

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 9th September 2019 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, chairman, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore, three members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies: None.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes: Those of 8th July 2019, and the planning meeting of 15th July 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Adjournment for Parish Forum.

Mrs Nicholls raised the issue of the cutting of the bus service through Eyke. The 800 service has been replaced by the 65, which has resulted in far fewer buses through the village, and notably no return from Woodbridge until after 2.30pm in the afternoon. This means that anyone using the bus to go to Woodbridge in the morning has to stay there through lunchtime. Mrs Nicholls suggested that the bus which terminates at 12.25 at Melton Chapel should go through to Rendlesham.

It was agreed that this is poor service, and in the light of the "green agenda" being pursued in the county, a retrograde and deplorable step. The issue in general was discussed by the Deben Ward Parish Councils group at its meeting on July 25th, and parish councils encouraged to write to make their feelings known. Additionally, Cllr. Butterwick from Melton has distilled the changes into a document, which encourages other local councils to make their feelings known to SCC.

The Parish Council will make a response as above, and noted that there is also a petition on facebook to sign. Regarding the removal of the cats' eyes across the area, this too was raised at the Deben Ward meeting, and individual parish councils encouraged to respond to SCC.

Mrs Nicholls raised the issue of having a mobile post office to serve Eyke and Rendlesham. However, it seems that the post office at Rendlesham is due to reopen within a few weeks, but if this does not happen, the idea could be considered.

Mr Smith mentioned the use of 30mph stickers, as seen on the bins outside Eyke House. It was generally felt that this is a good idea. Cllr. Abu-Hejleh bought a set of these, and this is something which could be encouraged for those whose bins are seen from the Street on collection day.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. From previous correspondence, it seems the Charity Commission has quite a backlog of cases, and an extended waiting time. From the timescale given, it appears that this application for Charitable Incorporated status, should be reaching the top of the pile about now. The clerk has contacted the solicitor for an update.

Mr Smith then updated the Parish Council on the survey undertaken by Anderson Associates, copies of which have been circulated to councillors. The portal frames are damaged but repairable, and it was agreed that this work should be carried out as part of the whole scheme, not separately. Where the render was removed for access, this will be sealed up for the winter.

Mr Watson now has the plan of the village hall and will get together with Mr Smith to work out costings for the work required. It is essential to do this in order for Cllr. Clark to investigate grant applications, some of which need to be made by early next year.

The clerk will contact all committee members to update them, but it was not felt necessary to call a meeting at this stage.

2. Local Plan Hearing. Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh and Cushing will attend this, and Cllr Abu-Hejleh read the prepared statement she will present at the hearing on 17th September for approval. Other councillors and members of the public were encouraged to attend if possible.

3. Recreation Ground. The damaged barrier still needs work to be done. Cllr. Fleming will cement in the post shortly, and chase up the other repairs. There have been campers on the rec. and it is essential to avoid illegal parking by travellers.

4. Elephant & Castle. East Suffolk Council reported by e mail on 27th August that the planning application made by the owners was invalid and returned to them, closed, with warnings about unauthorised works to listed buildings. East Suffolk is chasing this again.

Reports:

1. Cllr. Reid, SCC. No report.
2. Cllr. James Mallinder, East Suffolk. This report had been circulated and was taken as read.
3. Deben Wards Joint Meeting: 25.7.19. This was attended by Cllrs. Cushing and Stangoe, and the clerk. Issues were discussed as previously noted, particularly regarding the reduced bus service and the removal of cats eyes.

There was agreement that the planning service at East Suffolk has weaknesses, particularly in the area of enforcement. Cllr. Mallinder would take this matter up.

There was discussion about SCC promoting self help with village tasks, and the inappropriate content of the course run by SCC. Parish Councils were encouraged to write to ask for more support if these tasks, such as sign cleaning and foliage clearing are to be undertaken. Cllr. Cushing had objected to this, feeling that for the present this is still the responsibility of the County Council. (*Eyke Parish Council supported this view.*)

The next meeting is on 24th October at Alderton.

