

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 7pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Mr Fleming, in the chair, from 7.20pm, Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Cushing, Mr Mutton, Mr Smith, Mr Whitmore, District Cllr. Jane Marson, and the Clerk.

**Apologies:** Mrs Atkinson, PCSO Graham Hawkes, Cllr. Andrew Reid, who hoped to arrive later following two other meetings.

Mrs Abu-Hejleh took the chair until Mr Fleming's arrival.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**Minutes:** Those of 12.11.12, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising:**

1. Speed Gun Initiative. Mrs Kelway has asked twice on newsletters and at a FOES meeting, and will keep pushing the matter to try and get volunteers.
2. Village Sign. There is no progress on this. Mrs Pooley will check with Mrs Atkinson.
3. Village Hall. Mr Fisher is trying to put various documents into order, and suggests that when this is done, a round the table meeting should be organised. Meanwhile, Rev. Leaver and Rendlesham Parish Council are looking into Rendlesham's link with the hall. Mr Fisher confirmed that over the many years of his association with the hall, no funds have ever been forthcoming from Rendlesham, and both Rev. Leaver and Sir Michael Bunbury accept that any reference to Rendlesham refers to the old village, not as we know it now.
4. Bus service through Eyke. ESTA has provided information on how to make complaints about the service provided by Anglian Bus, by telephoning 01502 711109. Complaints can also be logged on the ESTA website: [www.eastsuffolktravel.org.uk](http://www.eastsuffolktravel.org.uk). It was agreed to ask Mr Fisher to include this in the newsletter, and to put the information on the Eyke website.
5. Tree Warden. Judy Clements has volunteered to take on this role, and has been in touch with the organisation.
6. Bentwaters Planning Application. The clerk has sent the discussion document and covering e-mail to all councillors as requested. Cllr. Marson reported that all appears to have gone quiet at the moment. Relating to traffic issues, Mrs Pooley has received a letter from Mr Sam Clayton, the owner of 3, Myrtle Cottages, who is asking for help from the Parish Council regarding the fence erected by his neighbour which is close to the road, and seriously impairs the ability to see what traffic is coming when trying to get out onto the road. Cllr. Marson felt this was a matter for the planning department at SCDC, and Mr Cushing offered to take pictures to illustrate the problem. The clerk will forward this to SCDC and inform Mr Clayton.

#### **Reports:**

1. SCC. Councillors received a written copy of Cllr. Reid's latest report.
2. Cllr. Jane Marson. The council tax benefit changes are likely to place a greater burden on taxpayers over the next few years. She will report back that the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> was well received. The other major issue is Sizewell C. We are at the start of a long process, and the current consultation is a PR exercise. There is concern over the size of the whole site during the 9 year construction period. It will be about 400 acres, covering AONB and SSI designated areas. National policy overrides local policy, so SCDC will work to get the best from this situation. The traffic impact will be considerable, including roads away from the main A12 route. Cllr Marson will represent on the traffic impact in Eyke, and urged the council to flag up issues now to EDF to give them no excuse not to deal with them. It appears that the railway link will bring in a great deal of freight, which could mitigate the effect on the roads.
3. Woodbridge and District SNT. (*Written report*) No crimes were recorded for Eyke in December. The three priorities set at the Community Panel Meeting on 14.11.12 were: tackling antisocial behaviour, including drug use, in Wickham Market, tackling speeding issues in Chillesford, and antisocial behaviour at the weekends in Church Street and Market Hill, Woodbridge. The next priority setting meeting will be on 6.2.13 at 7pm at The Lindos Centre, Melton.
4. Budget Consultation Meeting. Mr Cushing attended this meeting on 19.11.12. The main message of the meeting was that more cuts are to be made, and more restrictions imposed, involving the Council and other organisations, such as the police.
5. Council Tax Benefit Changes. 7.1.13. Mr Cushing also attended this meeting, which was very well supported. The new system of Council Tax benefits will affect every parish, as the likelihood is that the reduced number of households making up the council tax base could end up paying more, even if the parish's precept does not rise. For one year only, local councils have a grant to help ease the transition, and the main purpose of the meeting was to explain the options available to parish councils this year. These are: to accept the grant, in Eyke's case £430.00, received by SCDC to offset the loss caused by the new scheme, and keep tax at current

levels; to increase the charge and not accept the grant; to do a mixture of the previous two options, but keeping the increase within acceptable levels. Mr Cushing felt the meeting was extremely helpful and would aid the council's decision when setting the precept.

