

A meeting of Eyke Parish Council took place on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Cushing and Thomas, the clerk, eight members of the public and Cllr Reid, SCC (*from 7.25 – 7.40pm*).

**Apologies:** Cllr. Clark, Cllr. Mallinder, East Suffolk Council.

**Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Fleming retrospectively, when MA2 was discussed, regarding the bus shelter, as this involved someone known to him on a personal basis.

**Minutes:** Those of 15<sup>th</sup> May, and the notes from the meeting with Denbury Homes on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Adjournment for Parish Forum:** None requested.

**Co-option of councillor to fill vacancy, following election:** Mr Neil Smith had volunteered to fill this position, and was unanimously elected. His Acceptance of Office was completed.

**Resignation of Councillor:** Cllr. Stangoe notified the clerk on 8<sup>th</sup> July that she was resigning with immediate effect. The clerk explained that this is a casual vacancy, and has to follow due process. She has removed Cllr Stangoe from the Register of Interests, and this will trigger a Notice of Casual Vacancy from East Suffolk, to be advertised as widely as possible within the parish. Parishioners then have two weeks, and if within this time ten or more request an election, this will have to be held. Otherwise, the Parish Council is then free to co-opt to fill the seat.

#### **Matters Arising:**

1. Village Hall. Cllr Clark reported by email that there is no news yet on the possible funding from the National Lottery. Cllr. Smith reported that the work on the porch and the toilets continues, and is almost complete. The rear of the hall still needs significant work, which is dependent on further funding.
2. Bus shelter refurbishment. Two quotations from local businesses have been received. John Finlinson, from Rendlesham submitted a total costing of £3635, and Ben Wheeler from Eyke a total of £2675. It was agreed to accept the cheaper quotation. Mr Finlinson had expressed admiration for the quality of the workmanship in parish noticeboard, in the churchyard, and it was agreed to ask him for a quotation to refurbish this, which was made by the late Bill Dickey, many years ago.
3. Memorial benches for the late Mervyn Whitmore. It was agreed to accept the quotation for two benches from Realise Futures, made of recycled plastic, which with fixings and plaques will cost £1227.18. It was agreed to keep the inscription as simple as possible, incorporating his name and dates, with wording to recognise his long service in many aspects of village life for over 50 years. The clerk will circulate a suggested wording to interested parties before completing the order. She reported donations totalling £650 so far, with more promised.
4. The Annual Inspection of the playground has been completed, and described it as well equipped, in good condition and well maintained.

The following items need action:

- The pedestrian gates with self closer mechanism do not work correctly and need adjustment. The main gate needs a rotten post to be replaced and realigned to allow the catch to work correctly. Cllr Cushing will look at these to assess what action needs to be taken.
- Signs: Ownership sign, with contact details, no dogs signs. The clerk will order the appropriate signs.
- Matting below the climber, the flat seat swing and the basket swing need attention with a mixture of soil and grass seed, when conditions allow, and similarly the grass below the platform slide and the swinging log traverse need a seed and soil mix to be spread over, or replacement with a non-wearing safety surface, such as bonded rubber crumb.
- Small football goals: it is recommended that the stones are removed and the worn surface infilled. Cllr. Fleming will cut the area, and Cllr Cushing will try to find the contact who said the whole rec was too big a job, but who might be prepared to cut just the small area around the basket ball post and the football goalposts

- Toddler platform slide: this needs to be rubbed down to remove rust and flaking paint, and repainted.
- Basket swing: damage to the wood around the top fixing means that the swing should be taken out of use until repaired. Cllr Fleming will arrange for a new plate to be fixed to secure the top bolt as a matter of urgency.

Provision of a litter bin. The Council charge for a bin would be £400.74 plus vat, plus £91 plus vat per annum for weekly emptying. Cheaper bins have been sourced, at £78 plus vat for a 50 litre bin. It was felt that the bin must be secured, and if East Suffolk offer this, it would be reasonable to use their service. Also it is not known if the council would offer an emptying facility for a bin they did not supply. Cllr. Reid offered financial support from his budget, and Cllr. Mallinder will also be approached.

5. Denbury Homes Application. The clerk checked with East Suffolk Planning last week, and they expect the application to be lodged with them very soon.

### **Reports:**

1. Cllr Reid, SCC. His report had been previously circulated, and he wished to highlight just a couple of points: Suffolk Trading Standards have had notable success in prosecuting rogue traders, including builders, letting agents and a seller of fake DVDs. Suffolk Fire Service is to bring its control room back within the county, following a shared room in Huntingdon, which has run into problems. The full report will be on the village website.
2. Cllr Mallinder: his report will be available on the village website.
3. Traffic meeting with Chris Bally. Klaus Fortmann reported a positive meeting with the new Chief Executive at East Suffolk, who appears to be taking a more collegial approach with local parishes.
4. ESPA reports that 40 town and parish councils (including Eyke) are affiliated and that a constructive meeting was held with Chris Bally. ESPA is now also aligned with The National Planning Alliance (CPA) Their press release will be available on the village website.

### **Other Matters:**

1. The village fete will be this coming Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> July.
2. Cutting the village green. It was agreed that in view of the untidy and sad looking state of the street between the shop and the pub, it would be best to keep the grass on the green cut, rather than allowing it to grow.
3. The clerk has decided to retire on September 30<sup>th</sup> and tendered her resignation to the chairman. It was agreed that a simple advertisement for the vacancy in the Newsletter, and through SALC would be the best approach.
4. The September meeting will be postponed from 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September, as the clerk will be away at the earlier time.

**Dates:** SALC online AGM: 7pm on 19<sup>th</sup> July. Councillors were asked to contact the clerk if they wish to attend.

### **Finance:**

1. Cheques: Clerks' quarterly salary: £582.60; HMRC, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter: £145.60.
2. Account balances: (as at June 2<sup>nd</sup>) Community Account: £12178.23; Business Savings 1: £8614.76; Business Savings 2: £118.90. The July statement has not yet arrived, which should show deductions of £672.81, plus the BT direct debit for the end of June.
3. Annual Audit: Notification of exempt status has been received.

In the absence of any other business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.