

A meeting of Eyke Parish Council took place on Monday, 13th March 2023 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas and Whitmore, District Councillor Mallinder (*until 7.20pm*) County Councillor Andrew Reid (*7.25 to 7.40pm*) 8 members of the public and the clerk.

There were no apologies for absence.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes: Those of 9th January 2023 and the planning meeting of 13th February 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

District Councillor's Report: Cllr. Mallinder's report had been previously circulated, and he drew particular attention to the focus on the environment, which has resulted in a 60% carbon reduction in the last four years.

A trial scheme is under way in three locations to recycle small electrical appliances, with a view to having a mobile facility in the future.

The *Pardon the Weeds* scheme is returning for the third year, and the *Love East Suffolk* scheme is supporting the Great British Spring Clean, with litter picking equipment being available from East Suffolk Council.

In addition, Cllr Mallinder offered support with planning matters and is keeping a close eye on the progress of the Denbury Homes applications, along with issues concerning traffic.

He was very disappointed that there was no support offered by the District Council over the closure of Hollesley doctor's surgery, which is seen purely as a business decision for the surgery involved. He took numerous questions from the floor, concerning river pollution, the role of Anglian Water, removal of roadkill from the roads and verges and the accumulation of litter on the verges of main roads, such as the A12 and A14.

The clerk will liaise with the member of the public who is keen to arrange a litter pick along the roadsides and verges in the village.

The general agreement was that everyone can do their bit, no matter how small.

County Councillor's Report: Cllr. Reid highlighted the work of the Suffolk Information Partnership which supports people's health and wellbeing. In the £687.6M budget approved in February, there is more money for adult and children's services.

Through prudent management, and over £15M of savings, there will be no reduction in services.

The budget will increase by nearly 10%, with the additional money largely generated by a 3.9% rise in the council's share of Council Tax.

Suffolk Trading Standards, which has an Imports Team at Felixstowe, has stopped the sale of dangerous and illegal vapes at various locations in the county. This is a significant and growing problem, and increasingly involves underage children. They also brought a successful prosecution against the sole director of a company on fifteen counts of unfair commercial practice.

Milestone Infrastructure has been awarded Suffolk's new highways service contract for up to 20 years, commencing on 1st October, and worth up to £1 billion.

Cllr. Reid took questions from the floor concerning vaping by pupils on their way to Farlingaye School, which he will look into, and also bear in mind that it could happen at primary schools, too. He confirmed that as yet he has not seen any activity at County Council level regarding the Denbury Homes applications.

He will look into the problem of mud on the road at Bawdsey, at the entrance to a development currently being built. The questioner was concerned that the same does not happen in Eyke, on a much busier main road.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. Cllr Clark reported that Phase 2 is now nearing its end, hopefully by the end of March.

The patio doors have been installed, and the new toilets will soon be complete. Work has continued on the Lottery bid which, if successful, will provide enough money to complete the rest of the work, including the roof and the landscaped area with a barbecue at the rear. A bid for a grant from the Levelling Up Fund is also being prepared.

2. Resubmission of letter regarding traffic issues to Mr Bally, the new CE at East Suffolk Council. Cllr. Cushing gave the background to this, and the rejection of concerns by Mr Baker, the previous Chief Executive, who refused to allow an investigation into why certain information did not seem to have been made available to the planning inspector. Cllr. Cushing proposed that the letter be sent, seconded by Cllr. Abu-Hejleh and unanimously agreed.

Regarding the initiative of other parishes in the area to reach out to Mr Bally. It was agreed that at present Eyke Parish Council would focus on its own concerns, rather than risk a general watering down of proposals, if other parishes are involved.

3. Broadband Issues. Cllr. Reid has passed the query regarding the questions raised at the last meeting to Peter Ingram, who runs the broadband work at SCC.

4. There has been no further information regarding the progress of the Denbury Homes applications. The clerk has contacted the case officer, to ask that as soon as there is any update, the Parish Council will be informed.

5. New lanterns in Church Lane. The clerk has received confirmation that this request has been actioned, but due to the backlog of work, it could be 3 or 4 months before work starts.

Other Matters:

1. Recycling batteries at Eyke School. The meeting was adjourned to allow a pupil at Eyke School the opportunity to read the very compelling and informative letter he had written to the parish council to ask that they use the recycling facility in place at the school. He was given a round of applause and it was unanimously agreed that this was a very good idea, and the parish council would advertise it on the Facebook page and in the Newsletter. The bin "Mr Duracell" will be easily accessible at the front of the school.

2. Parish Noticeboard. The clerk had looked at the cost of replacement and erection, which would be considerable, and wondered if it would be more cost effective to refurbish the inside of the bus shelter, which is bigger and much more accessible. Cllr Cushing would have a look at this.

3. Placing a mirror at the top of Creasey's Hill to assist traffic exiting Church Lane. All agreed that this is a potentially dangerous junction. It was agreed to ask Cllr. Reid about this, as councillors were not sure of the process.

4. Coronation Celebrations. The Village Hall Committee and the church will put on a barbecue type lunch on Sunday, 7th May, from 12 noon until about 4pm. The details will be advertised in the forthcoming newsletter, and on social media.

5. The tree warden Mrs Clements, has nothing to report at this quiet time of year, but Mr Cushing reported that the group of offenders from Hollesley Bay, due to come and help clear weeds from the copse on the rec was cancelled and there has been no word since. Cllr. Clark said that the same had happened with a group due to come and help at the village hall.

Forthcoming District and Parish Elections: These will be held on May 4th, and voters were reminded of the need to provide photo ID on the day. Details of what is acceptable is on notices in the bus shelter, and online at East Suffolk. All seven parish council seats are available, and the clerk has nomination forms, which need to be returned to her by 27th March. The forms are also available online.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed; Clerk's quarterly salary: £582.60; HMRC, 4th quarter: £145.60; Comber Enterprises, website services Aug to Jan: £87.30; Community Heartbeat, 2 new electrode pads for the defibrillator: £148.80.
2. SALC Payroll Services. Until now, the clerk has dealt with HMRC regarding her salary. However, she asked that this is now handed over to SALC, who will do this on behalf of parish councils for £7.50 per month (without auto enrolment) per person. This might make it easier in the future to fill the clerk's role, and would also allow the village hall to use the facility for any employee it might have. This was agreed.
3. Account balances at 3.3.23: Community Account: £8954.43; BPA(2) £8722.83.

To Receive Items for Information:

1. A letter has been received from East Suffolk regarding the re-registration of the pub as an Asset of Community Value. The clerk has contacted those who were initially involved in this process, and those who considered putting forward a bid at a later stage. No interest has been expressed so far.
2. The poor state of footways in Eyke was raised, with banks overgrowing the footway in places and poor surfaces. The clerk will follow this up.

Date of Parish Council Annual Meeting: 15th May at 7.00pm in the village hall.

Date of Annual Parish Meeting: 22nd May at 7.00pm in the village hall.