

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 11th September 2017 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Fleming, in the chair, Cllr Abu-Hejleh, Cllr Cushing, Cllr Howlett-Thomson, Cllr Whitmore, Cllr Andrew Reid SCC (from 7.40pm), Cllr Ray Herring, SCDC and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllrs Stangoe and Thomas.

Before the meeting proceeded, the clerk gave the very sad news that since the last parish council meeting, both Ian Howden and his partner Sandra, who ran the Elephant & Castle have passed away suddenly. Ian died on 20th August, and Sandra today, both of heart attacks. They will both be very fondly remembered for the way they breathed new life into the pub over a few short years, and created a welcoming atmosphere inside and out. They took a keen interest in everything which went on in the village, and by their own admission did not want to retire, but wanted to be part of a real community. They certainly succeeded in that, and they will be very sadly missed by everyone.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

In the absence of any members of the public, there was no adjournment for a Parish Forum.

Minutes: Those of 10.7.17, and the planning meeting of 14.8.17, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. The paperwork has been submitted to Land Registry to attempt to secure the Village Hall through Adverse Possession. An acknowledgement was received, dated 17th July, but nothing since. The clerk will contact the office again to follow this up.
2. The telephone box has now been decommissioned and is the property of the parish. It has been added to the insurance, so that it is covered under public liability, and when the defibrillator is installed, cover can be extended to reflect the true value. Eyke Millennium Group, which is organising the sourcing and installation of the defibrillator, is very grateful to Cllr. Reid for a £1000 donation from his Locality Budget.
3. Repair to basketball post. Cllr Whitmore showed the Parish Council the remnants of the broken back plate, which has now completely come away. The clerk has contacted Jacobs 3 times about a repair, and they have yet to visit the site. Cllr Cushing will take the broken part to them in Kirton, as it was agreed that a face to face meeting would be the best way forward, to see if a more satisfactory solution can be arrived at.

Reports:

Cllr Herring, SCDC. Of particular interest at the moment is the Local Plan Review, with residents being asked for their views on a draft plan which will shape residential and commercial development in the region over the next 20 years. 11,000 houses will be needed over that time, up from the current figure of 7,900. Much current development is determined on appeal. Regarding the application for a film studio and associated buildings at Bentwaters, this would provide quality employment, as opposed to warehousing, and this could determine the success of the application, if the traffic figures provided by SCC are acceptable. His view was that these figures will probably move, although SCC Highway Authority have stated that the capacity of a road will limit development.

There was considerable discussion regarding this. Cllr Cushing stated that it is clear that the traffic will exceed the current figures, and questioned how SCC arrive at them. He queried whether the fact that much of the area is within an AONB is considered. With regard to housing, he questioned whether the infrastructure, including schools, doctors' surgeries and hospitals, adequate sewage, car parks, and so on would be in place before the houses, and how would this be paid for.

Cllr Herring regards the draft Local Plan as a robust document, which can be used to support these considerations. He was sure that the questions being asked by the parish council would be asked by other parishes too.

Cllr Abu-Hejleh asked about the proposal for 300 houses at Rendlesham. This has not reached the planning stage, and Cllr Herring could not see that number of houses being allowed.

He then briefly touched on other local issues, including the work about to start on the Deben Pool turning it into a modern Leisure Centre at a cost in excess of £3 million, and the changes to dog controls through Public Space Protection Orders.

Cllr Andrew Reid. SCC. The Tour of Britain was very successful on 8th September. GCSE results have improved across the county and there is a significant increase in the number of disadvantaged children achieving the threshold measure in English and maths. A level results were better than the national average. Suffolk County Council in collaboration with Norfolk County Council is working to make EU funding available to retail businesses to install energy efficiency measures they might otherwise not be able to afford. A consultation regarding the 4 villages bypass project is taking place and there is an exhibition at The Riverside, Stratford St Andrew. In effect, the project is dependent on Sizewell C going ahead. Cllr Reid indicated his willingness to talk to the council about highway matters in the future.

Cllrs Reid and Herring then left the meeting.

Other matters:

1. Local Plan Review. Cllrs Abu-Hejleh and Cushing expressed an interest in attending the one to one meeting, and the clerk will confirm a time and date to them after contacting SCDC. It was agreed that it is essential to respond. They will then put a response together for the clerk to circulate for approval before submission. The document will be circulated to all, after Cllrs Cushing and Abu-Hejleh have seen it.
2. The next SALC area meeting is on 18.9.17, and the East Suffolk Partnership Annual Forum on 10.11.17. Anyone interested in attending either is to contact the clerk.
3. Sgt Scott Cullum from Woodbridge SNT is leaving and will not be replaced, but his duties will be shared by sergeants from Ipswich East and Felixstowe SNTs.

Finance:

1. Conclusion of Audit. The Annual Return was approved and accepted.
2. Confirmation of the new cheque signing arrangements have finally been received. Cllr John Rabson is now removed, and Cllr Abu-Hejleh added.
3. Account balances; Current account: £12,563.36; Rate Reward account: £8517.02 (income £1.81 interest); Savings account: £118.03
4. The clerk was confirmed as the Responsible Financial Officer
5. Insurance and asset review. Insurance cover was agreed to be adequate. Asset Review: the addition of the telephone box was noted, with a value to be added when the defibrillator is installed. It was noted that there are actually 6 doggy bins in the village. It was agreed to amend this figure but to keep the value the same.
6. Donation requests.
 - a) *Cllr Abu-Hejleh declared an interest.* Tim Marr, the editor of *Inside Eyke* has asked if the Parish Council would support the magazine with £100 donation for 2 years, to be reviewed at the end of that time, to cover the current small shortfall, and so that the magazine can continue to be produced to the high standard it has already achieved. This will allow time to establish a workable funding model for the future. The parish council agreed to this.
 - b) The clerk explained that if a defibrillator has to be purchased, along with a heated cabinet, this could cost in the region of £1650, plus installation costs, which will include using a qualified electrician. Although £1000 has been secured from Cllr Reid's Locality Budget, further funding will be needed. Cllr Howlett-Thomson mentioned the possibility that for a donation of £600, the British Heart Foundation will supply a defibrillator. This will be investigated, and if necessary the Parish Council will make the donation. It was also agreed that Cllr Herring will be approached for a grant from the Enabling Communities Budget.
7. Cheques were agreed and signed: BDO (Audit fee): £120.00; A Comber (Website services): £18.70; Mrs J Pooley (quarterly salary): £432.36; HMRC (2nd quarter): £108.00; The Poppy Appeal (Wreath): £17.00; a cheque was signed to Business Services at C.A.S for the next year's insurance which is due at the end of the month. The exact figure is not known, but is expected to be about £555.00.

To receive items for Information:

1. The clerk will contact Mr Hassan, MJH Garden Services to arrange the annual cut of the car park hedge.
2. Cllr Whitmore mentioned a large oak tree branch which has been cut down. Cllr. Cushing will remove this.
3. The clerk will e mail Claus Fortman from Campsea Ashe to offer support over concerns about the traffic through our villages.

In the absence of further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

