

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 17th September 2018 at 7.00pm in Eyke village hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllr. Abu-Hejleh, Cllr. Cushing, Cllr. Whitmore, County Councillor Andrew Reid (until 7.10pm) District Councilor Raymond Herring (from 7.15 to 7.40pm) and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllrs. Howlett-Thomson, Stango and Thomas.

Cllr. Howlett-Thomson has tendered her resignation, as she will be moving out of the village within the next 6 to 8 weeks. The clerk will inform Suffolk Coastal District Council.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Due to pressure of time, and the need to attend other meetings in the area, both Cllrs. Reid and Herring gave their reports first.

Cllr. Reid. The County Council is over budget this year by several million, largely due to the demands of both children's and adult services, which makes up 75% of the budget. There are some reserves which can be used, but in the longer term a bigger solution will need to be found.

As the council has received a copy of his report, he did not go through it closely, but mentioned the improved results of both GCSE and A level students.

Cllr. Reid also mentioned the planned electricity substations to be built by Scottish Power Renewables near Friston, which could then be followed by others, making 6 in all. There are clear concerns about this, and the projection that in 15 years' time this area could be providing 25% of the nation's power.

Cllr. Cushing asked about the building of Sizewell C. Cllr Reid said that Phase 3 Consultation will go ahead in 2019, and EDF are already in talks with the County Council, including the strategy for bringing in materials, which it appears will be a road led one.

Cllr. Herring. The District Council is busy on many fronts. The Draft Local Plan puts the Council under pressure, but the new homes bonus helps. Villages need to be protected with limited development.

The Sizewell C Stage 3 Consultation is gearing up, while currently cabling is being laid underground for wind farms.

Business is doing well in the region, and there is little unemployment.

The "Re-warding" boundary changes are coming into effect, which will make the Lowestoft/Felixstowe area the largest district council in the country. Two offices will be maintained in Lowestoft and Woodbridge, and by making the most of the latest IT technology, much work can be done using video links, although many decisions still need to be made by members being in the same room. The council is in a good financial position, and the new council will have a sound start when it takes over after next year's elections, having had a 5 week shadowing period. There will in total be 55 district councillors, and Eyke will be in the Deben Peninsula ward.

The Deben Pool Leisure Centre is now up and running, and the gym usage is exceeding expectations. There is to be a refurbishment of Leiston Leisure Centre, and new facilities at Felixstowe, where the council lost a planning appeal against the building of 700 houses off the Dock Spur Road.

There has been a take up of 56% for the garden waste scheme, and there will be a phased roll out for the delivery of the larger bins mostly by the end of the autumn.

There was no Adjournment for a parish forum.

Minutes: Those of 9.07.2018, 28.08.2018 and 6.09.18, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. Simon Letts from Aquabridge has now sent a list of questions for the parish council's attention. On receipt of this he can prepare the application for a CIO. It was agreed to keep Mr Fisher involved in this. Initially the parish council needs more information on the role of trustees. It was felt that if parish councillors could automatically become trustees when elected to the council, that this would simplify matters. The other questions, regarding the objects of the organisation, information about the property and funding can be dealt with more easily.

2. Traffic flow through the village. In response to the email from Ben Chester, the Senior Development Management Engineer from SCC regarding traffic management, Cllr. Cushing's draft response was read, which clearly explained that help is needed in understanding Urban Road Capacity Determination, and that an opportunity to discuss this face to face would be greatly appreciated. It was agreed that the clerk would reply to him to this effect.
3. Recreation Ground. The gate has yet to be repaired, so the clerk will mention this to Mr Hassan again, along with the annual request for cutting the hedge at the car park. Cllr. Fleming has yet to deal with the ragwort on the football pitch, and suggested that next year the whole area should be cordoned off and sprayed.
4. At an on-site meeting with Mark Lye from Suffolk Norse, attended by the clerk and Cllr. Whitmore, he suggested that the glass recycling bins should be placed at the far side of the car park, as the ones currently used are likely to be phased out in favour of those which are lifted directly on to the collection truck. This would involve refurbishment of the height barrier to allow easy access. N & A Engineering have provided a quotation of £300 plus vat for this, which the parish council felt was reasonable, and should be accepted.

Other Matters:

1. Cllr Whitmore attended the SNT meeting on 6th September, and reported that drug packaging is still being left on the rec. He will keep an eye on this. At the next meeting on November 1st he will update on this, and also on fires made there. There has also been some camping out on Saturday evenings.
2. Mobile police station: the next visit will be on 26th September from 2pm to 3.30.
3. The Chief Constable has publicised his review of current policing structures, aimed at financial stability, and addressing the needs of the community, which will include an increase in the civilian workforce, the introduction of link officers, and restructured safer neighbourhood policing.

Finance:

1. Account balances: Current account: £14,824.87; Savings account: £8,539.62
2. The clerk was confirmed as the Responsible Financial Officer.
3. Insurance and asset review: insurance cover was agreed to be adequate and the asset register accurate. A question has been raised regarding insurance cover for non councillors who could be considered to be working on behalf of the council, specifically as tree warden, and for cutting the village green grass. It was agreed to confirm to the insurers that they do work on behalf of the parish council. It is therefore possible that an additional premium may be due.
4. Cheques agreed: A.Comber, website services February to July: £18.70; The Poppy Appeal, for 17" wreath: £17.00; Business Services at CAS, for annual insurance with a five year undertaking: £454.15; Mrs J Pooley, salary June to September: £432.36; HMRC, second quarter: £108.00.
5. The Annual Return has not yet been received back from the auditor. In response to a request for clarification about the amount of reserves set aside for work on the village hall, the clerk had said £6000 and £4000 for street light replacement.

To receive Items for information:

1. Notification of a retrospective planning application has been received. Ref: DC/18/2893/FUL
Proposal: To convert an empty building into a collection of studios for rent, a recording studio and a venue for arts based performances, exhibitions etc. Also overnight accommodation for visiting artists, musicians and performers. There will be a functioning kitchen used for the provision of hot and cold food for sale to the public at events, for consumption on and off the premises.
Address: The Flight Simulator Building, Building 638, Bentwaters Park.
Agent: Mr Jesse Quin, Old Jet Ltd, 12 Cumberland Street, Woodbridge. IP12 4AB
Councillors did not feel the need for a separate meeting for this, but felt the question regarding traffic generation figures for this should be raised again, and a response demanded.
2. Cllr Cushing has telephoned SCC Highways regarding the potholes in The Street. Some have now been repaired, but he will continue to pursue the matter.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Next meeting: Monday, 12th November 2018. 7.00pm Eyke Village Hall.