#### **Correspondence:**

1. Sustainable Communities Act. SALC is concerned that the Local Government Association is opposing the right of parish councils to submit proposals under this Act, which is designed to get grass roots concerns addressed. Parish and town councils are the best placed tier of local government to do this, because of their understanding of the needs and interests of their community.

While understanding that this is an important matter, the Parish Council decided not to make a response as requested by SALC, to government, due to the complexity of the whole matter.

2. Planning Consultation, Sizewell C. It was agreed that a response should be formulated. Providing the hall is available, it was agreed to meet on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm, by which time the documents will have done the rounds.

#### **Other Matters:**

1. Parish Questionnaire results: deferred to next meeting, in Mrs Atkinson's absence.
2. Village fete. The council agreed that it needs to be a village effort, under the umbrella of the parish council. Discussion is needed with Mr Fisher over its organisation, finances, etc. It was also felt that a personal approach to potential helpers is likely to be more productive than just calling a meeting. The Millennium Group is meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, when the matter will be discussed. Mrs Pooley will ask Mr Fisher to include a piece about the fete in the next newsletter, and will include this on the next parish council agenda.
3. Road markings, White Woman's Lane. Mrs Fleming has asked that consideration is given to putting white lines at the entrance to the close of new houses at the top of the lane, to stop drivers exiting into the lane without looking, and also to altering the marking where White Woman's Lane joins the A1152 so that vehicles are aware that it is a two way lane, and do not exit onto the A1152 from the right hand side. Mrs Pooley will contact Mr Chenery about this.

#### **Planning:**

1. C12/2504. Retention of existing temporary classroom at Eyke Primary School. This application will be determined by SCC. Eyke PC and SCDC have raised no objections.
2. Planning permission: C12/2119. Erection of two storey extension to form new dining and garden rooms and first floor master bedroom with en suite (partial demolition of existing single garage) at Deben Heights, The Street, Eyke.

#### **Finance:**

1. It was agreed to allow the clerk the delegated power to grant a dispensation in the circumstances whereby the council would be inquorate 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, up to a maximum of four years, and was therefore granted to all existing Eyke Parish Councillors.
2. Precepts and Referendums. It is not planned to apply automatic referendums to parish councils this year. SALC is concerned that this possibility in the future threatens the local freedom of the parish councils to respond to the needs of their communities, and takes away over 100 years of financial independence, and encourages local councils to voice their feelings to government. The parish council decided not to do this due to the complexity of the issue at present.
3. Account balances. At 31.12.12: current account: £4394.32; savings account: £8074.29; and business saver: £117.84. Payments into savings accounts were £10.19 interest.
4. Cheques agreed and signed: HMRC: £108.20; Mrs Pooley net salary Nov/Dec: £288.04
5. Precept requirement. Based on the previous information provided by the draft budget, and at the meeting on 7.1.13, it was agreed to raise the precept this year by £700, to include the government grant funding of £429.70, making an inclusive total of £7112.00 Councillors agreed this would be in line with previous increases, and would give a slightly higher base from which to raise next year's precept.

#### **Any Other Business:**

1. There are serious holes in the car park. Mr Fleming will deliver road planings on Tuesday: Mr Cushing offered Mr Whitmore his help with filling, if required.
2. Mr Smith wondered if sand boxes at the top of Creasey's Hill and Castle Hill would be a good idea. Mr Whitmore said the run off the main road tended to keep the hills ice-free at the top. Mr Mutten said he encountered no problem when coming up the hill. It was agreed not to pursue this.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

