

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. Thomas, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Cllr. James Mallinder (*from 7.35 to 8.00pm*) the clerk and five members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Fleming and Reid.

***Co-option of councillor to fill existing vacancy.***

Mr Whitmore was proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Cushing and carried unanimously. He accepted, and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**Declarations of Interest.** None.

**Adjournment for Parish Forum:**

Mrs Clements, Tree Warden, gave her report.

The trees are growing well within the deer fencing. Lack of manpower means that it is not possible to mow or scythe the area to allow the seeds from the wildflowers there to flourish, but Mrs Clements does her best in the circumstances. Last summer it looked glorious, full of wildflowers and wildlife. Fifty saplings from The Woodland Trust were planted in December and thanks go to Ron Cushing and Karen Watson for their help with this. A woodland conference at Wantisden in December provided gloomy news about ash dieback and many other threatening pathogens, as well as destruction caused by deer. Regular visits are made to the rec. to cut back the brambles, around the fruit trees planted a few years ago, but most effort goes on the area within the deer fence, where 50% is currently cleared. Mrs Clements has received confirmation that Suffolk Norse will replace the tree on the grassed area bordering The Street at the Rendlesham end, which they chopped down last year.

**Minutes:** Those of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019, and the planning meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> December, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising:**

1. Village Hall update. Mr Smith expects to have the budget prepared by the end of January, ready to pass to Cllr. Clark for preparing funding submissions. There is approximately £5000 of work which needs to be done urgently in the Spring to repair rot and damp damage to the structure to stop it deteriorating further. It was agreed that the Parish Council will fund this. The most expeditious way will be for Mr Smith to remove the rendering, and for Mr Watson's company to carry out the repairs. Cllr. Cushing agreed that a reliable contractor is needed who will work as directed by Mr Smith.

The clerk was uncertain about the tendering process for this, given that the total costs, as yet unknown, will exceed the current figure of £400 beyond which the Parish Council puts work out to tender. She will contact SALC for advice on the use of a day rate, which Mr Watson can provide, along with a rough estimate of how many days will be required.

The matter of insurance for the village hall during works was also raised. The clerk will contact Mr Fisher, as he is still dealing with this at the moment, and the Parish Council insurers to check on cover for workers acting on Parish Council instruction.

2. Recreation Ground inspections. Cllr. Whitmore is happy to resume this role.

3. Repairs to barriers on the rec. and to the car park. Cllr. Fleming is chasing this up.

**Reports:**

1. Cllr. Mallinder ESC. His report was taken as read. He raised other matters in the pipeline, notably a drive to recycle small items, such as batteries, which are not currently recycled through the blue bin collection. A recycling representative from the community would be responsible for co-ordinating the collection of these, and taking them to a recycling centre. There was considerable discussion about this, and the most effective and 'green' method of collection. He also mentioned the 'Greenprint' forum to be held in Lowestoft, and the Deben Ward Joint Parishes Meeting, where one of the major matters under consideration is flooding.

The Parish Council asked Cllr. Mallinder to clarify the situation with regard to parish councillor representation within the East Suffolk Community Partnerships. Each parish has been asked if they wish to put forward a councillor to represent the entire ward along with councillors from the bigger councils, which

in this case are Melton and Woodbridge. This had not been Cllr. Mallinder's understanding of the issue and he will clarify this. Each Community Partnership will have a budget to tackle agreed priorities, which in this area are transport provision, village hub activities and youth engagement. Cllr. Clark volunteered to put her name forward as the representative for the Deben Ward.

2. Woodbridge and District ASB. Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> November. There was no issue directly of interest to Eyke, but the new Sergeant for the area is Darryl Dunnett, who will be based at Woodbridge. The next meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and Cllr. Whitmore hopes to attend.

#### **Other Matters:**

1. Val Jones, chair of Eyke School Governors has asked if a councillor would be willing to join the team of governors to provide a local link. Cllr. Whitmore expressed an interest in this. The clerk will pass his details on to the Chair.

#### **Dates:**

14.1.20. Cllr. Cushing to attend Budget Review Meeting at Council Offices, Melton.

23.1.20. Cllr Cushing and the clerk to attend the Deben Parishes Liaison Meeting at Butley

24.1.20 Cllr. Clark and the clerk to attend Planning Forum at the Council Offices, Melton.

29.1.20 Cllrs. Clark and Cushing to attend Workshop on Assets of Community Value, Council Offices, Melton

23.1.20 Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Forum, Darsham.

10/17.2.20 Councillor Training. Sutton.

#### **Finance:**

1. Cheques were agreed: Aquabridge Law: Professional Services for the village hall: £588.00; Mrs Pooley: Salary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: £432.16; HMRC: 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter: £108.20.

2. Account balances: Business Premium Account; £118.53; Rate Reward Account: £8585.21; Community Account: £17313.90. £400 has been received from Cllr. Mallinder's Enabling Communities Budget to support the VE Day celebrations on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

3. Draft Budget 2020-2021. This had been circulated to councillors, based on a projected income of £8325, if the precept is kept at the current level. Known expenses are projected to be £7920, if £1000 is allowed for village hall expenses. The latter are certainly going to be more than this, which will require digging into reserves. It was agreed that the precept will need to rise by a significant amount to help with this, but that overall the rise per council tax payer will be very small, and will be for a project to benefit the whole community. It was agreed that £830 more, which is a 10% rise would be fair, making a total precept of £9130.

4. Cheque signing requirements. As Cllr. Whitmore is now back on the council, it was agreed that he would remain a cheque signatory, but that it would be prudent to add another signatory, which will be Cllr. Thomas, as agreed at the last meeting.

#### **To receive items for information:**

1. Cllr. Cushing had attended a Warmer Homes Event in Hollesley in early December, and felt that there seems to be money available for people in need of help with heating bills etc. but there is difficulty in accessing it. The Rural Coffee Caravan are promoting information and help, and it was agreed that the parish Council would arrange delivery, if the Rural Coffee Caravan would supply enough flyers.

2. Cllr. Clark is keen to arrange a meeting, possibly in early February, to start organising the VE Day Celebrations. The clerk will put the Millennium Group in touch, as there is help available in that quarter.

3. Cllr. Whitmore reported that the field gate on the rec. is badly damaged, but still in place, and Cllr. Cushing mentioned the serious potholes there. This information will be passed on to Cllr Fleming to get his advice and help. Cllr. Whitmore also noted that he had found several bags of bike parts there, apparently fly-tipped.

4. The clerk has been contacted by Jo Bellfield from SCC. She and colleagues are running a loneliness and social isolation project funded by a programme called Connected Communities, which is asset based, and aims to build on local provision. Eyke is in a pilot area. The clerk has put her in touch with the pub owners, and will pass the information on to Cllr. Clark, to see how the village hall could benefit from involvement.

In the absence of further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.