

4. A letter of thanks has been received from Mr Fisher for the £600 donation to the PCC

At this point, Cllr. Reid arrived, and was invited to speak.

He did not wish to go over his report, which he took as read, but wanted to offer his support over the concerns of the parish regarding traffic in the village and beyond. He had dealings with the Highways Department over the Woods Lane development, and the funnelling of traffic onto the peninsula via the road over Wilford Bridge, a situation which has implications throughout the area. He was told that the road was 'at capacity', but has received no further answer from them as yet.

He is happy to facilitate a meeting with the Highways Department.

To receive items for Information:

1. Cllr. Stangoe wondered if there would be interest in the village for a talk on the environment. She has a contact who would do this free of charge. It was felt that this would be best organised by individuals, rather than the parish council. Cllrs Abu-Hejleh and Stangoe will look into doing this.
Sizewell C update. There will be an engagement event on 26th July at a venue to be announced. This will be by invitation only, to be sent shortly.
2. A planning application has been received. The meeting will be next Monday, 5th July at 6.30pm in the hall. Those on the rota: Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark and Stangoe, who will circulate the plans between themselves.
3. Cllr. Clark suggested that a village event be held on 8th May 2020 to celebrate VE Day, 75 years ago. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr. Mallinder is happy to provide some financial support for this.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Next meeting: Monday, 9th September at 7.00pm