

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 21st November 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore, Cllr. Andrew Reid (*until 7.30pm*) and 14 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Clark, Cllr. Mallinder.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

As Cllr Reid had to leave for another meeting, he was invited to speak first before any further matters were discussed.

He pointed out the £7.8m redevelopment of Foxhall Recycling Centre, which is about to begin, and also the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership, which is rolling out ANPR devices to target speeding. These devices are mobile, and can be applied for. Eyke Parish Council will do this. In response to a question from the floor, offenders cannot be prosecuted, but letters, followed by a police visit should be a good deterrent. Additionally, it will inform the police where the speeding hotspots are. SCC wants to hear from residents, businesses and communities as it decides its budget for the next year in January and February.

Denbury Homes Development. *This item was moved up the agenda to allow for comment from Cllr. Reid.* He explained that nothing has yet been received by the Highways Dept. from the company, but Cllr. Reid has been keeping an eye on this, and will keep all lines of communication open. He advised keeping in close contact with Cllr. Mallinder and Building Control at East Suffolk. He expressed concern about the level of traffic, particularly between Wilford Bridge and Melton lights, which is at capacity.

The clerk then reported a response of thirty to the questionnaire regarding the projected development. The main areas of concern raised multiple times were to do with traffic through Eyke and across the wider area, notably through Melton, both during construction and afterwards, affordable housing, the housing mix, and how this will fit in to an established community, climate concerns and protection of habitat, water, sewage, electricity and internet connectivity and the bus service. It was also felt that Denbury Homes should contribute to the village: people felt that a community shop, cafe, play area, restoration of the pub as a community building and a contribution to the work on the hall, and help for the school were all worth consideration.

There was great concern that the existing infrastructure would not support such a population increase with all that entails. The school welcomes the additional housing, with the hope that extra pupils will boost its numbers and secure its future.

The discussion was opened to the floor, and in addition to the above matters, which were discussed at length it was agreed that when the Parish Council meets with Denbury Homes in the near future to discuss these issues, they should add that there should be no access to Church Lane, either during or after development, given that it is a Quiet Lane, and the entrance onto The Street is potentially dangerous.

Cllr Reid left the meeting during these discussions.

Cllr. Fleming reconvened the meeting. There was no further adjournment for a parish forum.

Minutes: Those of 12th September 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. Village Hall update. In Cllr. Clark's absence, Mr Smith was invited to say a few words. Work is continuing, the heating is now working, lights are functioning, and work continues to install the new toilet facilities.
2. Traffic matters. The Parish Council agreed unanimously that the revised letter to Stephen Baker, at East Suffolk and its supporting documents should now be sent. Copies will also go to councillors representing all parties at East Suffolk and County Councillor Andrew Reid. Campsea Ashe Parish Council have also decided to send a request for an investigation regarding this to East Suffolk Council, and has asked for support from surrounding parishes. Eyke Parish Council agreed that it is probably best to focus on your own parish. It was acknowledged that the current local plan cannot now be affected, but the parish council, and hopefully East Suffolk, can learn lessons for the future.

3. Height barrier on the rec. The uprights have now been straightened by Ker-Way, and Cllr. Cushing will contact Kim Tester with a view to doing the necessary rewelding on the latch. It was agreed that the height barrier at the car park will be removed, to avoid any potential accident.
4. Woodbridge/Melton Community Partnership. It was agreed that the parish council will formally agree to be a partner in this.

Reports:

1. Cllr. Reid, SCC: already presented.
2. Cllr. Mallinder, East Suffolk. Having been previously circulated, this was taken as read, and will be posted on the website, along with Cllr. Reid's
3. "Ease the Squeeze" Briefing. Cllr. Thomas attended this meeting and reported that 12 projects are offered to help people combat inflation, with more than £300,000 committed by East Suffolk. Help and further information is available through the East Suffolk website and hopefully also through public sector partners.

Other matters:

Pruning of trees on village green. Mr Allsopp has asked if attention could be paid to this with reference to the 2 conifers at the front and the other two trees there. The clerk will contact Mr Allsopp to clarify exactly what he has in mind.

Planning:

Ref: DC/22/4019/ARM. Approval of reserved matters of planning permission: DC/20/3890/OUT – Outline Application (with some matters reserved) – Residential development for up to 75 dwellings with associated open space, including community orchards and allotments, along with play space and integrated public rights of way. Land at Redwald Road, Rendlesham, Suffolk IP12 2TZ

Councillors agreed that as permission has already been granted, and this is for the approval of reserved matters, they have no comment to make.

Finance:

1. Cheques to be agreed: Mr S Allsopp: fuel for mower: £25.00; Ker-Way: repairs to barrier on rec: £576.00; MJH Garden and Tree Services: car park cuts and hedge cutting: £610.00.
2. It was agreed that the security of the Parish Council website should be upgraded, which will cost £36.00, subject to confirmation. The clerk will contact Mr Comber about this.
3. Account balances: at 2.11.22. Community Account: £11,335.87; Business Savings(Rate Reward): £8602.47; Business Premium Account: £118.68.
4. Cllr Stangoe has carried out the half yearly reconciliation report and found all in order.
5. SCC has warned the parish council that the electricity bill for the year is likely to at least double, given the current economic situation, but a final figure will not be known until nearer the end of the financial year.
6. The clerk will prepare the next year's budget with this in mind, so that the precept can be set at the January meeting. She suggested that thought is given to the possible upgrade of the five street lights in Church Lane, to more energy efficient LED lanterns. The four columns 32-35 would cost £2086.76 plus vat, and Unit 36 on a wooden pole could need additional work at extra cost because of its proximity to an overhead live conductor, and may not be possible to use. The clerk will make further enquiries in advance of the January meeting.
7. The Millennium Group has asked that the Parish Council takes on the cost of any replacement of parts for the defibrillator. Since its installation several years, it has cost about £90 to replace the pads, and £170 plus vat to replace the battery. This was agreed.
8. Barclays Bank has sent a request for the parish council account details to be updated. Cllrs. Fleming and Whitmore signed the declaration, and the clerk will inform them, and Cllr Abu-Hejleh, who is also a signatory on the account, if more details are needed.

To receive items for information:

1. Cllr Thomas reminded everyone that the New Year's Eve Party is set to go ahead in the hall, and tickets are available from Sue Clark and Linda Macfarlane.
2. The clerk reported that filming had taken place on the school playground over half term, rumoured to involve Ed Sheeran. The village car park was used for parking film vehicles, and the Council should receive a monetary thank you.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.