

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 12th July 2021 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Cushing, Whitmore, District Cllr Mallinder, the clerk and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs. Clark, Stangoe and Thomas and Cllr. Reid, SCC.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Report from Cllr. Mallinder.

(As Cllr. Mallinder was due at another meeting a little later, he was invited to speak first.)

East Suffolk is beginning to open up, and the likelihood is that some meetings will be hybrid – a mixture of in person and remote attendance.

He drew attention to the grants which continue to be available in the wake of the pandemic, and assured the Parish Council of his continued support for the village hall refurbishment. He maintains close contact with Cllr. Clark over the grant applications, which can be very time consuming. The village hall committee might consider applying for a biodiversity grant, which would pay for, say, the provision of bird boxes outside the hall, or other environment-friendly projects.

Putting cooked food waste in the green waste bins is to be banned: such food costs a great deal more to render harmless, and could potentially mean an increase in costs to the householder. East Suffolk is looking at alternatives, which could include the provision of small green waste bins for cooked foodstuffs, which would be collected weekly. Recycling generally is a complex and expensive procedure, and the mechanism and rules vary hugely across the country.

Minutes: Those of 17th May, 2021 having been previously circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Adjournment for Parish Forum: None requested.

Matters Arising:

1. *Village Hall update.* Cllr. Clark had provided a written update. There have been two successful grant applications from Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership Small Grant Scheme: £2500 for the disabled/family toilet and £2400 for new entrance doors.

Regarding the current works in hand, the drainage issue at the front has been rectified following a visit from Anglian Water. The new kitchen has been delivered and the electrics and plumbing are being attended to along with plastering before the units can be fitted. The next phase is the toilet refurbishment, and then the front entrance doors and lobby.

Mr Smith, present at this meeting, who is overseeing and carrying out much of the work was invited to provide a further update. He explained that the drainage work is still in progress, and includes dealing with foul water from both the kitchen and the toilets. The porch will be reinstated in due course.

2. *Recreation Ground.* The chestnut fencing still needs to be repaired, and Cllr. Cushing felt that an outside quotation should be obtained for the work, as it should not fall on Cllr. Fleming to do this. It was agreed that the clerk would seek a quotation from Miles Better Fencing, and Cllr Cushing will find out who put the fence around the play area. As the ground there is very poor, it was not felt that a living fence would be appropriate.

The car park and rec barriers are back in situ and secured with plastic ties. The barrier at the car park needs to be opened to allow the recycling lorry to enter; in the past Suffolk Norse have held a key for this purpose. There is a problem with alignment following the accident when an unknown motorist hit the hedge and the upright some years ago. Cllr. Fleming will do what he can to fix the problem.

The new sign regarding the use of motorised bikes on the rec is now in situ: thank are due to Cllr. Cushing for this.

There is an issue with motorised bikes using the trails in the forest, and also encroaching onto nearby fields. Cllr. Fleming will look at his fencing, and Cllr. Mallinder said that he could definitely look at planning enforcement action on privately owned land, if the area is accurately pinpointed. Other than this, it is an issue for Forest Enterprise.

3. *Letter to East Suffolk regarding traffic issues.* The final draft had been sent to Mr Baker, and copied to Mr Ridley, following council approval. Cllr. Mallinder said a review of planning services is being undertaken. He is aware that the planning service at East Suffolk has serious shortfalls, and apologised for that. He stressed, however, that the Highways Department at SCC are consultees with the service, and provide the evidence on which the planning department relies in making its decisions. He urged the Parish Council to discuss the matter with them.

Cllr. Cushing stated that the Parish Council has had dealings with the Highways Department over many years, and in some cases the calibre of the staff has been very poor, and concerns largely ignored.

The clerk said that she had a conversation with Cllr. Reid earlier in the day, and he had offered his support in respect of traffic matters, and would be happy to facilitate discussions.

Cllr. Mallinder left the meeting at 7.40pm.

4. *Potential housing development next to Eyke School.* The clerk had been in contact with the landowner, who again assured the Parish Council that there is nothing concrete to report, and that a lot of investigative work is still going on. He will definitely inform the Parish Council when matters move on, and there will be ample time to make any concerns known.

Cllr. Abu-Hejleh has been approached on several occasions by parishioners anxious about the development. The clerk stated that any application will have to go through due process, and should allow time for Parish Council consultation with the village, perhaps advertised through household flyers.

There was general concern about the potential traffic increase which would be caused by 65 new houses.

It was agreed that a development of this size, in a village which now has no shop and no pub, should merit some significant compensation by the developer, in the form of extra amenities for the benefit of the village and this will be discussed at the next meeting when councillors agreed to bring ideas to the table. In the meantime, the clerk will contact the landowner to inform him of this.

Report:

Cllr. Reid's report, having been previously circulated, was taken as read.

Other matters:

1. Dates: SALC online area forum: 30.9.2021 at 7pm, and SALC AGM: 29.07.2021 at 7pm. Both meetings will be held remotely. Councillors were asked to contact the clerk if they wish to attend.
2. Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2nd to 5th June, 2022 and the Festival of Suffolk. It was agreed to pass the details of the Jubilee festivities to the Millennium Group, to see if they wish to be involved in organising an event. The Festival of Suffolk in 2022 is designed to showcase the county and help communities recover from the effects of the pandemic. Further details will be published in due course.

Planning application: DC/21/3142/FUL.

A two storey side extension at 3, Ufford Road, Eyke IP12 2QE. Councillors supported this application.

Finance:

1. Cheques agreed: Mrs J Pooley: salary, first quarter: £582.56; HMRC, first quarter: £145.64
2. Account balances at 2.7.21: Community Account: £16,164.22; Rate Reward: £8,601.31, Business Premium Account: £118.63.
3. Mr Fisher, churchwarden, has written to express his thanks on behalf of the PCC for the £1000 donation.

To receive items for information: None.

Date of next Meeting: 6th September 2021 at 7pm. (Moved as the clerk is unavailable on 13th)

The meeting closed at 8.05pm