4. Visit of Steve Gallant, Leader of East Suffolk Council, on 22nd August 2019. Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh and Cushing and the clerk attended this, along with Cllr. Mallinder. The onsite meeting was to allow Cllr. Gallant to see the various parishes in the area and to get a feel for the important issues and how the parishes relate one to another. He was able to appreciate first hand the traffic problems, and had his own suggestion for traffic calming which he had first hand experience of in Lincolnshire. This consisted of buying a couple of old vehicles, taxing and insuring them, painting them pink and parking them at points along the road. This was regarded as food for thought! This was an enjoyable and successful meeting, and thanks were due to Cllr. Mallinder for arranging it.

Other matters:

1. VE Day Celebrations. Cllr. Clark has already made enquiries and has found a hip-hop group who are available to entertain with forties style music and dancing. This could be an evening event, perhaps preceded by an afternoon tea for those who would not want to be out later. Help will be needed to arrange this. The clerk suggested the Millennium Group might be willing to help and would send an e mail around to them.
2. Hedge cutting at the car park. The clerk will contact Mr Hassan, who usually does this in the October half term. Cllr. Fleming will take away the cuttings.
3. Recent planning applications. It was noted that planning application DC/19/2473/OUT has been refused, but there will be an appeal.

Planning Applications DC/19/22852/FUL and DC/19/2859/FUL. Because of the shortage of time to arrange meetings during the holiday period, councillors responded by e mail. They supported both applications.

4. Campsea Ashe Parish Council. The new clerk is Klaus Fortmann, following the sudden death of the previous incumbent. He is keen to build a relationship with other clerks and councils in the area to discuss matters of mutual interest. He has recently attended a meeting concerning Sizewell C Stage 4 consultation and is concerned that little thought has been given to the implications for the use of Bentwaters. He urged that any response should include the need for mitigating conditions. The Parish Council agreed that the first step required is to install the traffic counter at the Base which was a condition of planning development several years ago, and has never been carried out. It was agreed to put this to East Suffolk Council Planning Department in the strongest possible terms, asking when this will be enforced and insisting on a reply.

Finance:

1. Cheques were agreed: Business Services at CAS Ltd (Annual Insurance): £384.16; A Comber (Website services): £39.10; Anderson Associates (Village Hall Survey); £550; East Suffolk Council (Election costs); £76.16; Mrs Pooley (Quarterly salary, Jun-Sept); £432.36; HMRC (Second quarter); £108.00.

Cllr. Mallinder arrived at this point.

2. Account balances: (August 2nd) Current account: £14,449.06; Business Savings: £8570.74; Business Premium Account: £118.41

The clerk was confirmed as the Responsible Financial Officer.

4. Insurance: The cover for the forthcoming year was considered adequate, except that the deer fencing has not been added to the policy. The clerk will check on whether vandalism is included, and add fencing to the policy if so. There is nothing else to add to the asset register.

Cllr. Mallinder. He apologised for his lateness, as this is his third, and final meeting of the evening. He very much enjoyed the fete, and has attended every one in this ward. He is picking up ideas for good attractions, such as an old fashioned organ, or a clown to entertain the children, and will let us know if he has any further thoughts.

The surgeries he has held so far have been successful, and he is looking forward to attending the one in Eyke on Saturday at 11.00am.

Cllr. Clark asked about funding for the VE Day celebrations, and Cllr. Mallinder is happy to support this from the Enabling Communities Budget.

To receive items for information:

1. Cllr. Stangoe requested that a complaint is made to SCC regarding the grit and small stones which become heaped up on the pavement and not cleared after road resurfacing.
2. The possibility of using "Street Wardens" at a cost of £20 per man per hour plus expenses to carry out sign cleaning and foliage cutting, as put forward by Hollesley Parish Council was dismissed as per the reasons given at the Deben Ward Joint Meeting.

Date of next Meeting: Monday, 18th November 2019.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.