

The Annual Parish Meeting for Eyke took place on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, the clerk and eight members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Andrew Reid SCC, Cllr. James Mallinder, East Suffolk Council, Mrs. L Fairweather, headteacher at Eyke Primary School.

Cllr. Fleming then led a tribute to the late councillor Mervyn Whitmore, who for 52 years served on the parish council, and who was involved in many activities within the council and in the wider community. He will be sadly missed. *Tribute attached.*

**Minutes:** those of the Annual Parish Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising:** None directly.

### **Adjournment for Parish Forum:**

Mrs. Nicholls, churchwarden, then explained that on an experimental and temporary basis, and in order to encourage wild flowers, insects, bees and other wildlife, two areas either side of the main gate into the churchyard will be left uncut, in the spirit of “No Mow May”. The establishment of wildflower meadows is a long process, and would not be viable for the whole churchyard. It will be necessary to cut areas ready for Mr Whitmore’s funeral next week, and to make sure those visiting graves can do so easily. Following the successful Coronation barbecue, where the village hall and the churchyard were used, community use will be actively encouraged.

Mrs Nicholls also mentioned the possibility of leaving areas of the village green uncut, which will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

### **Reports:**

1. Tree warden’s report. This was presented by Mrs Clements. *Report attached.*
2. Suffolk County Council: The clerk summarised some of the main points. *Report attached.*  
Cllr. Cushing pointed out that although the County Council has planted close to 200,000 trees across Suffolk, the survival rate can be as low as 5%.
3. East Suffolk Council. Cllr. Mallinder, re-elected on 4<sup>th</sup> May, sent a report which the clerk presented. *Report attached.*
4. Eyke Charities: The clerk presented Mr Sutch’s report. *Report attached.*
5. PCC Report. This was presented by Mrs Nicholls, who additionally encouraged people to visit the church at any time, as it is open daily and make use of the churchyard as a recreational facility. *Report attached.*
6. Eyke School. The clerk presented the head teacher’s report. *Report attached.*
7. ACES: Active Community of Eyke School. The chairperson, Mrs Redfern, described various fundraising activities over the past year, including the summer fair, which raised £2236, a barbecue, which raised £343, and a photographer parent who took the school photographs, raising about £480, among other events such as bake sales, discos, a Christmas fair and uniform sales. . As a result, the group has been able to provide new picnic tables, musical instruments and equipment, and outdoor play equipment, while also subsidising school trips. Each child was also presented with a leather coronation book mark. They are now looking to provide tops for the sports team, as well as updating the library. The summer fair will be on June 17<sup>th</sup>, for which all donations are welcome.
8. Eyke Village Hall. The report was presented by Cllr. Clark. *Report attached.*
9. Recreation Ground. Report compiled and presented by the clerk. *Report attached.*
10. Millennium Group. Report compiled and presented by the clerk. *Report attached.*
11. Parish Council. Cllr. Fleming thanked everyone who helps to keep the village running smoothly. Particular thanks go to Sue Clark, Lee Weavers and Neil Smith, who have done so much to bring the village hall up to its current state, and make it a very attractive venue.  
The Parish Council continues to meet on the second Monday of every other month.  
Following the recent election, there is still one vacancy, and the Parish Council will seek to fill this by co-option as soon as possible. Villagers are asked to consider putting themselves forward for this. The clerk can provide more information.

**Other Matters:** To discuss a way for the village to create a lasting memorial to Cllr. Whitmore. It was agreed that to install two benches with descriptive plaques and made of recycled material, would be a fitting memorial. The Parish Council has already agreed to provide funds, but individuals can make donations by cash, cheque or online if they so wish. One bench will be located on the rec, near the playground, and the other in the churchyard. The clerk will obtain quotations for this for the next parish council meeting.

**Finance:** The parish council accounts are available for inspection, in person, online and advertised within the village.

**To receive items for information:**

Denbury Homes Housing Application. Cllr. Abu-Hejleh wishes to collect signatures on a petition regarding the scale and nature of the forthcoming development, and hopes for the parish council's backing. Cllr. Fleming said that this is not an agenda item and not a convened parish council meeting, so the matter cannot be voted on at this time. There is nothing to prevent Cllr. Abu-Hejleh from organising such a petition as a private individual, but she would need to present it to a full council meeting before it could be considered and possibly endorsed by the council through a vote.

The Parish Council is to meet with the developer tomorrow to discuss certain amendments Denbury Homes wishes to make, and then in two weeks time there will be an online meeting with SCC, the school and the parish council to clarify matters concerning car parking and allied matters on the site. It will be following this that the public will have further opportunity to express their views.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm