

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 9th January, 2017 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllr .Cushing, Cllr. Stangoe, Cllr. Whitmore and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllr. Abu-Hejleh, who is unwell.

Resignation: Cllr. Clayton tendered his resignation today, as his personal circumstances dictate he spends most of his time away from the village, and he will not be able to commit sufficient time to the role. The clerk will inform SCDC, and set the wheels in motion to try and replace him. She will also contact Mr Clayton to thank him for his contribution over the past year.

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes: Those of 14th November 2016, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Hedge on the village green. A price for cutting this back on the village green side, and taking away the debris, is still awaited from MJH Garden Services. The clerk will chase this. It was agreed that although it would have been better to deal direct with whoever buys The Limes Farmhouse, that possibility is still some way off, and the hedge needs attention before the nesting season.
2. A response is still awaited from Luke Cain, at Marshall Hatchick regarding the position over the late trustees.
3. The Parish Council insurers have confirmed that it is in order for Mr Thompson to fly his hawk on the rec, as he has his own insurance for this activity. Mr Thompson has been informed of this, although it is not known if he has flown the bird there yet.
4. Trimming round the village gates is now being dealt with directly by Mr Chenery. SCC.
5. Regarding creating some more parking space by squaring up the areas within the close opposite Two Gates, and thus hopefully reducing the parking in the slip road, in principle this would be possible, according to Mr Chenery, and any works would be in the County Council control. The challenge is finance, cost/benefit and justification. It was agreed to canvass the opinion of the residents of the close, who would be directly affected, and also to ask Mr Chenery to prepare an approximate estimate.

Reports:

1. SNT Tasking meeting: 24.11.16. This was attended by Cllr Whitmore. The police seem to be concentrating on ASB related to cars. The situation in Church Lane seems to have improved regarding speeding late at night. The SNT has produced a notice which can be placed on cars parked dangerously, causing an obstruction or simply contravening guidelines. Councillors felt these could be useful for habitual offenders, but would need using carefully. They have also produced a leaflet regarding concerns over drug use. The clerk will put a copy up in the bus shelter.
2. Budget Liaison Meeting: 28.11.16. This was attended by Cllrs. Cushing and Stangoe. Cllr Cushing reported that there was little difference from last year: cuts are forecast in all areas of service. He had been very surprised to learn that two thirds of the budget is allocated to care of the elderly, to children and to the disabled.
3. Suffolk Coastal Area Meeting: 12.12.16. No one was able to attend this. The clerk had forwarded the e mailed reports, but drew attention to the report about Sizewell and the concern about possible traffic congestion during the early stages of Sizewell C, and to the AONB approach to the Stage 2 Consultation.

Other Matters:

1. A letter has been received from Snape Parish Council asking if Eyke would be interested in exploring the possibility of banding together with other local parishes to fund a PCSO for the purpose of speed enforcement through our villages. The total cost would be in the region of £32,000 a year. Councillors felt that the cost was prohibitive, and that the Vehicle Activated Signs in place in Eyke Street are quite effective. The clerk will reply to this effect.
2. Strategic Flood Assessment meeting: SCDC and Waveney: Wangford Community Centre on 17.1.17 at 6pm. Councillors were sceptical about the value of such a meeting and no one wished to attend.

Planning:

Application DC/16/4964/FUL: Erection of side extension following demolition of derelict glass house. Erection of side extension following demolition of existing lean to and rear extension and balcony: Elm Cottage, The Street, Eyke IP12 2QX. The council supported this application.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed: Ipswich Borough Council: £329.47 (4 playground inspections, and RoSPA inspection); HMRC: £108.20 (3rd quarter); Mrs J Pooley: £432.16 (salary, 3rd quarter). It was also agreed to pay Mrs Pooley £450 towards the purchase of a new computer. (The computer, monitor, cd drive and external hard drive cost £930, plus installation cost of £100 and it was felt that £450 was a fair reflection of the amount use the new computer will get for parish council purposes.)
2. Account balances at 3.1.17: Current Account: £13397.02; Business Savings: £8502.97; Business Premium: £118.02
3. Draft budget and precept. This had been circulated to Councillors. Based on a precept request of £7500, and expenditure of £6665, including the increase of insurance premiums, and the cost of playground inspections, there should be a margin of just under £1000 in hand at the end of the next year. The amounts already in hand will allow for unexpected expenses, and possibly work on the village hall. It was agreed to precept for £7600.00. This will make a very small increase to the parish element of the Council tax bill.
4. The Pensions Regulator: the clerk confirmed that she has completed the steps required. She does not need to be enrolled in a scheme, and will complete the declaration of compliance by 28th February, the deadline date.

To receive items for information:

1. Mobile Police Station Visits: 16th Jan; 10th Apr; 3rd July; 25th Sept; 18th Dec. All from 12 to 1.30pm in the close opposite Two Gates.
2. The clerk has received information regarding the possible purchase of the phone box for £1. Nothing is decided yet.
3. In answer to a query from Cllr Whitmore, Mr Chenery has provided information regarding the width of SCC highway verges. Basically, they can vary from zero to whatever is the highway boundary, and Land Registry is often involved to try and define this, not always successfully. Where the boundary has not been recorded in the past, the rule of thumb is that the boundary is to an existing fence or wall where this aligns with neighbouring features; to the front of a well maintained hedge; to the roadside edge of a ditch in the verge.
4. The above point arose in connection with trees interfering with BT cables in Castle Hill and Creasey's Hill. Neither SCC nor BT consider it their problem: Bt will not deal with it unless the cables break, and SCC will not touch trees with cables tangled in them. The clerk will continue to pursue this. It was generally accepted by councillors that the width of a bank is defined by the horizontal measurement along the ground, rather than the sloping one.
5. There are two loose and rattling gully covers near the turning circle at Eyke School. The clerk will report these.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Next meeting: Monday, 13th March 2017. 7.00pm