

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 9th November 2015 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs Abu-Hejleh, Clayton, Cushing, Evans, Stangoe and Whitmore, Mrs Clements, Mrs Nicholls and the clerk.

Apologies: County Councillor Andrew Reid.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes: Those of the meeting of 14.9.15, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed, and signed as a correct record.

Adjournment for Parish Forum:

Mrs Clements: Tree Warden's Report. 50% of the trees planted on the rec have survived, and have been weeded and generally tidied, including strimming around to prevent them being choked. Two sycamores have been planted.

Mrs Clements has applied for five trees to be planted under the 'Scattered Orchard' scheme, promoted by Suffolk Coasts and Heaths, which is designed to promote old varieties of apple, pear, hazelnut and walnut. These will also be planted in the copse.

There are a couple of tree forums which Mrs Clements will attend, and report back if necessary.

Mrs Clements: Funding for Play Area. The total amount received and promised so far is £17,246, which includes £1000 each from the church, the village hall and an anonymous benefactor. There was a rejection from Suffolk Giving.

The second phase, installing the football pitch and goals, plus basketball post is quoted at £3385.00 plus vat. £3790.59 has been secured from SCDC Enabling Communities Sports Fund.

Mr Brigginslaw of Amaranth has kindly offered to fund the cost of materials for fencing the play area, in the region of £1600, and a further Capital Grant application will be made to fund the cost of construction, about another £1600.

Mrs Clements drew attention to a Tesco scheme 'Groundwork', funded by the 5p levy on plastic bags, which will consider funding projects between £8,000 and £10,000, and which receive funding from no other sources. Although this would be of no help to the current project, it is worth bearing in mind for the future.

Mr Cushing updated the Parish Council on the current situation regarding quotations for the work, and it was agreed that he should continue to liaise in this way, and to discuss the implementation of the project with contractors, aiming to start in February/March next year, overseeing it once started, with a completion date to be agreed.

Mrs Nicholls then introduced herself as a new resident in the bungalow next to Little Oaks. She asked if the Parish Council could look into the narrowed pavement on the corner between The Limes and Little Oaks, which makes negotiating that part dangerous, and almost impossible for people with pushchairs. It was agreed that the clerk would in the first instance contact SCC, as had happened before with a similar problem further down The Street. She will also mention again the very noisy drain cover outside Southdene.

Mrs Clements and Mrs Nicholls then left the meeting.

Matters Arising:

1. Doggy bin, White Woman's Lane. Suffolk Coastal Services have inspected the site, and could not find a suitable location nor any dog waste. Councillors were sure that a suitable location could be found, perhaps in Cracks Lane, but wondered about the proliferation of metal waste bins if they are not absolutely necessary. The matter was left in abeyance at present.
2. Ownership of land at the Village Hall. The clerk now has the form to complete to make a request to the Land Registry, and will liaise with Mr Fisher over the map of the site.
3. Overgrown footpaths. Cllr. Clayton had not seen a problem, but it was agreed that the paths should be looked at again in the spring.
4. Traffic calming. In an e mail of 22nd October, Mr Chenery advised that SCC is quite close to issuing a works order, and once placed, work should be carried out within 14 weeks. There could be a slight

delay in agreeing costs if it is necessary to get a quotation from the supplier of the gateway. The Parish Council felt frustrated by this, as all the prices had been agreed and accepted in the original quotation, and it is not a new scheme. The clerk will respond to Mr Chenery. Also discussed was the road hump at the north end of the village. Opinion differed over how noisy it was. In any case it was agreed that nothing would be done about it until the road is resurfaced at some point in the future.

Reports:

SCC. Councillors received a copy of the written report from Cllr Reid, so it was taken as read.

Suffolk Police SNT. The SNT panel met on 21st October to discuss suggestions for future priorities, which were then agreed at the tasking meeting on 28th October. These were to address anti social behaviour and possible drug use and dealing in Wickham Market, to engage with rural communities to help reduce the opportunity of rural crime, particularly with reference to vulnerable groups. New issues raised were the high rate of cat mortality in Melton, and speed limits and signs in different areas.

Eyke has a new PCSO, Marie Smith. The Police Officer for Eyke is still Andy Warne. As the operating system has now changed, it is not possible to give crime figures and statistics for the village, but information is accessible on the constabulary home page. The SNT now operates from Theatre Street, Woodbridge, in premises shared with the Fire Service.

The mobile police station will be in Eyke on Monday, 7th December between 2 and 3.30pm.

Suffolk Coastal Area Meeting. Cllr. Cushing attended this meeting on 21.9.15. Mr Fryatt reported on the problems associated with providing affordable homes. Housing associations have no money to invest in further homes, the right to buy has left a depleted stock and fewer houses are being built. There was also mention of the money available to enable councils to comply with the Transparency Code.

Scheme of Delegation Event: 2.11.15 Cllr Cushing also attended this meeting. There is now a presumption in favour of development. Up to 90% of applications are decided by planning officers. The decision as to whether an application will go to the planning committee is decided by the officer and the chairman. There is a time frame of 5 days to supply any information, which is not enough.

Cllr Cushing stressed the importance of councillors attending outside meetings, to gain an understanding of matters which could affect the parish, and also to make the authorities aware of the parish and its needs. He asked that other councillors apart from him try to attend such meetings. Cllrs Stangoe and Cushing are to attend the budget meeting on 16th November.

Other Matters:

Suffolk Constabulary. The Chief Constable Gareth Wilson has written to explain that in order to deploy resources effectively, the attendance of officers at parish council meetings is under review. Parish Liaison will be maintained and a police representative provided at planned meetings for specific local concerns, and for major incidents. The aim is to have much information available on the Constabulary's new website.

Public consultation: Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies; Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan. The Documents are available for inspection and comment. Councillors had studied much of the information before, and had no further comment to make.

Finance:

Cheques to be agreed. Mr S Lucas: £25.00 (mower fuel for cutting the village green); MJH Garden and Tree Services: £560.00 (£360 hedge cutting and £200 for 8 cuts to car park); Mrs Pooley: £35.00 (contribution towards cost of new printer); Land Registry: £4.00 (Title search)

Account balances: at 30.9.15. Current Account: £13320.10, including £3688.00 for the playground. Business Saver account: £117.98; Base Reward account: £14304.61, including £2959.75 for the playground.

Draft Budget 2016-17. Councillors were asked to consider this before the precept setting at the next meeting.

To receive items for information:

1. Sir Michael Bunbury has arranged for the turkey oak on the green to be pruned in November.
2. Cllr Stangoe presented a cheque for £102 for the playground fund, raised from the sale of knitted Christmas decorations, which were much admired. Two more were sold that evening, making a total of £113.00
3. Cllr Abu-Hejleh thanked all those unsung helpers who worked so hard at the Dog Show, and thanks were also give to Cllr Whitmore for his help with clearing the hedge trimmings.
4. Forthcoming events. East Anglian Air Ambulance: meet the fundraising team: 18.11.15, from 12.30 to 2.30 at 9, Alpha Business Park Ipswich; Local Policing Information Evening: 10.12.15 at 7pm at the Visitors' Centre, Landmark House, Ipswich.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Next meeting: Monday, 11th January, 2016.