

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 12th January 2015 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Mr Fleming, in the chair, Mr Cushing, Mr Evans, Mr Whitmore, the clerk, and Mrs Scurrall, headteacher at Eyke VCP School. Councillor Reid was present at the end of the meeting.

Apologies: Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mrs Stangoe, and it was noted that Cllr Reid has a heavy schedule which will mean he will only be able to attend the meeting for a very short time.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Adjournment for Parish Forum.

Mrs Scurrall was invited to speak. She thanked the Parish Council for its support in the planting of the saplings on the rec, and particularly Mr Fleming for supplying the mulch. The clerk verified that the Parish Council had agreed to make a donation of £50 towards a plaque marking the occasion.

Mrs Scurrall also wished to clarify the situation regarding funding for the creation of a playground. She was assured that the Parish Council will do all it can to help in this respect, and would pursue the offer made by District Councillor Jane Marson at the last meeting, and also the availability of funds held in the playspace scheme at SCDC. Mr Cushing advised that it would be best to have an outline scheme ready, and offered his help with this. Mrs Scurrall will now take this back to the governors and FOES.

Mrs Scurrall left the meeting.

Matters Arising:

1. Tree planting. Mr Cushing reported on behalf of Mrs Clements. They had together collected 25 silver birch saplings, offered to local tree wardens, and planted five good sized ones on the edge of the new copse. The remaining 20 found good homes. The existing saplings there appear to be doing well. 500 daffodil bulbs were delivered to the school, who arranged and carried out the planting. As agreed at the last meeting, the £55 cost is to be met by the parish council.
2. Mrs Pooley has spoken to Mr Fisher about putting a light outside the village hall. He will look into this. No reply has been received so far from Mr Chenery about who is responsible for the area outside the hall, which has subsided and causes large puddles in wet weather. It was generally agreed that this is almost certainly not SCC's responsibility, and would be expensive to put right. It was agreed, however to ask SCC if it would be possible to put a kerb between the hall and Honeysuckle Cottage, to try and keep the water which runs down the lane away from the front of the hall.

Reports:

1. SCC. Councillors had received the written report from Cllr Reid.
2. Woodbridge and District SNT. No crimes have been reported in Eyke since the last meeting. A warning has been issued to safeguard tanks of heating oil, and to take sensible precautions to protect property especially during the darker months. Current SNT priorities are: tackling unauthorised use of motor vehicles, mostly motor and quad bikes, in Rendlesham and Tunstall Forests; to carry out an extended campaign of speed monitoring and enforcement in this SNT area; to allay fears of residents relating to illegal immigration and smuggling between Bawdsey and Orford with marked police vehicle patrols. The next Community Panel Meeting is on 14.1.2015, in Alderton Village Hall. *Police Direct* has been replaced by *Police Connect*. Anyone can register online at: suffolk.police.uk/policeconnect. The mobile police station will visit Eyke several times during the year. Full details will be found on the parish council website.
3. Bentwaters Planning Meeting. Mr Cushing reported that he, Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mrs Clements and Mrs McKendrick attended the Committee meeting at SCDC on 13.11.14. The application was passed, with little opportunity to make the case against it. However, the word *movement* has been inserted as requested and the possible increased traffic figures resulting from erroneous mathematics have been deleted.
4. World of Planning 24.11.2014. Mr Cushing attended this. Planning advice will be charged for on a scale rising from £42 to £900. Separate from this will be a CIL charge, on a rising scale based on a square metre base. This will replace Section 106, and would appear to allow the money to be used for a variety of purposes, not specific ones to mitigate problems caused by the development, as with

Section 106. Mr Cushing was not impressed by the concept of sustainability testing, which sounded like 'management speak'. He felt that planners now have little control over planning issues, as the NPPF gives developers a great deal of freedom. Planners are now managers rather than controllers: there is not even an enforcement officer.

5. Budget Meeting SCDC 25.11.14 Mr Cushing attended this with Mrs Stangoe. The main impression from the reports given by SCC, SCDC, and the Police is that there will a cut in services over the coming years, despite the upbeat presentations.

Mr Fleming thanked Mr Cushing for his attendance and reports for these meetings.

Other matters:

1. Traffic Calming. A power connection is still awaited from UKPN before the second VAS can be installed. This is being chased by the senior engineer, Andrew Pearce at SCC Highways. Mrs Abu-Hejleh raised a query with the clerk over the moving of the 30mph limit and the installation of the village gates at the south end of The Street. This will be raised with Cllr Reid.
2. Boyton Parish Council has invited Eyke Parish Council to provide feedback on the short timescale and the difficulty of making a meaningful response to planning applications, especially when bulky documents are involved, and where the website does not carry the documents in question. Councillors sympathised with this, as it reflects their own experiences, and agreed to offer their support.
3. SCDC Regulation 18 – Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 Issues and Options Consultation. Any response from the Parish Council is to be submitted by 27th February. This is the next stage in the delivery of Core Strategy Policies and sets out in more detail planning options for local villages and towns. Initially, it appears that the Eyke village envelope remains the same, with none of the options for further development being suitable. Mr Cushing took the documents to study.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed: Mrs Pooley (net salary, 3rd quarter) £432.16; HMRC (3rd quarter) £108.20; Mr Cushing (daffodil bulbs) £55.00
2. Account balances at 31.12.14: Business Savings Accounts: £8155.20; £117.94; Current Account: £9322.90. Total spent in the quarter to 31.12.14: £856.55; total income: £164.11. It was agreed that some funds should be moved to the savings account from the current account. The money is still available at short notice if required.
3. Precept requirement: it was agreed that the figure should rise a little for the coming year. Projected known expenditure next year could be in the region of £6000, which leaves a margin for further unexpected small expenses, and maintains a larger amount in the savings account for significant, unexpected expenses, such as work on the village hall. The Parish Council also remains aware that the additional funding will cease in 2016/17. It was agreed to raise the amount this year by 2.5% on the precept last year of £7000 (figure without the government funding of £300.05), and add another £150, which, rounded to the nearest £100 gives a total of £7300, to which will be added this year's government funding of £167.52, making a total for the coming year of £7467.52.
4. Transparency Code. A new Code of Practice comes into effect from 1st July 2015 for parish councils with a turnover of under £25000. This will be in place of an external audit. This council is already compliant with many of the requirements, and can fulfil the rest through publishing the necessary financial information on its website.

Any Other Business:

1. The clerk is to notify SCC of the gully in the road at Tye Cottage, which needs repair.
2. Cllr Reid then arrived. He is to take up the matter of moving the 30mph at the south end of the village, so that a resolution can be reached and village gateways installed as soon as possible.
3. Mr Cushing brought up the good news reported by Cllr Reid in his update that the new energy from waste facility is now open. He will look into the possibility of making a visit to the site.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

