

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 13th January 2014 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Mr Fleming, in the chair, Mr Cushing, Mr Smith, Mr Whitmore, the clerk and two members of the public.

Apologies: Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Mutten, Cllr Andrew Reid, PC Warne.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Minutes: Those of 11th November 2013, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Traffic Calming. The drawings for this by SCC had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. A query had been raised about the gate at the southern end. Mr Chenery had responded that, in order to press on with delivering Phase 1 on the ground, this would be in Phase 2 of the works, and dependant on whether the 30pmh limit could be moved. This will depend on the recommendations of the SCC Speed Limit Policy Development Panel, which is due to report early this year.

The meeting was adjourned to allow comments from the floor.

Mrs Atkinson expressed concern at the length of time it was taking to install the calming measures, especially in the light of the accident at the top of Castle Hill, involving Mrs Lucas in December, which everyone had known would happen sooner or later. The other major concern to the residents of Low Road, including Mr Mutten, and expressed in an e-mail to the clerk, was the width of the build-out, which at 8.2m was, in their opinion, still not sufficient to allow a good view. Mrs Atkinson queried Mr Fleming's position, as, in owning the property behind the projected build out, he could be seen to have an interest. Mr Fleming declared that he did have an interest in this, but always stayed neutral in discussions. Mr Cushing felt that the council has to work in the best interests of the whole village, and compromise is necessary. There are other access points to the main road, and it would also be possible to site a mirror opposite Castle Hill. The District Council have never objected to the siting of the one he uses, which is extremely helpful. Due regard has to be given to the residents of The Street, as well as those who use the Castle Hill junction.

The Parish Council agreed to endorse the plans as shown, and to press for installation as soon as possible. Mr & Mrs Atkinson then left the meeting.

2. Quiet Lanes Initiative. This is still moving ahead through the lengthy statutory processes, with further letters having been delivered to residents in the affected areas.
3. Grit bins. Mrs Abu-Hejleh suggested that bins could be installed at the bottom of the hill, on the same side as Linden Rise, and also near the top, on the verge outside Mr & Mrs Driscoll's house, if they were agreeable. Councillors were still unsure about the value of this: would they be used, who would volunteer to spread the grit and what would the insurance implications be if they were not covered by SCC. Mr Cushing, Mr Smith and Mr Fleming agreed to meet at 10.30 at Church Farm on Tuesday, 15th to go and assess the situation, and see if suitable sites can be identified in the first place.
4. Community Speed Watch. Mr Cushing and Mrs Abu-Hejleh have reached the "personal vetting" stage prior to training in the use of the speed gun. Both felt that support for this initiative is needed, which was why they volunteered. One more recruit would be helpful, and Mr Cushing agreed to forward information to Mr Smith.
5. Doggy bin, Eyke Street. The complaint here, according to the District Council, is that bagged waste is being thrown around in the area near Cattermole's Lane. Mr Cushing had not noticed a problem, but would keep an eye on this. It also appears that dog waste is being put in the bus shelter bin, which is not acceptable. Mr Smith had identified a couple of places where a bin could be placed between Cattermole's Lane and Church Farm, and it was agreed that when councillors meet on Tuesday morning, they will also look at other possible sites for a doggy bin, nearer to the bus shelter.
6. Community Grant Support. The clerk has received positive feedback from SCDC, should the parish Council take over responsibility for the hall, and need to fund a new kitchen. As the transfer of responsibility for the hall is still in limbo, it was agreed that the clerk would try to obtain information from the Land Registry, in the first instance.

Reports:

1. Cllr Reid SCC (Written Report) This covered talks on extending the A47 into Lowestoft, and building a new river crossing, the Better Broadband programme, which continues to be rolled out across the county and the news that the ninth of ten care homes to be built in Suffolk in partnership with Care UK has received the go-ahead. The deadline for primary school place applications is 15th January: Suffolk has a good record in placing children at the preferred school. The county is still on track to pick up extra funding through free school meals. SCC has also secured a grant of almost £200,000 to support creative apprenticeships and internships, providing more opportunities for young people in the workplace. The County Council is also working on improving the rail service in Suffolk.
2. Woodbridge and District SNT. There has been one crime reported since the last meeting: a theft of about 40 litres of red diesel from Church Farm. The mobile police station will visit on Fridays, 8.45 to 9.45am on 7th Feb, 21st March, 2nd May, 13th June, 25th July, 5th Sept 17th Oct and 28th Nov. The current priorities are to reduce speeding on the B1438 in Ufford, and to tackle anti social behaviour and vehicle nuisance in Rendlesham and Wickham Market. The next priority setting meeting will be on 12th February at 7pm in Wickham Market Village Hall. It was agreed that the list of security devices sold by the police look very good value: Mr Cushing will take a look at them, and the clerk will ask Mr Fisher to put an item in the All Saints News.
3. Budget Review Meeting. 18.11.13. Mr Cushing attended and heard reports from Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council and the police. Savings will need to be made in all areas, through reductions in councillors and staff, and agreeing joint services. It appears that SCDC is to freeze Council Tax until 2017. The meeting was well attended and well presented.

Other Matters:

1. Recreation Ground. Mr Whitmore reported 6 or 7 broken posts. The clerk is to contact Miles Guntrip and ask him to replace them.
2. Suffolk Constabulary: change of personnel. As of 2.12.13, Superintendent Phil Aves left his post as Policing Commander for the East, and was replaced by Superintendent Paul Sharp.
3. East Suffolk Travellers' Association. The Winter Members' Bulletin was available.
4. Planning: Permitted Development, Rendlesham Forest. Under Part 6: Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, the proposal to improve and upgrade the existing forest access road off the B1084 into Rendlesham Forest, (DC/13/3180/FUL) does not require formal planning permission, although the LPA has to be informed. The powers of the LPA are limited, but as a courtesy the parish council was informed of the plan.

Finance:

1. Account balances at 31.12.13: Current Account: £7078.38; Base Reward Account: £8114.63
2. Cheques: HMRC 3rd quarter: £108.20; clerk's salary, 3rd quarter: £432.16
3. It was agreed that the council needs to keep sufficient funds in reserve to upgrade the village hall kitchen. There was also concern that the threat of precept referendums and changes to the council tax system could have severe implications in the future. The Council Tax support funding this year for Eyke will be £300.05 and will be paid in addition on a reducing scale until 2016/17. It was therefore agreed that a rise of £350 on the precept last year of £6682.30 (figure without the government grant funding of £429.70) would be appropriate. This, rounded as requested to the nearest £100, will be £7000, making a total for the coming year of £7300.05.

Any Other Business:

1. Mrs Abu-Hejleh requested that the Parish Forum be moved to the beginning of the meeting, as a trial. This was agreed.
2. Mr Whitmore has dealt with some fly tipping on the car park. Mr Fleming also thanked him for all his help when the hedge was cut.
3. Mr Fleming is to ask his nephew about putting up the "No Camping" sign on the rec. barrier.

4. The clerk is to contact SCC about two broken footpath signs: one before the barrier on the rec, and the other at the junction of Cracks Lane and Cattermole's Lane.
5. The clerk is also to contact Steve Milligan at SCDC regarding the growth of businesses at Bentwaters Parks, and the increased traffic flow.

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