

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 11th January 2016 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Cushing, Evans, Stangoe and Whitmore, Mrs Clements, and the clerk, PCSO Marie Smith (from 7.15pm) Cllr Andrew Reid (from 8.00pm)

Apologies: District Councillor Ray Herring, Cllr. Clayton.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes: Those of 9th November 2015, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Adjournment for Parish Forum:

Mrs Clements: Tree Warden Report. The fruit trees from Suffolk Coasts and Heaths should be available shortly. Mrs Clements will collect them, and hope that it stops raining prior to planting them.

Play area update. £2000 has now been offered by the Britten/Pears Foundation, bringing the secured amount to £18,246.00. Amaranth has kindly offered to pay for the cost of fencing materials which will be around £1600.00. Capital Fund applications will be announced in February. Dr Therese Coffey will open the play area on 29th April.

Cllr. Cushing then gave further details regarding the quotations received. Several companies were approached, but only two gave quotations worth considering: Sovereign Play Systems, and Playdale. Playdale's quotation is £17499.89, and Sovereign's £16,264.35 to include provision and installation of play equipment, and supply of safety surfacing. Cllr Cushing felt the Sovereign quotation offered the better layout, and he felt comfortable with the service they offered. It was agreed to accept this quotation, but to include a penalty clause of £100 per day for any overrun beyond the 1st April, which is to be viewed as the completion day.

There was considerable discussion regarding the fencing, which is not included in the quotation. It is hoped that the hole digging for the fencing, an expensive job, can be carried out by ourselves. Cllr Cushing favoured a picket fence, which he felt would blend in more harmoniously, while concrete posts with chain link fencing was also an option, and seen as more durable. By a majority vote, it was agreed to have a chain link fence. Cllr Evans will look into this right away, and arrange site meetings, and will liaise with Cllr Cushing.

Cllrs Abu-Hejleh and Stangoe agreed to publicise the opening by Dr Coffey, and arrange refreshments. The clerk will contact all the sponsors to expedite the receipt of funds, to inform them of the opening date, and to check their details and ask for logos to go on the plaque which will be erected.

Matters Arising:

1. Traffic Calming. The order for erecting the village gateways at the southern end of the village was placed on 26th November by SCC. The contractor has 14 weeks to carry out the work.
2. Ownership of land at the Village Hall. Land Registry holds no records in respect of the hall, but various documents relating to it have now come to light and have been passed to the Parish Council, including an indenture dated 1924, which appears to assign a parcel of freehold land for a village hall. It was agreed that professional help is needed to understand the document fully, and the clerk will in the first instance contact SALC for their advice, before engaging the services of a solicitor, which may prove very costly.
3. Highway Matters. The noisy drain cover has been attended to, and as there has been no comment from SCC regarding the narrowed pavement between The Limes and Little Oaks, it is hoped that Cllr Clayton will be able to carry out some remedial work here.

Reports:

1. Cllr Andrew Reid, SCC. There will be consultations on the future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, including a meeting at Endeavour House on 14th January at 6.30pm. The second round of superfast broadband deployment started in December. The aim is to extend superfast broadband to

95% of Suffolk premises by 2019, and full coverage by 2020. There are plans for an interim solution to homes and businesses currently getting less than 2Mbps which are not included in the planned coverage in the next 12 months. The switch to Superfast is not automatic, and customers must contact their provider. Further information is available on the website www.communityfibre.bt.com. There have been significant improvements for Suffolk Schools at Key Stage 2, and parents are reminded that the deadline for Primary School application is 15th January. The School to School Partnership was launched in December, to share good practice and offer support.

2. Cllr Ray Herring, SCDC. This report will be available later in the week.
3. Suffolk Police SNT. PCSO Marie Smith introduced herself. She described a period of change, when it is not known how policing will be affected from April. She will try to attend meetings where possible, and certainly where there are specific issues of concern. With the change of boundaries and wards, crime figure research for specific parishes is much more difficult, and the police report is often repetitive and not very useful. It is certain that police numbers will be cut, and roles will change. The number of PCSOs in this area will reduce from 7 to 3. The mobile police station will still be in attendance every 3 weeks, at least until April. The next SNT priority setting meeting will be on 13.1.16. at Wickham Market at 7pm. It is likely this will be the last one in this format.
4. Town and Parish Financial Briefing: 16.11.15. This meeting was attended by Cllrs Cushing and Stangoe. Each area which reported forecast cuts, as the directives from above suggest less and less money will be available. Services will disappear. Cllr Cushing had asked why council tax could not be raised to help, a question supported by many of the audience. There was no answer, as this was seen as a political question.

Other matters:

1. Meetings: a) Shaping the Future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service: 14.1.16 Endeavour House, 6.30pm. b) Planning and Neighbourhood Plans in Outstanding Landscapes. 3.3.16 at 9.45am. Royal Harwich Yacht Club.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed: Mrs J Pooley, net salary, 3rd quarter: £432.16; HMRC, 3rd quarter: £108.20; Suffolk County Council, annual electricity and maintenance: £351.32.
2. Account balances at 31.12.15: Current Account: £12417.97 (includes £649.00 for the playground); Business Savings Account: £14,322.26 (includes £6111.00 for the playground) Savings Account: £117.99.
3. Precept requirement 2016-2017. The support funding for this year will be £34.50. It was agreed to raise the precept by 3% to £7519.00, to which is added the £34.50.

To receive items for information:

1. Mrs Marland has written again regarding the provision of a doggy bin. It was agreed in principle before to place one at the north end of the village, but it was not carried out because Suffolk Coastal Services could find no evidence of need, nor place to put it. However, Mrs Marland made a good case, and the Parish Council could see no reason why one should not be placed at the top of Cracks Lane, on the left. The clerk will instruct Suffolk Coastal Services to this effect.
2. Highways will be informed of the very bad state of the road near Trinity Cottage.
3. Mr Whitmore reported more fly tipping on the rec. This has now been dealt with.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Next meeting: Monday, 14th March, 7.00pm in the Village Hall.