

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 10th March 2014 at 7.00pm in the village hall.

Present: Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Cushing, Mr Mutton, Mr Smith, Mr Whitmore, the clerk, Mr Fleming (from 7.25pm) and Councillor Andrew Reid (from 7.50 to 8.10pm)

In Mr Fleming's absence, Mrs Abu-Hejleh took the chair.

Apologies: Mr Fleming, for the first part of the meeting, PC Andrew Warne, unavailable because of the major incident in Ufford.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

There was no adjournment for a Parish Forum.

Minutes: Those of 13th January 2014, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record. Mrs Abu-Hejleh pointed out the omission by the clerk at that meeting, to mention that a team of volunteers had been assembled to spread grit at the bottom of Creasey's Hill, for which the clerk apologised.

Matters Arising:

1. Traffic Calming. The starting date for the works will be 14th April, and a closure order will be in effect from 14th – 17th April on Castle Hill. It was agreed that publicity for the scheme would be good, and that to wait until Phase One is on the ground and there is something to see would be best. SCC with expertise in this area, could lead this. The Parish Council agreed that it would be desirable to involve all those who played a major part, and possibly villagers too.
2. Quiet Lanes Initiative. The scheme was formally opened on 1st March, attended by Mr Whitmore, the clerk and some Eyke villagers. Councillors agreed a donation of £200 towards the cost of the signs.
3. Grit bins. Following their walk round after the last meeting, Mr Cushing explained that the councillors present had severe reservations about finding a suitable spot for a bin, and felt that one would probably not be sufficient to allow for gritting of the whole hill. There was also the issue of needing to provide bins in Castle Hill too. Mr Fleming had expressed serious concern that a bin dug into the bank by Linden Rise could cause instability and a possible collapse of the bank. It was agreed that the best compromise would be that which Mr Fleming had previously suggested: that bags of salt are available at Church Farm for use when necessary.
4. Doggy bin. A bin is now installed near Church Farm, and is already being used. It was agreed that a note about its location would go in the next All Saints News.
5. The broken footpath signs were added to the contractor's list on 21.1.14 and have now been repaired. The clerk now has a direct e-mail contact for reporting such problems: prows.east@suffolk.net.
6. Bentwaters update. Steven Bainbridge of Evolution Planning has contacted the Parish Council to offer to come and speak to the Council about the updated application, which has just been submitted to the District Council. The clerk has established that Rendlesham Parish Council would be happy for representatives from Eyke to attend its meeting with Mr Bainbridge on the subject on 13th March. Councillors felt that they would prefer to have a meeting in Eyke, and the 31st March was suggested as a possible date, giving councillors time to go through the application when it arrives from the District Council before meeting with Mr Bainbridge. The clerk will offer this date to Mr Bainbridge and confirm in due course.

Reports:

1. Councillor Andrew Reid, SCC. Parish Councillors had received Cllr. Reid's report, and he wished to highlight just a few things. The County Council will be saving £38.6 million over the next year, as the first part of a plan to save £156m over four years caused by reductions in government grant and increased demand for services. Priorities remain, such as 'Raising the Bar', the rolling out of superfast broadband, investing in apprenticeships, and supporting the development of 10 new, state of the art care homes. The road maintenance budget has been protected from cuts. Cllr Reid was sure that Eyke would be benefitting from the superfast broadband speeds, and would confirm this to

the clerk. There could be a question mark over some of the outlying properties, which he could find out about if their phone numbers could be supplied. Bus passes for those who qualify, and whose passes expire on 31st March, will be replaced automatically. Certain disabled pass holders will receive a renewal form to complete. For those in remote areas, or the severely disabled, travel vouchers can be applied for.

In answer to a question from Mr Mutton about the money spent on the Quiet Lanes Initiative in these straitened times, Cllr Reid explained that much of the support came from outside funding, such as the Big Lottery and Sizewell B amenity fund. There would be no ongoing requirement from the County Council to support it. The scheme will hopefully also reap benefits in increased use of local amenities.

2. Cllr Jane Marson, SCDC. No report
3. PC Andy Warne, Suffolk Constabulary. No report.

Other matters:

1. Recreation Ground. Mr Whitmore reported that most of the fallen oak tree has been removed, and a neighbour would like to remove the small branches etc. This was welcomed by the Parish Council. There is also a significant hole to fill in. Mr Fleming offered to help with this and will liaise with Mr Whitmore.
2. Car park. The potholes in the surface are not too bad at present, and it was agreed that this would be done during the summer holidays with left over planings.
3. Electoral Commission: draft review. Comments on this are invited up to April 28th. It is recommended that Eyke will be a one member ward, known as Orford and Eyke, and will include Campsea Ashe.
4. Mr Cushing and Mrs Abu-Hejleh will attend the SALC meeting on 17th March.

Planning:

1. Application DC/14/0306/LBC: The Old Mill House The Street, Eyke. Internal works. No one had raised any objections or observations, and so the clerk had replied on 4.3.14 in support.

Finance:

1. Account balances: Savings account: £8114.63 (31.12.13). £1167.01 has been spent since 31.12.13, leaving a current account balance of £5911.37.
2. Cheques to be agreed: MJH Garden Services for car park grass cutting: £150.00; Miles Better Fencing for repairs to fence on rec: £111.00; SCC Energy costs: £365.65; Alan Comber for website services: £24.00; Mrs J Pooley, salary Jan/Feb/Mar: £432.36; HMRC 4th quarter: £108.00; Norse Commercial Services for installation of doggy bin: £151.00; donation to Quiet Lanes Initiative: £200.00.

Any Other Business:

1. Suffolk Preservation Society. Councillors agreed it could be useful to have access to the Society's planning expertise. The clerk will find out about joining fees.
2. WW1 Community Project. Orford Museum is seeking local stories about the effect of the war on ordinary lives, during and after the conflict.
3. Introduction of new Public Access system for the planning service at SCDC. Mr Cushing will attend the seminar to be held on 28.3.14.
4. Potholes in Sheepdrift Road and the gully grating outside 4 Church Lane will be reported to highways for repair.
5. Mr Cushing looked at the crime prevention items on sale at the police station, and was impressed by the good quality and reasonable price. This will be highlighted in the next All Saints News.
6. Mr Cushing reported that he and Mrs Abu-Hejleh are now fully accredited Speed Watch Officers.

Date of next meeting: 12th May 2014: 7.00pm AGM followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45pm

The meeting closed at 8.20pm