

A meeting of the Parish Council took place at 7.00pm on Monday, 9th November 2020 via Zoom video conference.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas; Cllr. James Mallinder, East Suffolk Council, the clerk and one member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Whitmore; Cllr. Andrew Reid, SCC hoped to be present, but had four meetings that evening.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minutes: Those of 28th September, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and the clerk will pass them to Cllr. Fleming to sign as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. Cllr. Clark reported that there had been a Committee Meeting on 13th October, and there is now discussion as to where to start work, either in upgrading the kitchen or the toilets. The outside clearance work will be dealt with by a working party. The outside key safe is now in place with a key inside.
2. Updating the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.
3. Playground Inspections.

Items 2 and 3 were deferred to the next meeting, due to the time constraints of the current one.

4. Upgrade of the Zoom account. It has become clear that the free account, which allows a 40 minute time slot, is being strictly adhered to by the Zoom administrators. To upgrade to the next level, which would allow unlimited time, would cost in the region of £10 per month. Cllr. Clark suggested Microsoft Teams, which offers unlimited free time. Councillors were willing to explore this option, and Cllr. Clark will meet with the clerk in early December to discuss. A trial meeting with councillors could be set up in good time before the January Parish Council meeting.

Reports:

1. Cllr. Andrew Reid, SCC. This report, having been previously circulated, was taken as read.
2. Cllr. James Mallinder. East Suffolk Council. This report had been previously circulated and Cllr. Mallinder just wanted to emphasise that the Council is open for business and all front line services are operating, including those offering help and support to people struggling to manage their physical and mental wellbeing at this time. He reminded the Parish Council about the recent draft planning documents including the cycling and walking strategy, for which responses from residents are requested by 30th November. *(These have already been forwarded to councillors.)* He suggested that this strategy could be of interest to Eyke, given the ongoing issues with traffic in The Street, and the lack of suitable pavements in places.

Other matters:

1. Eyke Facebook page. Cllr. Clark reported that there had been some critical comment of the village website on the Eyke Facebook page. The comments were completely erroneous and unsubstantiated, and in fact were removed within hours. Cllr. Clark runs the Eyke Parish Council facebook page, which is completely separate.
2. Village website. The criticism levelled above prompted Cllr Clark to look at the village website, which she felt is perhaps not as attractive as it could be. Cllr. Cushing felt that people looking at this website are not necessarily looking for anything but Parish Council information, and the Parish Council should not be swayed by one critical comment. Cllr. Clark felt that it could be a little more attractive, while displaying all the necessary information.

In answer to a question from Cllr. Clark, the clerk said that she forwards everything which needs to be uploaded, but does not do this herself. She feels the service currently given fulfills all the legal requirements very efficiently. *One Suffolk* provides the platform, which several other parish councils use as well. Cllr. Clark will discuss possible ways to improve the site with the service provider.

3. Refurbishment of village lawnmower. The mower clearly need a service, and possibly more at the end of the season. It was agreed to get an estimate for repair before deciding whether it is worth doing, or whether the Council should replace it. Cllr. Mallinder offered a donation towards this from his Enabling Communities budget.
4. Joint Parishes Traffic Issues. The final draft of the letter requesting a meeting with all relevant parties at East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council has been circulated to councillors. In essence, the parish

councils involved – Campsea Ashe, Tunstall, Snape, Melton, Bromeswell and Eyke want to ascertain the enforcement measures being implemented ensure that the developments at Bentwaters are within agreed planning and land use regulations, and the measures being taken to ensure developments and traffic levels across the area are managed to reduce environmental impact and encourage sustainable travel. It was agreed that Eyke Parish Council would be a signatory to this letter.

5. Trial bikes on the rec. This has been reported to the Parish Council by two people, and has happened on several occasions. The clerk has reported this, so that the police are aware, and should be making checks. The clerk has asked that the item is included at the next ASB meeting. The member of the public present had witnessed this at least once, and felt that the signage could be improved. The sign that is there is very sturdy, and makes the law clear, but he felt it could be missed. The clerk said the sign, which was produced by *Realise Futures* in Ipswich had originally cost about £40 plus vat. It was agreed that the council would look into the provision of a second sign, perhaps a little bigger with more of a visual impact.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed: The Poppy Appeal (wreath for Remembrance Sunday): £17.00; Community Action Suffolk (Website Hosting Services): £60.00; Mr S Allsopp (fuel for mower for cutting the village green) £25.00. The annual account from MJH Garden Services for hedge and grass cutting is expected soon, and could be in the region of £650. An amount in this region was authorised by the council.
2. Account balances: (as at 2.10.20) Community Account: £23,182.78; Rate Reward: £8600.65; Business Premium Account: £118.63.

To Receive Items For Information:

1. Affordable Housing: Supplementary Planning Document. This can be viewed and responded to online, and the clerk has forwarded the necessary information. The response window is between 9th November and 21st December. It was agreed that if councillors feel a meeting to discuss a further response is needed, this could be convened nearer to the cut off date.
2. Cllr. Clark raised the idea of a monthly newsletter with parish council news and information. This will be raised at the next meeting. Cllr. Mallinder was very supportive of this and could assist with funding.

Next meeting: Monday, 11th January 2021 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.