

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 22nd September 2014 at 7.00pm in Eyke Village Hall.

Present: Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Cushing, Mr Evans, Mrs Stangoe, Mr Whitmore, the clerk and Mrs Clements.

Apologies: Mr Fleming, Cllr. Andrew Reid.

In Mr Fleming's absence, Mrs Abu-Hejleh took the chair.

Councillor Resignation: Mr Mutten has resigned, citing frustration with making his point over the kerb build out. He also mentioned his wish to see more facilities for young people in the village, and his hope that the new councillors will bring fresh ideas to the table in this regard. He was disappointed that the BMX trails made by his son and other lads some years ago on the side of the rec were destroyed, and felt there should be a way around this. Similarly, he hoped that a way could be found to swap the rec for land closer to the centre of the village to create a play area and meeting place.

The clerk will reply with a letter of thanks for his service to the community, and will also point out the reasons for the the BMX trails being removed, an action approved by the Parish Council and carried out by Mr Whitmore.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Local Plan Meeting at SCDC: *(This was dealt with at this point, at Mr Fleming's prior request. If present, he would have had to declare an interest, and was not certain when he would arrive at the meeting, if at all.)*

The meeting had been attended on 19th September by Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Cushing, Mr Evans, and Mr Whitmore. The meeting, with Hilary Hanslip, Principal Planner, was to encourage early thoughts on how Eyke should evolve over the next 15 years, as the remaining "saved" policies from the old Local Plan are updated, and new site specific policies are identified. One potential site, on the left side of Church Lane, has been identified as a possibility. It was stressed that this was merely an exploratory meeting, and nothing may happen as a result. The councillors attending felt that it is very important for the Parish Council to make their comments in advance, so that these can be factored in to any future discussions. From the Suffolk Coastal viewpoint, there could be an issue with Anglian Water providing satisfactory sewage disposal for houses on this site, which could contain 20 to 30 properties. In principal, councillors felt that this site could be used, but in order to avoid a totally "built up" feel, the site boundary should not extend beyond the northern boundary of "Homefield", on the right hand side. Due consideration should be given to the fact that this is an AONB. The houses should be two or three bedroom properties, which local people could buy, not the large, five or so bedroom executive type.

Minutes: Those of 14.7.14, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record. It was noted that Mr Mutten had queried the minutes, in respect of whether Mr Fleming's ownership of the property to the rear of the proposed kerb build out had been mentioned. He also felt that Mr Fleming should have declared an interest. Councillors felt this was not relevant to the discussion.

Matters Arising:

1. Tree Planting. Mrs Clements reported that 105 saplings – a mixed, wild pack, selected for their toughness - are due to arrive in November. She has given a presentation at the school, and the children will start planting and looking after their own acorns soon. In consultation with Mr Fleming, the far corner of the rec, on the left as you face it from the chestnut fence, has been selected, and Mrs Clement will liaise with Mr Fleming again prior to planting. He will also supply farm manure when they are planted, but apart from this, and keeping the area around each tree weed free, they will need no watering or other care. It is expected that up to half of them will not survive, but it is hoped to fill in the gaps with trees the schoolchildren have grown. Mrs Clements will obtain further advice from the Tree Council when she attends a meeting in the near future.
2. Bentwaters Planning Application. This was expected to go to committee at the earliest in September. Latest information obtained by Mrs Abu-Hejleh suggests it could now be early – or late – October. Mr Woolnough at SCDC has also acknowledged that Eyke Parish Council should be consulted on larger applications.
3. Traffic Calming. The work started today as planned, and Mr Chenery has suggested an opening ceremony, attended by the various agencies involved, our County Councillor, and local people, with

the EADT in attendance. Councillors were happy with this, and suggested the 25th October, with light refreshments after in the pub.

4. New sign for Eyke Rec. This is in the process of being made, and will cost in the region of £33 plus vat.
5. Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan. With reference to traffic issues, these will be dealt with in the usual way through the District Council at the planning stage. Any planning application is unlikely to be validated without sufficient consideration of traffic matters. Councillors were still concerned that there is a figure of nearly 500 houses suggested within the plan. The clerk is to question how this figure was reached.

Reports:

Councillor Reid's written report was circulated, which covered talented head teachers coming to Suffolk, Norfolk's waste being brought to Suffolk and used to generate electricity, the Suffolk children's centre consultation, which is now past the halfway stage, and similarly the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme which is now halfway there.

Other matters:

1. PC Warne has advised that hedges which obscure speed limit signs mean that the police cannot lawfully carry out speed enforcement, and so parish councils should check their signs are visible. It is hoped that as part of the new traffic calming works, signs in Eyke will be cut back if required.

He also advised that the inmates of HMP Warren Hill, Hollesley are keen to contribute more to the community, and have the facilities on site and skills to offer a range of services. Any items which are portable can be taken there and work carried out free, such as restoring a village sign, or church pews. They can offer welding, electrical work and carpentry amongst other things. The contact is the prison governor, Bev Bevan.

2. SALC Consultation on Gypsy and Traveller encampments. This consultation has now been put on hold, following disputes over some of the potential sites.
3. East Suffolk Travellers' Association. Mrs Abu-Hejleh took the latest bulletin.

Finance:

1. The annual audit has now been completed, and there were no matters which came to the auditor's attention. The Parish Council approved and accepted the annual return.
2. Account balances. At 30.6.14 the Base Reward Account stood at £8134.89, and the current account at £7446.04. Cheques totalling £540.36 were drawn since that time, leaving a balance of £6905.68.
3. The clerk was confirmed as the Responsible Financial Officer.
4. The clerk went through the list of assets for insurance purposes. These were found to be adequate.
5. Cheques were agreed as follows: Alan Comber for website services: £20.00; Community Action Suffolk for annual insurance: £253.13; Poppy Appeal: £17.00; HMRC: £108.00; Mrs Pooley, salary 2nd Quarter: £432.36.

Any Other Business:

1. Mrs Pooley will ask Mr Hassan to cut the hedge in the car park at half term.
2. Mrs Roche is unhappy that the bus regularly stops in front of her house, and people often wait inconveniently close to her garage door. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the bus company to see if it is possible to make a more permanent stop to the left of the shop.
3. SCDC is looking at sanctioning the removal of the payphone facility from Eyke, and wishes to know the Parish Council's feeling on this, and whether, if it is removed, the council would wish to adopt the kiosk, taking ownership of it for £1.00. There was much discussion on this. The majority of the Council were happy for the phone to be removed. Mrs Abu-Hejleh was against this. The majority were in favour of adopting the kiosk. Mr Whitmore was against this.
4. Mr Whitmore reported a considerable amount of fly tipping on the rec, which he has dealt with, including some new socket set parts, which the police will collect. He has also spread soil which was dumped to the area where the oak tree was blown over last year. There has been a lot of rabbit activity, too, and some small fires.

In the absence of further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

