

The Annual Parish Meeting for Eyke took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.45pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore, Cllr. James Mallinder, East Suffolk Council, the clerk and six members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Andrew Reid, SCC.

**Minutes:** Those of 15th April 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record. In the absence of a meeting last year, the clerk had collected reports where possible, which were filed in lieu.

**Matters Arising:** None directly.

*There was no adjournment for a parish forum.*

**Reports:**

1. Cllr. Reid's Annual report is attached.

2. Cllr. Mallinder, East Suffolk Council. Cllr. Mallinder introduced himself as the Deben Ward Councillor since 2019. He is also cabinet member for the environment, and this is of particular interest to him. It is necessary to maintain what we have across the peninsula, and maintain a balance between protecting the environment and how we live our lives.

He has been pleased to support Eyke over the past two years in helping to provide funding for the village hall, and for the new lawnmower, through the Enabling Communities Budget.

He is aware that traffic and speeding are two important issues in the village and works to support the community in that regard, aware that it is a problem which is prevalent throughout the wider area.

He was pleased to support the ward with Community Bags – a bag of goodies delivered to older people who might appreciate the thought while dealing with lockdown restrictions in the winter. 64 were delivered through the ward, some in Eyke.

Now that people are a little more free to travel, car parks are very congested and deteriorating. There are issues with fly tipping, and with litter bins. An experiment is taking place locally to see if by removing the bins, people will take their rubbish home with them. Cllr. Mallinder was not very hopeful on this point. One benefit of the Covid pandemic has been an increased regard for the value of nature in our lives. Cllr. Mallinder has been pleased to support ' *Pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees*' which is now having a knock-on effect with some churchyards allowing areas to be untended for some of the year. There has been a 45% reduction in glyphosate spraying, and although using electric refuse collecting vehicles has not proved viable, the use of oil as a fuel is being actively considered.

Cllr. Mallinder feels we can be hopeful about the future, and build a legacy for those who follow. It is a pleasure to represent Eyke.

Cllr. Fleming thanked him for all his help and support. Cllr. Thomas said how she had been called by one of the recipients of a Community Bag, who was absolutely delighted to receive it.

3. Eyke Charities. Mr Sutch's annual report is attached.

The holding of a large sum – over £12000 - was questioned, when only small amounts were given away. It was explained that the terms of the bequests were quite restrictive, and the funds have to provide for gifts in the future. Cllr. Fleming will get more information on this.

4. Eyke C of E Primary School. The headteacher's report is attached. In answer to a question from Cllr. Clark, Mrs Fairweather said that the school pool is available for hire, but effectively only on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday, as I Swim use it 4 evenings a week, and on Saturday mornings.

5. ACES Parents' Fundraising Group. Mrs Watsham the chairman emailed to explain how hard the year had been to try and raise funds. However, they raised £126 through *bags4schools* a company which collects clothes and shoes. There will be another collection on 12<sup>th</sup> July. They have also sold tea towels, and are planning a sponsored walk. If sports day can go ahead, they are hoping to hold a raffle and barbecue. The aim is to raise money for the outside area and PE equipment.

6. Eyke Village Hall. The report is attached: a funding update from Cllr. Clark, and a works update from Mr Weavers. Cllr. Whitmore raised the issue of the front car parking area, which has been subject to flooding in the past. Cllr. Clark felt that this was addressed and costed into the initial plans, and she will check.

7. Recreation Ground. Cllr. Whitmore reported that the playground gate and the barrier still await repair. There have been a number of small fires at the back of the pit area recently, and the chestnut fencing still suffers a little from vandalism. There is occasional evidence of drug use. Most of the holes on the track have now been filled in with road planings. The play equipment is visually checked each week and litter is also collected on a weekly basis.

8. Eyke Millennium Group. A report by Jackie Pooley is attached.

9. Village Tree Warden. A report given by Mrs Clements is attached.

10. *Inside Eyke Village Magazine*. The editor, Tim Marr, has emailed that there is nothing to report on this past year. There is still plenty of content ready and waiting, but there is a need for someone who has a bit of free time, and some desktop skills, following the resignation of Katy Bell, whose expertise in that area is sorely missed. Thanks are due to Katy, for all the time she gave and the work she did over the past few years.

Cllr. Clark said that quite a few people have a desktop publisher, but it was felt that anyone who takes this on would need to have quite a bit of time at their disposal. Cllr. Abu-Hejleh who undertook to get the advertising said that there is over £200 in the account, and the aim has always been for the magazine to be self funding through advertising revenue, and free to villagers. The parish council has made a one off donation in the past, but does not support it on a regular basis.

11. Churchwardens Report. A report by Mr Fisher and Mrs Nicholls is attached.

12 Parish Council. Cllr. Fleming said that it was good to be able to welcome people back to face-to-face meetings, and he thanked all those present who had provided reports, and to those who took an interest in what goes on in the village. Thanks were due to Mr Allsopp, who has taken charge of the new lawnmower, and who is keeping the village green in excellent shape.

Thanks were due as well to people who had stepped up during the pandemic to offer help to others, whether it was shopping for those at risk, or organising fish and chip deliveries.

**Finance:** The Parish Council accounts were available for inspection.

**To receive items for Information:**

Cllr Stangoe has lots of young plants which need a home in the near future. She wondered about having a plant sale outside the village hall in the next couple of weeks to raise funds for the hall. Cllr. Clarke will liaise with Cllr. Stangoe to arrange.

This closed the meeting at 8.55pm