

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 12th March 2018 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Fleming, in the chair, Cllr Cushing, Cllr Stangoe, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Whitmore and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllr Abu-Hejleh, Cllr Howlett-Thomson and County Councillor Andrew Reid.

Declarations of Interest: None.

In the absence of any members of the public, there was no adjournment for a parish forum.

Minutes: Those of 15th January 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record. Those of the planning meeting of 5th March 2018 were circulated and read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising from the minutes:

1. Village Hall. Robert Horn from the Thriving Community Buildings Project examined the documents available regarding the village hall, and has found the situation to be more complicated than he originally thought, as it lacks a proper charitable constitution. New trustees were declared in 1959, but there is no amended version of the 1924 document with the new names. There is also the issue of unlimited personal liability. The solicitor with whom the clerk met in January suggested one route was to set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Councillors felt this could be the best option, as even though it could be expensive, it is imperative to put the hall on a firm footing, and not leave it to cause problems in the years ahead. It was agreed that the clerk will put this to Mr Fisher, and if he is in agreement, will then contact Aquabridge Law to start the process.
2. Correspondence with SCC Highways. Cllr Jane Storey responded at length and in detail to the Parish Council's request for information about how road capacity figures are arrived at. However, although she could provide the methodology for assessment for major developments, this was not what the parish council was really looking for. The clerk had also written to the Interim Corporate Director for Highways, on 6th February, requesting a meeting, but has so far had no response. A reminder will be sent, and Cllr Thomas will also investigate to see if there is a more appropriate officer to approach.
3. Referral to the Local Authority Ombudsman. The parish council complaint against Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department, and its lack of response to concerns over a planning application cannot be investigated by the Ombudsman. Complaints by public bodies such as parish councils are not within the remit of the Ombudsman, as his powers are taken from the Local Government Act 1974 which places restrictions on what he can investigate. Cllr Thomas wondered if there would be any future in applying for a Freedom of Information request to SCDC. She will investigate this possibility.

Reports:

1. Cllr Reid SCC. This report had been circulated, and was taken as read.
2. SNT Tasking meetings of 25.1.18 and 8.3.18. These were attended by Cllr Whitmore. The drug issue around the recreation ground was added to the priority locations to be patrolled in January, and it was reported in March that there were no further issues, and police patrols did not witness any activity. The next meeting is on 3rd May 2018, at 10.30am.

Other Matters:

Street Lighting Update. The clerk has confirmed to SCC that the street lighting inventory it holds is correct: 4 lamps in Church Lane, and one in Staverton Close.

Finance:

1. Cheques agreed: SCC (annual maintenance and energy for street lights): £353.99; Alan Comber (website services August 2017 to January 2018): £20.00; Mrs Pooley (net salary Jan-March: £432.36); HMRC (4th quarter): £108.00; East Suffolk Travellers' Association (four year membership): £21.00.
2. Account balances. Current Account: £13,448.11. Rate Reward Account: £8527.59

To receive items for information:

1. Potholes on rec. The clerk had received an email from a regular rec user asking if these could be filled. It was agreed that when some broken up asphalt is available, some will be used there, as well as in the village car park.
2. S.A.L.C Meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 19th March at the Riverisde Centre, Stratford St Andrew.
3. Fete meeting. This pre-meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th April, at 7.30pm, at The Old Rectory, courtesy of Mr & Mrs Brigginsshaw.
4. Basketball backboard. Cllr Cushing's persistence in chasing up Jacobs regarding replacing this has finally paid off, and the board was removed for repair/replacement on Friday 9th March.
5. The Elephant & Castle. Cllr Thomas reported that probate has now been granted, and it is expected that the pub will go to auction, with 3, possibly 4, interested parties.
6. Mobile Police Station Schedule. 2nd May; 13th June; 25th July. All from 2 to 3.30pm, in the cul-de-sac, Eyke Street.

Date of Parish Council Annual Meeting, and Annual Parish Meeting:

14th May, 2018.

Parish Council Annual meeting: 7.00pm.

Annual Parish Meeting: 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.