

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 18th November 2019 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, chairman, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Stangoe, Thomas, Cllr. Andrew Reid SCC, Cllr James Mallinder, ESC, two members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllrs. Clark and Cushing.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes: Those of the meeting of 9th September 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Casual vacancy: The vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr. Whitmore in mid September for family reasons, is available to be filled by co-option, following due process. Since Mr Whitmore's wife sadly passed away in October, councillors wondered if he would wish to resume his role, although this was thought unlikely. However, it was agreed to defer the co-option of Mr Neil Smith, to the January meeting to allow a little more time.

The possibility of marking Mr Whitmore's retirement from the Parish Council and other organisations in the village with which he has been involved had already been discussed, but deferred, and it was agreed that this could now go ahead, well after Christmas, perhaps in mid March, taking the form of afternoon tea. The clerk will contact other interested parties, and councillors will meanwhile consider the details.

Parish Forum: No issues raised.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall. Charitable Incorporated Status with the Parish Council as trustee has now been achieved, and currently an application at Land Registry has been submitted for first registration of the hall. Following an on site meeting with Cllr Fleming and Mr Whitmore, the clerk confirmed to the conveyancer that the piece marked in pink on the 1924 conveyance by the Marquis of Bristol shows the extent of the claimed ownership.

The Council confirmed to Mr Smith that he can go ahead with the plans for refurbishment. He reported that he had made temporary repairs where necessary, and is working on the budget for the work to be done, in conjunction with Mr Watson.

2. Bus service update. First Bus has responded by letter to the Parish Council's complaint about the cuts to the service through Eyke, citing lack of usage which makes some services economically unsustainable. Cllr Reid supported this view from the point of the County Council subsidy, which far exceeded the fares taken. The good news is that the 71 service from Orford has been reinstated. The clerk reported that the matter was discussed extensively at the Deben Ward joint parishes meeting in October and is still under review. Regarding the use of double decker buses, these are not significantly more costly to run than single deckers.

3. Traffic counters at Bentwaters. In response to the parish council's query, the clerk has received data covering the two years from June 2017 to May 2019, which shows that on 6 occasions vehicle movement exceeded the daily limit. There were 15 occasions when the data was incomplete.

4. Recreation Ground. The barrier is yet to be mended. Mr Whitmore has returned the keys, and the record book. It was agreed that the setting up of the weekly checks would be discussed at the January meeting, when a full complement of councillors is expected.

5. Elephant & Castle. An informal meeting, at the request of the owners, took place on November 4th with three councillors and the clerk present. The owners wanted to know what facilities the Parish Council thought the village would like to see. Those present felt that this was really up to the owners, as they would know what would be financially viable for them. The owners want the pub to be a village hub for various groups, and decided that the best way forward was to invite responses from the village through a questionnaire. There is now a limited questionnaire on Facebook.

News is still awaited on the application regarding the internal wall in the outbuilding.

Reports:

1. Cllr. Andrew Reid. The monthly newsletter was taken as read. Cllr Reid is now Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs and will be spearheading a cross county exercise with particular regard to HGVs.

Piecemeal development across the county is of concern, and he hopes to work with East Suffolk Council to negotiate with developers at the start to mitigate the traffic issues.

He is also part of the Suffolk Roadsafe Board, and is particularly interested in awareness of road safety for young people before they learn to drive.

Cllr Reid left the meeting at 7.35pm

2. Cllr. Mallinder. His report had been previously circulated, and he drew attention to the Community Partnership Workshops, where the current priorities to be worked on are transport, loss of amenities and youth facilities. He is very committed to the local area and the environment, and is involved with the Local Access Forum and the AONB.

He encouraged people to attend the Warmer Homes Event, on 9th December at Hollesley.

He also asked the clerk to give him the details of significant flooding to the roads in the village.

3. Local Plan Hearing. Cllr Abu-Hejleh reported that she had attended this on September 17th and was able to put the reasons for objecting to the proposed development, although she was not exactly sure that this was what was expected. However, the Inspector allowed her to have her say, which was the important thing.

4. Woodbridge and District ASB. Mr Whitmore usually attended these daytime meetings, and it was agreed that the clerk would request that agendas and minutes are still sent and the council would hope to find a replacement to attend in the near future.

5. Deben Ward Joint Parishes Meeting. The clerk reported that she and Cllr Cushing had attended this, and it is positive to be able to meet with other parishes and have a joint voice. Major issues had been the cuts to the bus service, and localised flooding.

Other Matters:

1. Suffolk County Council ward boundaries. The Local Government Boundary Commission has advertised a deadline of 2nd January 2020 for responses which councillors can make online.

2. Workshop regarding Assets of Community Value. This will be attended on 29th January by Cllrs. Clark and Cushing.

3. The closure of Eyke Stores on Christmas Eve was noted with great sadness. Cllr. Mallinder mentioned the possibility of community shopping, whereby orders are taken, and then ordered en masse for an online delivery, say to the village hall where people could collect. There could be funding available for a community facility but not for a commercial enterprise.

4. There will be a planning forum on 24th January 2020, with two places available to each parish. Cllr Clark will attend. The clerk will book two places.

Finance:

1. Business Services at CAS has confirmed that there is cover up to £50,000 under the all risks section of the insurance policy.

2. Cheques to be agreed: Aquabridge Ltd: £252.00 (balance of fees); Mr M Fisher: £200 (Settlement of Land Registry fee, paid by Mr Fisher in the clerk's absence); MJH Garden Services: £645.00 (Grass and hedge

cutting); Mr S Lucas: £25.00 (mower fuel); Mrs J Pooley (settlement of online payment made by her to OneSuffolk for the annual web hosting fee).

3 Account Balances; Current account; £17643.90; Business Savings Account: £8579.38; Business Premium Account: £118.47. A VAT repayment of £1103.62 has been received.

4. Thanks were given to Cllr. Mallinder for the £400 grant from his Communities Enabling Budget for the VE Day Celebrations next May.

5. As Mr Whitmore was a cheque signatory on the bank account, it was agreed that Cllr Thomas would take on this responsibility, and Mr Whitmore be removed from the mandate.

To receive items for information:

The car park barrier has been damaged, possibly by the car which hit the hedge a few weeks ago. Cllr Fleming will approach David Ling from Leiston with a view to repairing both that barrier and the one on the recreation ground.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, 13th January 2020. 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.