

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllr. Abu-Hejleh, Cllr. Howlett-Thomson (co-opted at meeting) Cllr. Stangoe, Cllr. Thomas (co-opted at meeting) Cllr. Whitmore, District Councillor Herring, County Councillor Reid (from 7.45pm) and the clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllr Cushing.

The two new parish councillors, Emma Howlett-Thomson and Lesley Thomas signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, and were welcomed by the chairman.

*There were no Declarations of Interest.*

**Minutes:** Those of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and the planning meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

*In the absence of members of the public, there was no adjournment for a Parish Forum.*

**Matters Arising:**

1. Hedge on village green. This has now been cut back and it was agreed that it makes a great improvement.
2. Village Hall update. The date of death of the last trustee has now been established. The clerk has passed the information to Marshall Hatchick, and further advice is awaited.
3. Extra parking opposite *Two Gates*. The residents of the close behind the proposed site for extra parking have been canvassed, with seven replying out of eight. Four responses were against the idea, and of the remaining three two were not sure extra spaces would solve the parking problem in the layby. There were suggestions that hatching or bollards strategically placed could deter parking close to the entrance. A rough costing from the Highways Dept suggested that it would cost around £20,000, with no guarantee that the scheme could be delivered due to overheads, stay wires and tree issues. It was agreed to put this on hold for the present.
4. The Pension Regulator. The parish council has now received the Acknowledgement of Declaration of Compliance.

**Reports:**

**Cllr Andrew Reid. SCC.** Council tax has not been raised but savings need to be made in the 2017–18 tax year. A review of adult care funding is welcomed, and SCC will be part of this.

A new report into mental health issues makes recommendations which aim to promote good mental health and reduce demand on services over the next 5 to 10 years. A campaign has been launched in the county to prevent suicide – *Suffolk Life Savers*.

The planned heritage centre to be built as part of the Ipswich Vision will be designed by Pringle Richards Sharratt, and will be called *The Hold*. There will be archive facilities, exhibition space, a cafe, auditorium and seminar rooms. £538,000 has been granted from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Suffolk Highways first carbon neutral scheme, the reconstruction and upgrading of 1.4km of footpath along the old A11 at Elvedon has won bronze at the UK Green Apple Awards. It is part of SCC's drive to become the Greenest County.

100 gritting runs have been completed, and it is hoped no more will be needed this winter.

**Cllr Raymond Herring. SCDC.** Council tax has risen 3.25% in order to maintain the level of provision of services offered by the District Council. Funding from government continues to change. The rate support grant has been removed, to be replaced by incentivised income. This means that the more the local economy grows, and new homes are built, the greater the income to the District Council from that revenue stream. SCDC is currently well resourced, but there have been some changes, for example in the market rate to be charged for beach huts at Felixstowe, which has been in the news recently. It is hoped that negotiation will achieve an acceptable rate for both sides.

There is to be redevelopment at the Deben Pool, and in the longer term at Leiston and Felixstowe. Apart from providing better facilities for local people, it should prove attractive to visitors.

The move to the new offices at Riduna Park, Melton has been completed and it is hoped to arrange an Open Day in the future. The sale of the old site will pay completely for the new. Not all of the new site is owned by

the council. The old site is sold subject to planning, for about 65 residential units. No part of it is listed. The drummer boy statue has been offered to Woodbridge Town Council, along with £10,000, but there is no decision yet as to its future.

The parish council was reminded that it can be the accountable body for an organisation within the village wishing to apply for funds from the *Enabling Communities* Budget.

A question was asked about the gym facilities at Rendlesham. Cllr Herring said it was unlikely another gym would be built. The developers are difficult to deal with. They want to build houses, but the parish wants amenities. It is slow and frustrating.

*At this point it was agreed to discuss the traffic issues in Eyke Street while both Cllr Reid and Cllr Herring were present.*

Cllr Abu-Hejleh explained her concern that vehicles are ignoring the 30mph limit as they enter the village, and the collection of speed data at a more central point does not give a true picture of the situation. She was concerned that vehicles entering from the Woodbridge end of the village were still travelling too fast, even through the advisory 20mph at the school. She felt that a 20mph limit through the village is desirable.

Cllr Reid pointed out that the speed panel, which did not exist years ago when this matter was considered previously, sticks rigidly to the criteria laid down for a 20mph limit, and on most counts Eyke Street fails:

- a) It is on an A road, and unless there are exceptional circumstances, for example high accident rates, it fails at the first hurdle.
- b) It meets the mean speeds criterion, as these are less than 30mph.
- c) Currently there is no significant local support.
- d) It fails to meet mean speeds below 24mph.

