

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 7pm in the village hall.

**Present:** Mr Fleming, in the chair, Mrs Atkinson, Mr Cushing, Mr Smith, Mr Whitmore, the clerk, Cllr. Jane Marson (until 7.25pm), Cllr Andrew Reid (from 7.55 to 8.20pm).

**Apologies:** Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Mutton, PC Warne.

Mr Fleming welcomed Mr Smith, the new co-opted councillor.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**Minutes:** Those of 10.9.12 and 5.11.12, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising:**

1. Speed Gun. There has been no feedback from Eyke School. It was also mentioned at the Parish Links meeting. The clerk will contact Mrs Kelway again.
2. Village sign. It was agreed that, as the oak post has significantly deteriorated and is quite rotten in places, the best way forward is to replace it, and refurbish the sign when the post is down. The clerk will put in a firm order with the company, Fair Oaks Timber, found by Mr Cushing at Bedfield, who will supply the post delivered for about £160 plus vat. Mr Fleming will take down the existing post. It was agreed that the price of £420 from Fional Davis is too expensive to refurbish the sign. Mrs Atkinson will contact Mr Morgan, who is likely to be significantly cheaper. The clerk will make other enquiries about providing a plaque.
3. Village Hall. There is no progress to report from Mr Fisher. The clerk has e-mailed Rendlesham Parish Council to explore their position on this, but has so far had no reply. She will try again.
4. Bus service through Eyke. The chairman of ESTA offered to raise the issue of the service irregularity at the Autumn meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October, but so far has not responded to the clerk. Mr Smith reported that 3 times last week the 8.38am Anglian bus did not arrive. He e-mailed the company, which cited a "shortage of staff". It was agreed to contact ESTA again about both of these matters.

#### **Reports:**

1. Cllr Jane Marson. Customer services at SCDC is moving to Woodbridge Library, which is more central, along with tourist information.

There are now two grants tasks groups, the next meeting being on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013, so any application needs to be submitted by Christmas.

The Boundary Commission will be looking at electorate arrangements with Suffolk Coastal, which currently has 55 councillors. This is accepted as too many, but there are difficulties where one councillor has to cover a wide rural area. There will be separate sessions for town and parish councils.

SCDC is running debt free – a major achievement, largely due to sharing officers with other councils.

Cllr Marson apologised for her tardiness in responding to the request for organising a site visit for the Development Control Sub Committee. She continues to put pressure on Bob Snell and Steve Milligan and will do her best to arrange this soon.

There followed some discussion on capital grants. Cllr Marson said these are less subscribed, and possibly offer bigger sums than revenue grants. The form available on the District Council website is fairly simple. In her opinion, Eyke Village Hall would be a good candidate for a grant towards the kitchen refurbishment. It was agreed to suggest to Mr Fisher that he applies: any money from the Parish Council thus freed up could be spent on other areas of work in the hall. The Parish Council would need to provide a letter of support. Cllr. Marson asked to be advised when such an application is made, so she can add her backing.

Thanks were given to her for her positive support over the Bentwaters issue. Cllr Marson then left the meeting.

2. Woodbridge SNT. (*Written report*) PC Warne's 3 month secondment to Felixstowe has now ended.

There have been six recorded crimes in Eyke since the last meeting.

The current SNT priorities are: to increase cycle safety awareness in Melton, and to tackle anti-social behaviour and vehicle nuisance in Rendlesham, particularly around Costcutters, and in Wickham Market, particularly around Market Hill and the Football Club play areas.

The mobile police station will be in Eyke on 26<sup>th</sup> November, between 10 and 11.30am.

People with oil tanks are reminded to ensure the tanks are secure, and steps taken to avoid oil being stolen.

3. Bentwaters: site meeting, Eyke Street. There was little more to report following Cllr. Marson's update. The clerk has circulated data received from David Chenery which shows a 43% increase in total traffic flow between 2000 and 2010, measured at Swann's Nursery. Count data taken to the north of Eyke shows

similar flows either side of the village, suggesting that the majority is through traffic.

4. Community Led Planning Workshop. 3.10.12. Mr Cushing attended and found it interesting, though it presented nothing new. The new rules and regulations are a developer's charter. Neighbourhood Plans are presenting certain initial problems, and those involved, like Rendlesham, are feeling their way. Communities are being encouraged to prepare them, but they are not required by most.
5. Parish Links. (*Written report*). Mrs Abu-Hejleh attended on 19.9.12.

Jackie Green from Rendlesham asked if Eyke could produce volunteers for the Speed Gun Initiative. Mrs Abu-Hejleh said this would be chased up via Eyke School.

