

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Cushing, Thomas and Whitmore, approximately 50 members of the public, the clerk and from 7.10pm, Cllr. Raymond Herring SCDC.

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh and Stangoe, Cllr. Andrew Reid, SCC

**Minutes:** Those of 17<sup>th</sup> September, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

***There were no Declarations of Interest.***

### ***Adjournment for Parish Forum.***

The chairman welcomed Miss Charmaine Bailey, the new owner of *The Elephant & Castle*. He acknowledged the challenge of running a pub, especially one with restricted car parking, and looked forward to hearing Miss Bailey's plans for the future. The number of people present also reflected the village's concern for the pub's future.

Miss Bailey explained that her aim was to reassure the community about the work taking place in the building. At the time of purchase it was in disrepair and uninhabitable, needing serious work on all floors. The pub is delicensed, which happened before the building was sold. She is currently researching the A4 licence, for drinking only, and the A3 licence, which includes food. There are many obstacles including the small car park, which also has a right of way through it. Given the time frames for obtaining licences, the pub could not open before Christmas.

In response to a question about whether her intention is to open it as a pub, Miss Bailey replied that this is currently out of her hands, as it is up to the Council to grant an A4 licence.

Asked about her personal wish for the future of the building, Miss Bailey explained that she has a great passion for, and experience in, renovating old buildings, and she wants to renovate back to the original features of the building. Her intentions are with the community and not beyond. She chose to come and live in Eyke because it is small, and because of her interest in old properties.

She was asked that, given the number of interested people at the meeting, what could the community do to help. Miss Bailey replied that in due course letters of support would be helpful, and she would put a board outside advertising this.

She explained that she had not run a pub before, and had been approached by others to run it.

When asked again about whether it would remain as a pub, she replied that she had no intention of doing anything other than keeping it as a commercial building.

Cllr Fleming thanked Miss Bailey for attending.

### **Matters Arising:**

1. Casual vacancy. As there has been no request for an election, the Parish Council can fill the vacancy by co-option. The chairman suggested that given the high attendance at the meeting, there could be some volunteers. The clerk explained that this post will only last until the spring, as there will be a local election in May.

2. Village Hall. The solicitor has confirmed that the Parish Council as a body can be the trustee. He will need a copy of the minutes confirming the Parish Council's approval of this, and any documents held in respect of the building itself. Councillors agreed that this was a positive step forward, and approved the motion that the Parish Council should be a trustee for the village hall.

3. Traffic through the village. Mr Chester from SCC has agreed that a meeting could be arranged at Endeavour House with a member of the Transport Strategy/ Development Management Team to try and understand better the criteria for determining traffic limits on our roads. The clerk has already accepted the offer, and waits to hear more detail.

A member of the public wondered what the aim is with such a meeting, as such limits are hard to enforce. Cllr. Cushing replied that the main aim is to protect the village, and to put us in a stronger position when dealing with traffic matters, such as future development at Rendlesham.

4. Renewal of car park barrier. The clerk has chased N & A Engineering twice about the replacement. Hopefully the job will be done in the near future and the new glass recycling bins can be ordered.

## **Reports:**

1. In Cllr. Reid's absence, his report, having been previously circulated, was taken as read.

2. Cllr. Ray Herring. Waveney and Suffolk Coastal will merge from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, and work on this is keeping members and officers busy. The new name will be East Suffolk Council, and will operate from Melton and Lowestoft. Revised ward boundaries have been finalised, and Eyke will now be in the Deben ward, represented by one district councillor.

The Council is financially sound and following on from the success of the refurbishing of the Deben Leisure Centre, plans are now in hand for work on the Leisure Centre at Leiston, and a new facility at Felixstowe. It is hoped that the Local Plan will be approved in January. It tries as far as possible to protect villages, but some development is necessary to ease the pressure on housing and provide for future generations.

Finally, Cllr Herring promoted the Enabling Communities budget, available to encourage and enable community projects

A question was raised about why the village did not buy the pub as a community project. Cllr Herring agreed that the community would have the right to bid during the sale of the pub, but that a project such as this is very hard to get off the ground.

A member of the public stated that the pub has been registered as an Asset of Community Value.

Cllr. Cushing asked if there was to be a budget meeting this month, as the Parish Council has not received notification. Cllr Herring is sure there is a meeting, and will look into this.

He also asked what is happening to the redundant brown bins, now the green ones have been delivered.

The clerk has been told that a notice will come out in due course, giving a date for collection, if required.

## **Other matters:**

1. Electoral Review: East Suffolk. Following on from Cllr. Herring's information on this, the council has a map showing the new boundaries, which is also available online.

2. Free parking to support good causes. Dates should be announced in the near future when East Suffolk car parks will offer periods of free parking to support local shops and community organisations in the run up to Christmas.

## **Finance:**

1. Conclusion of Audit. The Annual Return was approved and accepted. There were no matters to report. The clerk had been asked to account for the fact that the total reserves were more than twice the annual precept, and had done so by explaining that money is kept in hand, £4000, for street light replacement in Church Lane, and £6000 for the village hall expenses. She reminded councillors that the budget will be set at the next meeting, and so this should be borne in mind.

2. Cheques to be agreed: Community Action Suffolk (web hosting): £60.00; PKF Littlejohn (audit fee): £240.00; Mr S Lucas (fuel for mower): £25.00; MJH Garden Services (hedge cutting and 7 cuts to grass in car park): £500.00.

3. Account balances at 2.11.18; Community Account: £17,794.66; Business Savings: £8545.14; Business Premium Account: £118.23

## **To receive Items for Information:**

1. Cllr. Whitmore reported that the chain link fencing around the play area has been bent down. No action is necessary.

2. The chairman thanked Cllr Whitmore for his work in helping to clear the debris from the hedge cutting, which saves the parish a sum of money, and for his continued work in keeping the village rubbish free.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm.