

A meeting of the Parish Council was held remotely via Zoom video conference link on Tuesday, 23rd June 2020 at 6.00pm.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Thomas and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllrs. Stangoe and Whitmore.

There were no Declarations of Interest and no Parish Forum.

Minutes: Those of 9th March 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed, and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. Cllr. Clark reported that the hall has benefitted from a £10,000 grant made to affected organisations in the retail, hospitality and leisure industry during the Coronavirus lockdown. Mrs Macfarlane is working to apply for a £5000 Calor Gas Rural Community Fund to refurbish the kitchen. The application needs support and “likes” on Facebook to boost the chance of success. An urgent matter is to get a new bank account up and running, with three signatories, including Mrs Holden and Mr Macfarlane. Cllr. Clark suggested a Zoom meeting of the committee would be useful.
2. VE Day celebration. Having had to postpone from May 8th, it was hoped that VJ Day on the 15th August would be a possibility. This is still unclear. The £400 grant from East Suffolk is still earmarked for the event.
3. It was agreed that the updating of the financial regulations and standing orders should wait until it is possible to have a face to face meeting. Councillors were reminded that all have received draft copies via e mail.
4. Following the newsletter request, a public spirited resident has kindly come forward and is cutting the village green, which is now looking very tidy. Cllr. Fleming removed the first lots of cuttings, but this has not been necessary recently. The Parish Council is most grateful for this.

Other Matters:

1. Sizewell C: the Development Control Order has been submitted, and details will be available online from around the end of June and interest can be registered. There had been considerable disquiet that this was being pushed forward during the pandemic, when communication could be more difficult. The Head of Stakeholder Engagement has promised opportunity for scrutiny, and that the public will be updated on each stage of the process.
2. Planning appeal: land north of Gardenia Close and Garden Square, Rendlesham for 75 dwellings car parking and associated works. This appeal will take place remotely on 30th June. The Parish Council had objected to the original application on the basis of the incremental increase in traffic through Eyke Street, and that according to Mr Chester from SCC there is not a clearly stated road capacity in local or national policy guidance. The criteria in decision making would be based on highway safety, footways, and carriageway width, amongst others. It was suggested by Cllr. Cushing that these objections are restated to the inspector by e mail, and carried by the meeting.

Finance:

Councillors had received copies of all items F1-4 inclusive prior to the meeting.

1. The Internal Auditor’s Report 2019/20 was put before the Council and approved.
2. The Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 was put before the Council and approved.
3. The Annual Accounting Statements 2019/20 were put before the Council and approved.
4. It was agreed that Eyke Parish Council is exempt from the Limited Assurance Review. The Chairman signed all relevant documents.
5. Review of financial controls for safeguarding public money. While nothing has changed in how the finances are controlled over the past year, it was agreed that this would be looked at again when the Model Financial Regulations are updated.

6. Cheques drawn since the last meeting were approved:

- Business Services at CAS Ltd: £223.05 (Additional insurance to include the village hall to 30th September.)
- Information Commissioner: £40.00 (Data Protection Fee.)
- SCC Annual Electricity and Maintenance: £456.12
- SALC Membership: £184.87

7. Cheques to be agreed:

- Clerk's annual expenses: £125.00
- Clerk's quarterly salary: £432.36
- HMRC 1st Quarter: £108.00

8. Monies received since 1.4.20: Precept: £4565.00; Interest: £4.31 (*as of 3.6.20*) In answer to a question from Cllr. Clark, regarding any queries from parishioners about the rise in the precept, the clerk confirmed there had been none.

9. Balances at bank: Business Current Account: £19323.14; Rate Reward: £8596.67; BPA: £118.58 (*as at 3.6.20*)

To receive Items for Information:

Cllr. Cushing reported significant holes in the village car park, and on the rec. where cars park. Cllr. Fleming will get some road planings for filling as soon as he is able, and will also pursue again the repairs to the barriers at the car park and on the rec.

Date of Next Meeting:

14th September 2020. It is hoped by then that it will be possible to meet face to face, although by no means certain.

The meeting closed at 6.35pm.