Speed data collected in October 2016 shows that 85% of the traffic was travelling at or below 34mph, which indicates reasonably good compliance, according to the Highways Department.

The road is also operating within its capacity. Operational capacity for a road of this type is between 2220 and 2600 per hour, combined directions. The average combined daily flow in Eyke is 7425, so it is well within the limits.

Cllr Reid advised that there is a case for asking for enforcement from the police.

Campsea Ashe Parish Council has asked for Eyke Parish Council's views on the problems of increasing numbers of HGV's travelling through the local villages.

Cllr Reid declared an interest as a resident of Campsea Ashe.

It was agreed that Eyke has suffered more than most, and the problem is exacerbated with the increasing size of the vehicles. Cllr Herring said that Campsea Ashe is on a key B road, linking farms, the peninsula and Bentwaters. It was agreed that businesses in the area need the road network in order to survive and flourish, and the issue is largely how the vehicles are driven. Employers need reminding of their duty of care, and there is a need to take local responsibility. The clerk will e mail a response to Campsea Ashe.

*Cllrs Reid and Herring then left the meeting.*

### **Reports (resumed):**

**SNT Tasking meetings.** Cllr Whitmore attended two meetings, on 12<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> February. There was nothing of particular relevance to Eyke to report, although the issue of speed is often brought up. He will bring the matter up in relation to Eyke at the next SNT meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Locality Inspector Roger Salmon is leaving his position this month, and will be replaced by Inspector Andy Pursehouse.

**Tree Warden.** (*Written Report from Mrs Clements*) Six saplings have been planted on the rec as part of the Pollinating Patches scheme. Mr Cushing put up a sign to explain the purpose of the scheme. Snowdrops and aconites have been planted and are doing well, although crocuses planted after Christmas have been destroyed by rabbits. Most saplings have survived the winter, and Mrs Stangoe has given a great deal of help with the planting, and also renewing mulch mats, cutting back brambles and all the other laborious tasks required to maintain the site.

**Other Matters:**

1. SALC area meeting dates: 20<sup>th</sup> March; 19<sup>th</sup> June; 18<sup>th</sup> September; 11<sup>th</sup> December. The clerk will forward details as they arrive, and asked councillors to confirm each time if they wished to attend.
2. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. Stephen Baker, Chief Executive has written to confirm that the merger of the two councils into a single District Council is going ahead, for the benefit of the East Suffolk communities. The process is expected to culminate in elections to the new District Council in May 2019. The impact on town and parish councils should be minimal and the expectation is that ultimately there will be a reduction in the number of councillors, and meetings and processes will streamline considerably.
3. NALC guidance regarding the use of individual names in minutes. SALC have advised that for data protection, individual names at meetings should not be used, although there are no data protection issues with using councillors' names.

**Finance:**

1. Cheques agreed: MJH Garden and Tree Services (Hedge cutting): £380.00; A Comber (website services): £29.75; SCC( Annual Electricity and maintenance): £411.28; Mrs Pooley(quarterly salary, Jan-Mar): £432.36; HMRC (quarterly return): £108.00. A cheque was also agreed in the sum of £29.55 for mower parts which Mr Lucas will fit. (The clerk has asked for that invoice, which Mr Lucas will forward to be made out to the parish council, for vat purposes.)
2. Account balances: Savings account: £8506.29;  
Current account: £12048.19: monies out since the last meeting: £1348.83
3. It was agreed to restart the process of gaining a third cheque signatory.
4. Transparency fund. Money is available to defray costs incurred in complying with the Transparency Code. As the Parish Council already has a website set up, and is complying with the code at no extra cost, there is nothing to claim for.

**To receive items for information:**

1. An e mail has been received regarding the muddy state of the village car park. Councillors agreed that the parking surface is not muddy, but will fill in with more planings as required. The only place where mud is an issue is if cars park on the grass, which they should not do, as it churns it up, thus creating mud.
2. Eyke fete. The pre-fete meeting usually takes place in the pub sometime in April. The clerk will in the first instance liaise with Mr and Mrs Brigginsshaw. Fete date: 16<sup>th</sup> July.
3. Cllr Whitmore reported fly tipping of aerosol cans on the rec; SCDC have now collected these. There are currently a lot of rabbit holes.
4. Cllr Howlett-Thomson questioned whether there is a defibrillator in the village, and wondered if this would be a good use for the phone box, if the parish council purchases it in the future.
5. The mud on the road and the poor state of the surface at Mill End has been reported. The clerk will pass this on to Highways.

**Date of Parish Council Annual meeting, and the Annual Parish Meeting:**

8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm Annual Parish Council Meeting, followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm