

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 8th November 2021 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore, five members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllr. Mallinder, East Suffolk Council and Cllr. Abu-Hejleh.

Cllr. Mallinder attended very briefly, to highlight important work regarding COP26. He has talked on the radio, and is speaking at venues across the region. He stressed the importance of mitigating climate change through tackling issues in the natural world and on a personal level, with less waste and less personal consumption. We need to work at preserving the trees we have, and not rely on replanting, for example. He is running the Adnams 10K on 28th November, and has raised £310 so far in support of the village hall. He hopes to raise far in excess of this, and will raise the target on his funding page. He asked Cllr. Clark to supply the bank details for a direct payment.

Cllr. Clark invited Cllr. Mallinder as a guest to the New Year's Eve party in the hall, which he was pleased to accept.

There were no Declarations of Interest, and no request for an adjournment for a Parish Forum.

Minutes: Those of 27th September 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. The hall is now on the new system for water, and the second fix for the electrics is imminent. The kitchen decoration is done, and most of the white goods have arrived. It is hoped to have an alarm in place by the end of the week. Phase one is on target for completion by the end of November, and phase two, which includes the upgrading of the main body of the hall will happen next year and is under discussion, and also the replacement of the windows and doors.

Sincere thanks are due to everyone involved.

2. Traffic issues. In the absence of Cllr. Reid, there is no further information from the Highways Department, which he is chasing regarding transport modelling, particularly with reference to HGV's and volume of traffic in general across the peninsula.

Cllr. Cushing is attending the Joint Parishes meeting on 11th November, where these matters will be discussed. It is generally felt that there is too much talk and too little support from SCC. The priority seems to be to build as many houses as possible. It was agreed that there should be full access to data collected.

Cllr. Cushing will raise this at Thursday's meeting.

3. Fencing on the recreation ground. Three quotations have been received:

MJH Garden Services: in total:£8370.00;

Miles Better Fencing: £5218.00 (this did not include the clearance work, and it is only an estimate, not a full quotation);

Timberwolf: £6138.00 plus vat to include everything. I

It was agreed to accept the Timberwolf quotation, which covers everything. Cllr. Whitmore expressed reservations about the gain from such an expense, especially when the village hall might need support. Cllr. Clark said that the hall refurbishment had been fully costed and covered by the funds raised. There is a comfortable amount of money in the bank to pay for ongoing works. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to make the rec look tidy and cared for.

Regarding locks for the barriers to the rec and the car park, Cllr. Fleming will buy combination locks which were agreed to be the most satisfactory type. The clerk can provide Suffolk Norse with the combination so that the recycling truck can gain access.

4. Rendlesham and Tunstall Forest 10 Year Plan. Mrs Clements reported that she had attended the meeting on 22nd October at Tunstall regarding this. The plan involves significant clear felling (i.e. complete clearance of all trees within a given area), with a massive area returning to heathland. Some will be maintained to provide habitat for nightjars and woodlarks. Forest Enterprise used to support small forestry and sawmill enterprises, but this support has disappeared, and the area is managed now for big business. Councillors

expressed great reservations about this mass felling, and what will eventually happen to the cleared areas, which will not be able to offer support to wildlife for some years. There was a general feeling that the Council needs to be better informed on the matter. Cllr. Fleming wondered why small areas of hardwood trees could not be planted, and why in the current climate we should not be preserving the trees we already have. The clerk had previously contacted Forestry England to object to the short consultation period, and has been assured that any comments made now will be considered, so she will reply as above. Mrs Clements also reported that she will have help from Suffolk Coasts and Heaths volunteers to assist clearing round the trees in the copse on the rec. and will report on this at the next meeting.

Reports:

1. Cllr. Reid's report, having been previously circulated, was taken as read.
2. Cllr. Fleming: Festival of Suffolk Zoom meeting. As there were joning issues on the day, Cllr. Fleming requested that the details be sent to the clerk. The clerk believes that she forwarded this to councillors, but will check.

Other Matters:

1. Bus service through Eyke. Following a complaint about the illogicality of the bus service through the village, which does not offer a sensibly timed return trip either to Rendlesham or Woodbridge, the clerk reported that it will be raised at the next Deben Joint Parishes Meeting on 25th November, and she also contacted Cllr. Reid about the matter.
2. Draft Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document; Affordable Housing; Cycling and Walking Strategy. It was generally felt that these documents, which have a relatively short time frame for response will be best dealt with on an individual basis, due to their general length and unwieldiness.

Planning: DC/21/4634/FUL. Porch extension to dwelling, formation of new front vehicular access and parking area and erection of detached garage/workshop at 4, Church Lane, Eyke IP12 2QT. Councillors supported this application.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed:
Mr S Allsop: fuel for mower to cut village green: £25.00.
MJH Garden and Tree Services: Cuts to village car park 2021, and trimming of hedges: £580.00.
2. Account balances: (as at 2.10.21)
Community Account: £15032.62;
Rate Reward: £8601.53;
Business Premium Account: £118.63.
3. Half yearly reconciliation report: Cllr. Stangoe had carried this out and found all in order.
4. The clerk reminded councillors that the budget will need to be set and the precept issued at the next meeting.

To receive items for information:

1. The clerk had received a request from a parishioner to again raise the matter of the Elephant and Castle, and the agreement of the enforcement officer to keep monitoring the situation. There has been no further movement on this front, and it was agreed that the general state of the frontage is very poor. It was felt that the likelihood of it becoming a pub again was slight, but there is always hope.
2. The state of the side roads around the village was raised, with debris such as sand and mud making them very dangerous in places, in addition to the potholes. The clerk will report this.
3. The sign regarding motorbikes on the rec. has disappeared. Any replacement will be considered after the fencing work is done.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, 10th January 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

