

Eyke Parish Council - Council Meeting

Eyke Village Hall

15th January 2024

➤ **Present**

Cllrs Cushing, Clark, Smith, Thomas, Weavers, Abu-Hejleh & 10 Members of the Community

➤ **Apologies**

Cllrs Reid & Mallinder

➤ **Declarations of Interest**

None

➤ **Adjournment to Parish Forum**

1) Mr Gary Hatten raised examples of safety signs and barriers being left by the roadside for long periods after contractors have completed roadworks. Advised to report matters to Suffolk County Council Highways.

Action- A/Clerk to raise with Councilor Reid by Email

2) Mention also made of Village Gates- Signs requiring some cleaning maintenance.

Action- Cllrs Smith & Abu-Hejleh to Examine-Rectify if/when safe to do so given traffic frequencies

➤ **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Agreed and Signed by Chairman

➤ **Matters Arising**

1) **Recreation Ground:** Cllr Cushing outlined the case for cutting 4 times a year and likely cost being in the region of £1200 per ann. An existing line in the current budget exists for hedge and grass cutting which could be added to by aggregating all works for hedges, trees and grass maintenance in the village in one contract for 2024/25 agreed.

Action- Cllr Cushing and Cllr Smith to examine existing arrangements and look to rationalise for the coming year.

2) **Recreation Ground Car Park Surface:** Cllr Cushing also pointed to the need to repair the existing surface which after some discussion it was agreed to address in the coming financial year.

Action- Cllr Smith to assess what will be required for remediation, likely cost and optimum weather requirements for application.

3) **EVH Lottery Bid** – No Update

4) **Memorial Benches-** installation completed and invoice now due for payment

5) **Denbury Homes** – no update on planning process, still consulting on revisions. There is still time to make representations.

Action – A/Clerk Email to Danielle Miller to re emphasise points made in the Clerks previous letter of 28th November 2023 and site meeting on December 6th 2023

6) **East Suffolk Planning Alliance-** forthcoming meeting 17.2.24

Action- Cllrs Cushing & Abu-Hejleh to attend and report

7) **Deben Peninsula Joint Parishes Group** – It was agreed that Eyke would offer to host a future meeting when the opportunity arises.

➤ **Reports-**

- 1) **Mrs Clements-Tree Warden** presented a report to be posted on the website.
- 2) **Cllr Cushing** presented a report on the recent JPIT meeting where once again serious concerns were raised about the apparent lack of infrastructure planning taking place in conjunction with the exponential increase in new housing in the county and specifically this region. Report to be posted on website.

Action- Cllrs Smith & Cushing to attend East Suffolk Planning Conference on 17th January to represent these and other views on current planning.

➤ **Other Matters**

➤ **Finance-**

- 1) **Bank Balances £8336.24 Current Account. £8655.85 Savings Account**
- 2) **2024/25 Precept** -The chairman tabled a paper which summarised the emerging pattern of local tax increases being planned by various authorities for 2024/25. After lengthy debate about the use of reserves and economies to current spending it was agreed by a majority that the Eyke Parish should request an increase of 2.99% on the precept for 2024/25 which anticipates the utilisation of reserves in the coming year to balance the budget.

Actions

A/Clerk to submit precept request to East Suffolk Council

A/Clerk & Cllr Smith to review existing spending and report to next meeting on a 2024/25 detailed budget

3) **Cheques £1544.62p Benches & £35.70p Recreation Ground Litter Bin Emptying**
Actions

Cllr Thomas on Payments

A/Clerk on Frequency of bin emptying going forward

➤ **Items of Information- None**

Meeting Closed


Date of Next Meeting 7pm 11th March 2024

Signed as a true record Cllr John Fleming

Date

Minute Note No 1/2024

A private discussion took place between councilors after the meeting concerning the redistribution of tasks to members given the retirement of the former clerk.

A paper  'Managing the Councils Business' was tabled by the acting clerk setting out a proposal for members to assume a lead position to monitor and attend meetings in key areas.

This received considerable support from members in conjunction with the proposal to appoint Gemma Barley as an admin assistant following a recent interview and continue to seek to appoint a 'Responsible Finance Officer' with a suitable background.

It was agreed that these changes represent an opportunity to update working practices and increasingly adopt new technologies such as electronic document transfer and electronic banking.

To this end the A/Clerk will continue the process working alongside members and update further as matters progress between now and the next meeting.

Meanwhile Cllr Clarke was authorised to appoint Gemma Barley on behalf of the council on up to 4 hours per week @£14.50p per hour under advice from SALC on a suitable contract, allowances for technology and consumables.

Actions Councilor Clark & A/Clerk