

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 11th March 2019 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Cushing, Stangoe, Whitmore, the clerk and five members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. Reid, SCC, Cllr. Herring SCDC.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Adjournment for Parish Forum: None requested.

Parish Council Elections: 2nd May 2019: The clerk reminded those standing to return nomination forms to her by 25th March, ready for delivery to the council offices by 26th.

Minutes: Those of 14.1.19, and the planning meeting of 25.2.19, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. The solicitor has now sent through the draft application to the Charity Commission, a draft constitution and information on village halls run by parish councils as sole trustees. Councillors were satisfied with the application and draft constitution, apart from the charity contact details, which will be those of the clerk, who will rectify this with the solicitor.

Cllr. Cushing put forward the idea that, although it could be some time ahead when the Parish Council finally assumes responsibility for the village hall, now is the time to galvanise interest and support for its running and refurbishment. He suggested a competition within the village to produce suggestions and ideas for how the hall could be improved, and in the first instance proposed that a committee be formed to get this off the ground. Cllr. Abu-Hejleh seconded this proposal, and the motion was carried. There was support from the floor, and the clerk will contact other names mentioned, with a view to holding an initial meeting towards the end of April.

2. Elephant & Castle. The clerk had tried to contact Miss Bailey, but had received no response, so the current situation is not known. Cllr Herring has today suggested by e mail that the Parish Council should consider a formal letter to the planning department, asking for an update, which will help him to push behind the scenes. The meeting agreed that this should be done.

3. Meeting with SCC Highways. Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh and Cushing attended a meeting at Endeavour House on 21st January with Ben Chester and Steven Cordery, Senior Development Management Engineers at SCC Highways. The aim of the meeting was to explore the idea of reclassifying the A1152 as a B road, thus reducing the acceptable daily volume of traffic using the road, and so having a bearing on future planning decisions, particularly at Bentwaters. The document TA79/99 Traffic Capacity for Urban Roads has four categories, none of which applies to The Street, which is in places narrower, at 5.4m, than the width of 6.1m allowed in the lowest category.

It was established by Mr Chester that in fact this document is intended for urban roads, and is therefore totally inappropriate for use with rural roads. This begs the question as to how capacity can be agreed for village use.

Following this meeting, Mr Chester responded that reclassifying the road would be a costly exercise, and would not be supported by the County Council. Neither would reclassification have any bearing on limiting traffic, and could in fact have a detrimental effect on the maintenance and gritting status.

Cllr Cushing suggested that a response be sent to Ben Chester at SCC Highways, asking that in the light of the inappropriate use of TA79/99 to determine traffic capacity in The Street, what is the acceptable vehicle capacity in the village, and another letter to Chief Planning Officer at SCDC, pointing out this situation, and its implications for planning decisions.

4. Final Draft, Local Plan. The document had been circulated, and the clerk had responded following feedback from councillors. The Parish Council accepted in its response of September 2018 the need for more housing within the village, but not as many as the 45 units quoted. The final draft now increases that number

to 65 which is totally unacceptable in a village with fewer than 300 on the electoral roll. Potentially, this could increase the size of the village by more than one third. The Parish Council stands by its recommendation that far fewer than 45 units are acceptable.

Reports:

1. Reports from Cllrs Reid and Herring, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.
2. Tree Warden's Report: Mrs Clements reported that the deer fencing is now in place and looks very good. New trees have been planted, with help from Cllrs. Cushing and Stangoe. Once the trees come into leaf, any damage caused by deer can be assessed and dealt with.
Thanks are due to The Tree Council, Cllr. Reid, Cllr. Herring and the Parish Council for their financial contributions.
A healthy tree was chopped down on a green area in Eyke by Suffolk Norse, while they were carrying out tree trimming works. Following various complaints from individuals, Suffolk Norse have finally accepted that the tree was healthy, not diseased as they claimed and will plant a replacement in the late autumn. Nicholas Newton, Landscape Resource Manager for East Suffolk is not willing to put Tree Preservation Orders on two oaks in Church Lane, as he does not feel they are under threat. However, he will take action if any development scheme is proposed for Church Lane.
Ann Westover contacted Mrs Clements about two trees taken down in a meadow in Ufford, which she thought was farmed by Cllr. Fleming, who did not recognise the location on the map, but would look into it.
3. SNT Meeting: 21.2.19. This was attended by Cllr Whitmore. There were no matters of particular interest to Eyke. Recently, though, there had been some speeding, and evidence of drug use on the rec. The riding of motor bikes in the forest on a regular basis was mentioned from the floor.

Other Matters:

1. Increasing the quota of parish councillors. Cllr. Cushing had raised this matter, feeling that a greater number of councillors would give more flexibility for meetings, and would be desirable in the light of more housing to be built in the village in the future. The clerk had established that the mechanism for this is through a Community Governance Review, carried out by the District Council, or through a public petition of 37.5% of electors. Any new arrangements would not come into force until 2023. East Suffolk Council will be looking at electoral arrangements between 2019 and 2023 to see if CGRs should be carried out. This was left in abeyance for the present.
2. A letter of complaint about mud in Church Lane has been left in the church for Mr Fisher, assuming he is a parish councillor and which he has passed on. There is no address, and the signature is not decipherable, so until the writer comes forward, which Mr Fisher has asked him to do via the newsletter, it will be treated as anonymous.
3. Meetings to be attended:
45 years of Service Celebration Event SCDC. Cllr.Fleming is to attend this at Snape Maltings on Friday, 15th March.
Joint Parish Council Meeting for the parishes in the new Deben Ward: 25.4.19. This is to be attended by Cllrs. Cushing, Stangoe and the clerk.
4. Advertising the location of the new bottle bank. It was agreed that a notice should go in the next Newsletter.

Finance:

1. Cheques were agreed:
Thurlow Nunn (Cllr Whitmore): padlock for new barrier: £13.24;
N&A Engineering: new car park barrier: £360.00;
Country Care Anglia: deer fencing: £3450.00;

A Comber: website services: £32.30;
Aquabridge Law: Charity Commission application fee: £40.00;
Mrs J Pooley: Salary, 3rd Quarter: £432.36;
HMRC: 3rd quarter: £108.00;
S.C.C. Electricity energy and maintenance: £479.63;
Aquabridge Law: CIO fees: £1440.00.

2. Money in: £500 from The Tree Council for the deer fencing. Regarding the deer fencing, notification has been received from SCC that £600 has been paid to the Parish Council from Cllr. Reid's Locality Budget. The clerk has also completed and returned the paperwork so that a grant will be made from Cllr.Herring's Enabling Communities Budget.

3. Account balances on 1.3.19; Business current account: £16539.04; Business Savings: £8556.38; Business Premium Account; £118.29

To Receive items for information:

1. Suffolk Norse will carry out a spring clean around Eyke on Tuesday, 19th March.
2. A meeting to discuss 2 planning application was arranged for Monday, 18th March at 6.30pm.

Date of Parish Council Annual Meeting: 13.5.19; Annual Parish Meeting: 15.4.19

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.