

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, Christie La Fevre asked if the Parish Council would help publicise her involvement in the International Citizen Service project, which sends volunteers to help some of the poorest people in the world. The Parish Council wished her well with the project. Copies of her leaflet were distributed.

Present: Cllr Abu-Hejleh, Cllr Clayton, Cllr Cushing, Cllr Evans, Cllr Stangoe, Cllr Whitmore and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllr Fleming.

In Cllr Fleming's absence, Cllr Abu-Hejleh, as last year's vice chairman, took the chair.

Election of vice chairman: (*deferred from last meeting*). Cllr Abu-Hejleh was proposed by Cllr Cushing, seconded by Cllr Stangoe, and carried.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minutes: Those of 16th May 2016, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Traffic calming. David Chenery has confirmed that the second gate will be installed during Friday 15th July and Monday, 18th. If there are no nesting birds in the overgrown hedges, these will be cut back as soon as possible, to ensure both gates are operational. The clerk is to ask that the 30mph sign is cleared as well.
2. Village Hall. Cllr Evans has studied the documents in relation to the hall, and has also established that Marshall Hatchick, solicitors, are very kindly prepared to carry out any necessary routine legal work at no cost. They have advised that it is necessary first to establish that the original trustees are no longer alive, and then new trustees must be appointed. The clerk will contact Mrs Magennis regarding John Fleming, of Naunton Hall, and will also resend information regarding Ernest Stannard to Cllr Evans. It was agreed that as a first step, Cllr Evans would ask if it is possible for parish councillors to become trustees automatically on appointment to office. From that base, it would be possible to reach out to appoint others.

Mr Fisher has advised the clerk that the asbestos originally used in the building was stripped out when the new roof was put on in the 1960's. However, Mr Evans has found no note of this in the papers, and strongly advised that as it is a public building, the trustees would have a duty of care to users, and it is essential to have a survey carried out to see if any asbestos remains, as its removal in the 60's would not have been so meticulously done as in later years. He will research companies which may be able to provide this service, so that three quotations can be obtained. It was agreed that village hall funds should pay for this. The clerk will liaise with Mr Fisher over all aspects.

It was agreed that if possible the management committee should be separate from the trustees and the parish council. It was acknowledged that it would be hard to find people willing to be involved, and this step should be considered once the matter of the trustees is settled, and hopefully discussed at the September parish council meeting. At present, Mr and Mrs Fisher cope with all aspects of running the hall.

There was no adjournment for Parish Forum.

Reports:

1. Cllr Andrew Reid, SCC. *This report had been previously circulated, and was taken as read.* Cllr Reid attended the meeting briefly, to deal with the Devolution Consultation for Norfolk and Suffolk. The views of the public are being sought in a consultation to run until 23rd August. The aim of devolution is to transfer certain decision making powers and funding down to the local area, close to where they have an effect, and also to save money through efficiencies of service. Cllr Reid could see advantages to the system, but felt that an elected mayor, part of the proposal, added a tier of local government about which he had reservations. He urged councillors to respond to the consultation, and to encourage others.

2. Suffolk Police SNT. The mobile police unit will visit Eyke on 5th September and 28th November from 12.00 to 13.30 at the Cul De Sac, in The Street.

The SE Suffolk Locality Inspector, Roger Salmon, has written to outline community engagement processes following the challenges faced by implementing the new policing model. There will be a monthly tasking meeting, which councillors are welcome to attend, where issues and problems can be raised, and solutions discussed. Once the meetings are up and running, schedules will be circulated.

Other matters:

1. Use of rec. by FOES. FOES asked at the Annual Parish Meeting about the possibility of using the rec for a fund raising event. It was agreed by the parish council that this could go ahead. The clerk will ask the group to liaise with Cllr Whitmore regarding unlocking the gate, if required.
2. Recreation Ground. The sponsor sign was ripped off its stand some weeks ago. The clerk reported it to the police, so that the incident was logged. Mr Cushing will take it to Mr Tester, at Metalfix, to ask his advice on repair. Mr Whitmore reported that the litter problem, including drug paraphernalia, seems to have abated, and no other action is necessary at the moment.
3. Fete. Councillors were reminded that fete preparations begin on Thursday evening, at 6pm at The Old Rectory, with the putting up of the marquees. The fete begins at 1pm on Sunday. Help and donations welcome.
4. SCDC Engagement Forums. Successfully enabling local communities depends on how well the Council engages with them. To that end, bi-annual forums are proposed to which representatives from all the town and parish councils in the district will be invited. Responses are sought on the format of these, for example, time of day they should be held. Subject to feedback, the first would be held in September. Comments are requested by 20th July. Councillors felt that these would be quite large scale events, lasting some time, so probably evening meetings would be out of the question.
5. Speeding in Eyke Street. A resident of Eyke Street has complained direct to the police regarding speeding, including the lack of policing. Sgt Cullum replied that the the parish council has done what it can to address the issue, and the police attend when time and resources allow. The police have no control whatever over the volume and type of traffic using the road.

There followed considerable discussion about the nature and speed of traffic in The Street. Cllr Cushing felt that the parish council over many years had explored every avenue, and the calming measures now in place are the best which were available. Cllrs Evans and Clayton, who had not been involved in previous negotiations, felt strongly that further attempts should be made to calm the traffic through the village. It was finally agreed that the clerk would contact Cllr Reid, who has been very helpful and supportive generally, and asks his advice about pushing for a 20mph limit in the village.

6. Parking in the lead-in opposite Two Gates. SCC Highways has asked for a view from the parish council about vehicles parking on this piece of road, and obstructing the view of motorists exiting from the Close, following a complaint from a resident. Although councillors could see that this did present a difficulty, especially if a van or lorry parked there, they felt this had to be balanced against the lack of parking at some properties in the area, and the fact that many household have more than one vehicle. The problem had been exacerbated recently when a decorator's van was parked there daily over a period of weeks. It was agreed that matters should be left as they are at present.

Finance:

1. Cheques agreed: Mrs Pooley; salary Apr-Jun: £432.36; HMRC; first quarter: £108.00; Eyke Millennium Group; Queen's 90th birthday celebration: £200.
2. Account balances 30.6.16:

Current : £11,422.63; Business Savings: £6485.94; Business Premium; £118.00

3. The clerk will check with SCDC about two further payments totalling £3234.00 to come from the Capital Grant Scheme for the playground.

To receive items for information:

1. Devolution consultation event: 21.7.16, 6.30pm at SCDC offices. The clerk will forward details.
2. Melton Neighbourhood Plan: pre-submission consultation. This can now be viewed online, or at

- Woodbridge Library, Coach and Horses pub, the Fish and Chip shop or St Andrews Church.
3. Scattered Orchard Site. Cllr Cushing reported that Mrs Clements had received a letter from Suffolk Coasts and Heaths offering certain parishes seeds to create 'pollinator patches' among their trees to attract and encourage bees. This offer will be taken up, and help is requested with looking after the area.
 4. It was agreed that a note would go in next month's Parish News to thank John, Steve and Sam for cutting the grass on the rec and in the playground.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Next meeting: Monday, 12th September at 7.00pm in the village hall.