

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 8th March 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom video conferencing.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Thomas. Cllr Reid, from 7.20 to 7.40pm and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllr. Whitmore and Cllr Mallinder, who hoped to attend from 8.00pm.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Waiver of the 6 month rule in respect of attendance at parish council meetings.

The Parish Council approved the waiver of the 6 month rule provided for within Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act, in respect of Cllr. Whitmore, due to his inability to attend remote meetings. (Extended for 6 months.)

Minutes: Those of 11th January 2021, and the planning meeting of 25th January 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and agreed. (To be signed at a later date.)

There was no adjournment for a Parish Forum. In the absence of members of the public.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. Cllr. Clark reported that plans for the village hall are moving ahead, and there is now £40,500 available for work to commence. This includes the £10,000 from the Parish Council, and approximately £1600 from Cllr. Mallinder's Enabling Communities Budget, earmarked for the toilet refurbishment. There are some outstanding applications as well, including a possibility of significant funding from the Lottery Commission, which has urged a further application, based on a very good submission in the last round, which was unsuccessful due to it being a late bid.

Work has started clearing the outside growth, and thanks are due to Mr Smith for this, and to Mr Holden and Mr P Fleming for clearing the greenery away.

Quotations are now coming in for work on the structure, for the toilets and the new kitchen.

A newsletter and consultation is being put together by the committee, and it is hoped to circulate it by the end of March to village households, and to make it available on various social media platforms. Such a consultation is necessary for some funding applications.

Potential funders also like to see evidence of fund raising, and so a remote wine and food tasting event is being planned for 20th March. So far, eleven households have signed up: it would be good to get to twenty, which would bring in a fair sum to the village hall account.

Cllr. Fleming volunteered to deal with any rubbish which needs to be disposed of.

2. Potholes on the rec. and in the car park. The planings have been delivered, and work has commenced on filling the holes. Two of the big holes on the rec. are still waterlogged, so will be filled when possible. Thanks were due to Cllr. Cushing for organising this, and to Cllr. Fleming for providing the manpower. Cllr. Fleming was very pleased with the quality of the planings, and the firmness of the filled holes.

3. Sign for playground. The clerk had circulated a photo of a Forestry England sign, which she saw on the edge of the forest, banning motorbikes and quad bikes. Councillors felt this was a good option. The clerk will make enquiries with Forestry England with a view to procuring a similar sign, with the addition of trial bikes.

Reports:

Cllr. Reid, SCC. (This had previously been circulated to councillors) He apologised for such a long report, a sign of the current times, and wished to highlight just a few things. The ANPR scheme is being installed at recycling centres to improve the customer experience and to plan for future demand. It will also help identify rogue traders.

A new project has been announced that would see drainage water normally pumped into the Deben pumped inland and reused by farmers. The pressures of climate change, housing growth and industrial demand call for new ways to source water, and at the same time protect natural habitats.

Work has begun on two new bridges in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and there will also be junction improvements from Seven Hills roundabout to Woods Lane.

SCC agreed its budget on 11th February, and no services have been cut. The budget is based on a 12 month financial settlement from government, rather than the usual 3 or 4 year agreement.

The costs of Covid-19 have been and will continue to be, significant, and around £82.2M has been received in financial support.

In response to a question from Cllr. Cushing, Cllr. Reid said that existing reservoirs would be used to capture the drainage water rerouted from the Deben.

Cllr. Reid stated that he will be standing for re-election on May 6th.

Cllr. Mallinder ESC. This report had been previously circulated, and was taken as read.

Woodbridge and District ASB. No report received.

Other Matters:

1. Joint Parishes Meeting regarding traffic issues 4th March 2021. Cllr. Cushing had attended this well attended meeting and felt that it was a positive step. A group of villages acting together is harder to ignore than a single voice.

The matter of greatest concern was that ESC refuses to admit that there are any traffic problems anywhere from Melton crossroads through the several villages involved. More weight was given to the local plan, and the interests of housing, business and industry.

Some SCC and ESC councillors supported the concerns but there was resistance from others.

From the point of view of Eyke, Cllr. Cushing suggested that a further letter is sent to Mr Ridley at ESC, restating the parish's concerns, as stated in the draft letter forwarded to councillors. This was agreed. Cllr. Cushing will liaise with the clerk to formulate this.

Cllr. Reid reported that he too had attended the meeting. SCC want to continue monitoring the traffic, and felt the parish should push for this to continue. The two aspects are traffic volume and type, and what the villages have in common is the HGV and farm traffic problem. Melton crossroads is a particular pinch point. Each village has its own particular problems, and Cllr. Reid asked to be kept informed and copied in to correspondence.

The clerk noted that the official minutes of the meeting will be forwarded from ESC. Cllr. Reid pointed out that despite Mr Ridley's opposition, the meeting was recorded by Campsea Ashe, although this recording cannot be used publicly.

2. Repair of bolt on playground gate, and to two barriers: in the car park and on the rec. Cllr. Fleming asked that he is given a week to put this in hand with his nephew. This was agreed.

3. A question has been raised regarding the cutting of the hedge, and in particular the branches of trees on the boundary of the village green and the adjacent house. Cllr. Cushing will contact the owner and assess the situation.

4. Electricity Maintenance and Energy: 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. The parish council agreed with the inventory, which should result in a bill of £440.78. Of the lamps currently in place, 4 are now not replaceable and one is likely to be unsourceable in the not too distant future. It was agreed that the clerk would obtain replacement costs for future reference.

Planning Applications:

DC/21/0814/FUL: Erection of a single storey extension together with internal alterations to existing two storey dwelling: Manor Cottages, 143 Low Road, Eyke IP12 2QF.

Councillors supported this application.

DC/21/0861/FUL: construction of new detached single storey dwelling and double garage within part of garden. Coach House Cottage, the Street, Eyke IP12 2QG

Councillors supported this application.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed:

T.G.Askew: Planings delivered to car park and rec: £482.16

Mr A Comber: Website Services: 30.60

HMRC: 4th Quarter: 108.00

Mrs J Pooley: salary, 4th quarter: 432.36

Ernest Doe: Lawnmower: £420.00. (350.00 now received from Cllr. Mallinder's Enabling Communities Budget.)

Eyke Village Hall: Refurbishment funds: £10,000

2. Account balances at 3.3.21:

Community Account: 19792.60

Rate Reward Account: 8601.02

Business Premium Account: 118.63

To receive items for information:

Cllr. Fleming will collect the lawnmower on receipt of the cheque.

Date of Parish Council Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting: 10th May 2021. (This may still need to be held remotely.)

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.