

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 14th November 2016 at 7.00pm in the village hall.

Present: Cllr Fleming, in the chair, Cllr Cushing, Cllr Stangoe, Cllr Whitmore, the clerk, four members of the public and one Harris hawk.

Apologies: Cllr Abu-Hejleh, Cllr Clayton, County Councillor Andrew Reid and Mrs Clements, tree warden.

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes: Those of 12th September and the planning meeting of 26th September, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Co-option of councillor: no one has so far come forward.
2. Hedge on the village green. Mr Rabson has replied to the question of responsibility for cutting. It was agreed many years ago that Mr Rabson would be responsible for the side in his garden, and the parish council for the village green side. It was agreed that this is a job best carried out professionally, particularly as there are cables now tangled in it. The clerk will approach MJH Garden Services.

The meeting was adjourned at this point to allow Mrs Nicholls to raise a further matter concerning The Limes. The hedge and trees at the front of the property have grown to such an extent that one street lamp is completely obscured, making the pavement at the front of the house, which is narrow and potentially dangerous anyway, even more difficult to walk along in the dark. She asked if this could be cut back. The house is to be auctioned on 8th December, and Mr Rabson feels that this will be the responsibility of the new owners, according to Mr Fisher, who is in contact with him. The parish council disagreed with this, as the new owners, if the auction is successful, will not take over for some weeks. The clerk will contact Mr Rabson to ask him to take the matter in hand as a matter of urgency, and offer to arrange the work and send him the bill.

3. Trimming around the village gates. Feedback is still awaited from David Chenery.
4. Village Hall update. Mr Cain, from Marshall Hatchick is currently taking advice from their trustee specialist regarding how to proceed without the date of death of the final original trustee.

Adjournment for Parish Forum

1. Mrs Nicholls raised the issue of vehicles parking right up to the junction along the slip road opposite Two Gates, making access on to the road hazardous. It was suggested that in order to allow for the increasing numbers of cars in every household, perhaps the parking area within the close could be squared off, which would probably allow two extra cars to be parked, while discouraging them from parking right up to the junction. It was agreed to put this idea to Mr Chenery.
2. Mr Jonathan Thompson then introduced himself and his Harris hawk, Anya. He would like permission to fly her on the rec, with a view to catching rabbits. The parish council saw no objection to this, subject to approval from the insurers. The clerk will check and get back to Mr Thompson.

Reports:

1. Cllr Andrew Reid, SCC His report, having been previously circulated, was taken as read.
2. Mrs Clements, Tree Warden. (*Written report*) Daffodil and crocus bulbs, along with wild plant plugs have been planted on the rec, and a large number of yellow rattle seeds as part of the Pollinator Patches scheme. Bulbs were also planted in a corner of the new play area. Thanks go to Jan and Dave Stangoe and Ron Cushing for help with this. Mrs Clements attended the 2016 Woodland Communication Day on 11th November, where she learnt that Ash Die Back is still rampant and a loss of 75% of ash tree is predicted over the next 5 to 10 years. 105 saplings have arrived from the Woodland Trust, which will be planted in Cracks Lane, Church Lane and in the copse on the rec. Cllr Whitmore will unlock the gate to allow vehicular access.
3. Police – Woodbridge and District Tasking Meeting; 13.10.16. Cllr Whitmore attended. He reported the drug paraphernalia on the rec, and speeding vehicles seen there in the evening. It was suggested that residents call the police if this is happening late at night. The police will do house visits if necessary. The next meeting is on 24.11.16 at 10.30am at Woodbridge Police Station.

Planning: Application DC/16/4337/FUL The extension of an existing single height pitched roof kitchen at 4, Church Lane, Eyke. Councillors supported this application.

Other Matters:

1. Site allocation and area specific policies: public consultation. Cllr Cushing explained his concerns with this, that the document is being watered down, which will allow much greater development of the site, and hence even greater traffic flow through the village. Once this is ratified, there is little to be done about it. He drew attention particularly to SSP24 (page 8) where it is proposed that *'but that it does so within the identified constraints as set out in the agreed comprehensive plan for the site (planning application ref C/10/3239)'* should be replaced by *'Accordingly the Council will permit new employment uses where they will not breach site, environmental and highway constraints'* This he felt weakens the intention of the paragraph.

The second amendment he drew attention to was the replacing of *'which are generally poorly related to the main road network in the district'* with *'They are located on or close to the zone distributor lorry route network as set out in the Suffolk Lorry Route Network'*. This he regards as untruthful. Cllr Whitmore wondered if it is a case of extra traffic versus employment opportunities. Cllr Cushing felt that the emphasis on employment opportunities is overplayed. Cllr Cushing proposed that representations are made. This was seconded by Cllr Stangoe, and carried. Cllr Cushing will liaise with the clerk over the response.

2. Community Action Suffolk. Cllr Cushing expressed an interest in having access to the membership area. The clerk will pass on his details to CAS.
3. Annual Town and Parish Council Budget Liaison Event 28.11.16. This will be attended by Cllr Cushing and Cllr Stangoe
4. Rural Housing Conference. 10.00am 24.11.16 at the Riverside, Stratford St Andrew.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed: Mr S Lucas (mower fuel): £25.00; MJH Garden Services (hedge and grass cutting) The account for this has not arrived yet, but is likely to be around £550.
2. Account balances: Current account at 3.11.16; £13,957.02; Savings Account: £8,497.56.

Monies in: Current account; £3776.75 (precept) £1234.00 (Community Grant ref. playground); Savings account: £2000.00 (Community grant ref. playground), interest: £6.11

Monies out: Current account £1410.30, which includes £552.94 annual insurance. The rise in the insurance takes into account the new playground.

To receive items for information:

1. Cllr Stangoe reported that the meeting she went to at Orford about public transport was packed, and largely dealt with the Connecting Communities facility, whereby in areas with no public transport, you can call up and book transport to connect you to an appropriate bus or train link. She was also able to raise the matter of timetables placed too high to read comfortably. This will be looked into.
2. The matter of not having a timetable at the Eyke bus stop for buses going in the Aldeburgh direction was raised by Mrs Nicholls. It was agreed it would be useful, even if placed on the Woodbridge side of the road. They are not easy to navigate online. Mr Lucas felt it would be easy enough to print one off, laminate and attach it.
3. Consultation : Removal of BT Payphones. It was agreed that, as before, the Parish Council is not averse to the removal of the payphone facility, and, by a majority vote would be interested in adopting the box for £1.00.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Next meeting: 9th January 2017. 7.00pm Eyke Village Hall.