Heather Heelis gave a presentation on producing a Neighbourhood Plan, and is willing to hold workshops to support other parishes in the venture. Bromeswell expressed an interest in producing a joint plan. David Chenery asked for feedback on the ever increasing problem of illegal roadside signs advertising events and businesses. There is no duty on SCC to remove them, but it is in their power to do so. Travellers and associated problems were discussed. Help is available from the Suffolk Coastal Travellers' Association.

The clerk will shortly receive information on the Parish Links Constitution. The membership fee is £50 and meetings can be attended by non councillors. The next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> November. Mr Smith will confirm to the clerk whether he can attend or not.

6. Cllr. Reid, SCC. The report covered various topics.

Council tax will be frozen for the third consecutive year, subject to full council approval at the budget setting meeting in February.

Closer working of the Fire Service with that of Cambridge and Peterborough is being explored, possibly leading to a full merger and significant financial savings.

'Raising the Bar' is an initiative aimed at driving up educational attainment in Suffolk, and is currently looking at the role of parents.

A new state of the art academy has been approved for Felixstowe.

Railway provision in East Anglia is now under the spotlight with the aim of making long overdue improvements to the transport infrastructure a key part of any new franchise deal.

There is also a focus on supporting adoption, on libraries and on providing a better service for those needing residential care, where plans developed with Care UK will see the 16 existing residential homes replaced by 10 state of the art facilities. With the numbers of older people continuously rising, including those with dementia, providing better care is a priority.

Cllr Reid continues to support Eyke's case for traffic calming measures. His Quality of Life Budget will provide some financial help. It is important not just to consider the present, but future pressures. Cllr Reid was thanked for his support. He left the meeting at 8.20pm.

### **Correspondence:**

1. RoSPA Inspection of Recreation Ground. This was carried out on 4.10.12. No major problems were identified although Mr Whitmore was surprised no mention was made of the damaged fencing. It was suggested that the holes should be filled in. These were scored as a medium risk.
2. ESTA The Autumn Members' Bulletin has arrived, along with a questionnaire for public transport users, regarding journeys in November. (The clerk had left this behind: anyone wishing to see it, to contact her.)

**Other Matters:** Tree Warden. Mrs Watson has resigned from this position. It was agreed to advertise it though 'Inside Eyke', the website and the newsletter.

### **Finance:**

1. Cheques were signed for: RoSPA Inspection fee: £75.60; Mr S Lucas, fuel for mower to cut green: £25.00; Mrs Pooley, salary Sept/Oct: £288.24; MJH Garden Services, cutting the car park hedge and 6 cuts of the grass: £410.00.

A letter was also received from Eyke School asking for a donation towards the £7000 needed to provide a new heater for the pool. A donation of £200 was agreed.

2. Account balances: Base Reward: £8064.23; Business Saver: £117.84; Current Account: £5393.16.

The current account balance reflects the precept payment of £3206.00 received in September, and includes the deductions for payments of £17.00 to the Poppy Appeal for a wreath, and a balancing payment of £33.41 to Suffolk ACRE Services for insurance, which were retrospectively agreed.

3. Draft budget. These figures prepared by the clerk were circulated, ready for consideration at the January meeting.
4. Councillors now have a copy of the Asset Register, including the extra items previously agreed. It was agreed to value the fencing on the rec, including the gates at £500.
5. It was agreed to adopt the NALC Financial regulations.
6. SCDC will no longer make payments for recyclable materials collected from 'bring' sites in the parish,

due to financial pressures, but encourages people to continue using the facility.

There was no adjournment for a parish forum.

**Any Other Business:**

1. LTN 80 s34: pecuniary interests in setting the precept. It was agreed to follow SALC's advice and allow the clerk the delegated power to grant a dispensation in the circumstances whereby the council would be in quorate for an item under LGA 1972 s101(1) (a). The dispensation requests will be for full, participating and voting dispensation extended to a councillor's remaining term of office, and up to a maximum of four years. Simply put, NALC believes that councillors living in a parish hold a disclosable pecuniary interest, and without a dispensation would be subject to restrictions which would prevent them from participating in, or voting on, such business.
2. T.B.E.C. Enduro Club will be running motor cycle events on Rendlesham Forest on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013, from 10.30am to 6pm.
3. SCDC Outdoor Play Space Contributions.

Sports Group Balances: Eyke Group Balance (All) £5806.08 (£5287.14 cleared)

Play Group Balance (All) £7299.96 (£6640.59 cleared.)

4. Mrs Atkinson asked about the planings for the holes on the rec. track. Mr Fleming will arrange to deliver, for Mrs Atkinson and Mr Cushing to deal with.
5. Mr Whitmore reported fly tipping on the rec of 6 wheels and a tyre, which he has dealt with through Suffolk Coastal. He has also cleaned off the barriers, so the height is visible.
6. Thanks were given to Mr Whitmore by Mr Fleming for working with Mr Hassan to clear the hedge cuttings.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.