

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 14th January 2019 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore, the clerk, and four members of the public, including Mrs Clement, village tree warden.

The chairman welcomed Mrs Clark and Mr Smith, who have expressed an interest in standing at the next parish council election.

Apologies: Cllr. Andrew Reid, SCC

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Adjournment for Parish Forum.

Mrs Clement reported that despite her best efforts, assisted by Cllrs. Cushing, Stangoe and Whitmore, the variety of saplings planted from 2014 onwards on the recreation ground have been severely damaged by deer once they grow above the protective plastic sleeves. Of the 100 planted in 2014, about 40 or so have died. Their replacements have suffered similarly.

The only solution would be to erect a deer fence. Country Care, who are highly recommended, have provided a quotation of £2875 plus vat, to supply and install a suitable fence with a gate. Without such a fence, the area will have to be left to its own devices.

In terms of funding, Cllr. Reid has already pledged £600 from his County Council budget, and a similar amount has been offered by the Tree Council. Cllr. Herring has also been approached, and his response is awaited. Mrs Clement hoped that if the Parish Council agreed to the fencing, it would be prepared to contribute.

Mrs Clement attended the East Suffolk Tree Warden event recently, and the April annual AGM Tree Warden event will be held in Ufford, hosted by Jane Hawthorn, Anne Westover and Mrs Clements.

She also reported that she has attempted to contact Nicholas Newton, requesting Tree Preservation Orders on the two large oaks in Church Lane, but has yet to receive a reply.

The Parish Council agreed to the erection of a deer fence, and felt that it is a job best carried out by a well regarded company, rather than by volunteers, even if they could be found. The clerk will contact Cllrs. Reid and Herring, regarding funding, and the account for the whole will be sent to the Parish Council.

Minutes: Those of 12th November 2018 having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. The solicitor has now been in touch with further preliminary questions regarding the application to become a CIO.

It was agreed by the Council that Cllr. Fleming should sign the Trustee Declaration Form on behalf of the Parish Council.

The solicitor has requested further background information regarding the application.

- The Council agreed the objects as set out under point 1 of the request.
- Opening hours: on a pre-booked basis
- Use of hall: agreed as under point 3
- In deciding what activities will be provided there, the Council will do this on an ad hoc basis, as booking requests are made.
- It was agreed that the hall will be free to hire to all groups, but people or groups within the village itself will have a 50% discount on the hourly hiring fee.
- Current hire rates are £12 per hour for those outside the village, and £6 per hour for villagers.
- It was agreed that the clerk would be the contact point for the Charity Commission.
- The clerk will contact Mr Fisher regarding further information about the accounts of the hall as it currently runs.
- Further funding: in order to proceed with refurbishment works, funding will be requested in the first instance from the County and District Council.
- With regard to working with children, the Council's only contact will be through groups such as playgroups, or parents organising children's parties.

2. Elephant and Castle. The clerk spoke to the owner today, who was not able to give any date for a possible opening, as she is waiting for a technical survey concerning the electrics. She confirmed contact with the District Council, who are content with how things are progressing. She will be asking for letters of support in due course, and should have further updates in time for the March meeting.

Concern was expressed by councillors that the pub may not reopen, and the Parish Council had been criticised by a few people for not doing more. It was accepted that there is nothing the Parish Council or the District Council can do at the moment.

3. Traffic meeting with Suffolk County Council. Cllrs. Cushing and Abu-Hejleh will attend on Monday 21st January at 12.30 at Endeavour House. The specific remit is to consider reducing the given capacity of vehicle movements on the A1152 in Eyke, which in terms of width does not even reach UAP4 (Urban All Purpose) criteria. This is important when considering extra traffic generated by new developments in the area.

4. Car park barrier. N & A Engineering contacted the clerk to say they would be looking again at the barrier on Friday, 11th January. So far the clerk has not heard the result, but will continue to press them.

Reports:

1. Cllr. Andrew Reid, SCC. Having been previously circulated, this was taken as read.

2. SNT Meeting, 10th January 2019. Cllr. Whitmore attended. There was nothing of particular concern to Eyke, although he mentioned the traffic through the village.

Other Matters:

1. Sizewell: Stage 3 Public Consultation. Councillors are invited to an engagement event on 22nd January in the morning at Darsham. Any councillor wishing to attend should inform the clerk. Responses have to be received by 29th March, and it was agreed to put the matter on the agenda for the March meeting.

Information is available online, and has been forwarded previously.

2. Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan. The representation period runs from 14th January to 25th February. No one was able to attend the briefing session on Friday 11th. Cllrs Abu-Hejleh and Cushing had attended previous sessions, and felt the disregard for local infrastructure was the most worrying aspect. The Parish Council will receive a hard copy of the Final Draft, which the clerk will circulate to councillors. If required, a meeting can be organised to discuss a response just prior to Monday, 25th February.

Finance:

1. Cheques agreed: Mrs J Pooley (quarterly salary): £432.16; HMRC (3rd quarter): £108.20.

(The expected annual account for the playground inspections has not yet arrived.)

2. Account balances: (at 3rd Jan) Community Account: £16969.66; Business Savings: £8550.95; Business Premium: £118.29

3. Draft budget: April 2019 – March 2020. Councillors had received copies of this, showing an anticipated income of £8025, assuming the precept remains at this year's level, and projected expenditure of £7820, including £900 should there be a contested election. It was agreed that it is necessary to maintain resources as the costs associated with the hall refurbishment are an unknown quantity. There will be a significant solicitor's fee, and there is currently the unexpected expense of the deer fencing.

4. It was agreed to precept for £8300 this year, which should result in a very modest upward percentage change on the Council Tax bills against the parish element.

To receive items for information:

1. Cllr. Whitmore reported quite a few paint tins, including large ones which were fly tipped on the rec. He has informed the district council.

2. Cllr Thomas reported a very successful New Year's Eve Party in the hall, which resulted in a profit of £200 which was split between the Sunshine Club and the Millennium Group. The clerk thanked Cllr Thomas on behalf of the Millennium Group, and said that the donation had paid for the new lights on the Christmas tree outside the church, which had received many favourable comments.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.