

A meeting of the Parish Council was held remotely by Zoom video conference link on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore; Cllr Andrew Reid, SCC ; Cllr. James Mallinder, East Suffolk Council and Mrs Clements ( for the duration of her report as tree warden) and the clerk.

There were no apologies for absence.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**Minutes:** Those of 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> July (planning) having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **Matters Arising:**

1. Village Hall. Cllr. Clark reported that £10,000 funding has been received and it will be necessary to ascertain what can be used from reserves to pay for necessary works. There will be a Committee Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October, to decide on what repairs need to be carried out immediately, and also to form a working group to make a start on clearing the outside. A quantity of second hand tiles has been donated, to be used, or sold for village hall funds. Some bookings are starting to trickle in.

The clerk reported that any money from the parish reserves would need to be agreed by the parish council, before paying to the village hall, and the latter account would need to be kept as a completely separate entity. The hall is now equipped with sanitisers and wipes, and the regulatory notices, including the QR code for use with the NHS Covid-19 tracing app.

2. Update of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. As it now seems that remotely held meetings will continue for the foreseeable future, this will be an agenda item for the next meeting, which will be a longer one. The clerk reminded councillors that they had received copies, but would resend if required.

3. Sizewell C. It was agreed that the Parish Council would register an interest in the Application for the Development Consent Order, in order to have the opportunity to take part in future deliberations. This has to be done by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Reports:**

1. Cllr Andrew Reid. Cllr. Reid's report had been circulated, and he just wished to highlight a few of the issues mentioned. The third Lowestoft crossing has now been given the green light, and will be called *Gull Wing*. It will be an iconic structure, bringing business, leisure and learning benefits to the whole of Suffolk. Plans have been finalised for funded school travel for the 12,000 pupils in Suffolk. SCC has worked closely with schools and bus operators to ensure that this transport is Covid -19 safe. 1000 miles of road in the county have now been resurfaced, which has reduced the number of potholes and will hopefully reduce the need for reactive spending in the coming years.

Additionally, Cllr. Reid highlighted SCC's response to the plans for Sizewell C. Although supportive of the principle of a new nuclear power station, the council felt that its concerns had not been sufficiently addressed by EDF. These included that the transport is mainly lorry based, with little consideration of rail and sea transport, lack of mitigations to protect wildlife and ecological damage, and the level of funding for such measures, and compensation to support the impact on local communities and related infrastructure. In answer to a question from Cllr. Clark, Cllr Reid suggested that there will be about a six month time frame for further discussions.

2. Cllr. James Mallinder. East Suffolk Council. Cllr. Mallinder's Report had been previously circulated, and he only wished to add that East Suffolk also has concerns about the DCO submitted by EDF regarding Sizewell C, and he had spoken at the recent full council meeting about the environmental impact, especially in regard to the pollution caused by a predominantly road orientated transport solution, and the implication for sea defences.

Services at East Suffolk are slowly returning, if not to normal, as close as is possible in the current climate. Green waste collections are now fully functioning.

Cllr. Mallinder will keep the parish council informed of any further information he receives regarding the Planning White Paper.

*Cllrs. Mallinder and Reid then left the meeting.*

3. Mrs Clements. Tree Warden. Mrs Clements is reluctant to obtain more trees through the Woodland Trust, as the survival rate is poor, so would like to buy about a dozen independently. She explained that she is reluctant to plant more bulbs – snowdrops, aconites and daffodils – as they were eaten by mice in the winter, and the challenge of putting up bat and bird boxes would be a bit too much. The parish council was supportive of this.

#### **Other matters:**

1. Woodbridge ASB meetings continue to be held online, the last one on 10<sup>th</sup> September. The clerk will forward the minutes on receipt. Any issues for inclusion at the next meeting, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, can be forwarded to Cllr. Whitmore or the clerk, who will forward them. It was suggested that speeding in Eyke Street is flagged up again. Cllr. Thomas is to check with her neighbour about the results of a speed check in his area.

2. Quiet Lanes update. An initiative to increase Quiet Lanes across the county is being spearheaded by Cllr. Andrew Cassy of Boyton. This would be of interest to Eyke, in linking those in this parish with new ones in other places. The clerk has registered an interest in this.

3. Playground Inspections. The clerk has checked that these have been carried out by Ipswich Borough Council and has been assured that they have, despite not having received an invoice for those carried out in 2019. The clerk will pass contact details to Cllr. Cushing, in order to update his system so he can check online.

4. Planning White Paper. “Planning For the Future” The general consensus is that this will result in less affordable housing, and have implications for local democracy. The clerk has watched the webinar given by Birketts, and recommended that councillors should watch it. She will forward the details again. Any responses have to be submitted by 29<sup>th</sup> October, so the clerk asked for feedback by mid October, which would allow time for a meeting to be convened to discuss.

5. Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document. This is available online, and any comments need to be made by 16<sup>th</sup> October.

6. Suffolk Coastal Local Plan: Inspector’s Report. This has been accepted with modifications, and was adopted by East Suffolk Council at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

7. Suffolk Coastal Area Forum: the clerk has forward the notes from this meeting, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

8. Rendlesham Planning Appeal. East Suffolk’s decision to dismiss the proposed development of 75 new homes on land in Rendlesham, has been upheld by the Inspector.

9. Suffolk Boundary Review. Submissions on the draft recommendations must be made by 23.11.20. The information is available online, where you can respond.

#### **Finance:**

1. The clerk was confirmed as Responsible Financial Officer.

2. Councillors were satisfied that the current insurances meet the ongoing requirements, and agreed to the Long Term Agreement (3 years) which reduces the annual cost from £807.28 to £766.92

3. Cheques were agreed as follows:

Clerk’s quarterly salary: £432.36; also £15.24 for sanitising products.

HMRC, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter: £108.00

Mr A Comber: website services: £54.40

Annual Insurance:£766.92

4. Annual Audit: the notification of exempt status has been received.
5. Monies received since 3.6.20: 10p (interest only)
6. Balances at bank: Business Current Account: £18657.78 (as at 3.7.20); Rate Reward: £8598.94 (as at 3.9.20); BPA: £118.61 (as at 30.6.20).
7. Move to online banking. The clerk is in touch with other clerks who are also dealing with this. The first step is to amend the Financial Regulations to allow the clerk to be a service administrator, and it will eventually be necessary to have signatories who can use the online account. Judi Hallett, the clerk at Hollesley, is researching this, and will pass on the information as she gets it.
8. It was agreed to maintain Zoom as a free basic account, because although it states that free sessions can only last 40 minutes, in practice there appears to be no time limit.

**To receive items for information:**

Cllr Whitmore has been informed that buzzards have been shot in fields over Eyke. In the absence of concrete evidence, it is not possible to take this further, but asked councillors to be aware of this illegal activity.

**Date of next meeting:**

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm, via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm