

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 27th September 2021 at 7.00pm in the church. (The village hall was unavailable because of ongoing updating works.)

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore. County Cllr. Andrew Reid (until 7.20pm) District Cllr. James Mallinder, five members of the public and the clerk.

Cllr. Fleming was welcomed back following his recent operation, and councillors were pleased to see Cllr. Cushing, who continues to recover from his recent bout of ill health.

There were no declarations of interest, and no request for an adjournment for a parish forum.

Minutes: Those of 12th July 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Report: Cllr. Reid.

The report previously circulated, was for August, and among the items to note are the commitment to support Afghan and other refugees. In recent days a bridging hotel has been made available in Stowmarket for refugees leaving quarantine.

Climate change is a focus in the run up to COP26 in November, and Suffolk County Council is working hard to address the issues. There will be events across the county to guide individuals and businesses towards becoming carbon neutral.

A new Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk, Jon Lacey, has been appointed and will take up the position in early November. Cllr. Reid has already engaged in talks with with him.

Talks continue with government on devolved powers for Suffolk, as part of the “Levelling Up” vision.

Since August, a critical report has been published on how Suffolk deals with children and families with special educational needs and disabilities. Suffolk acknowledges its own shortcomings, and accepts the exacting requirements of the report. Cllr. Clark asked about the time frame for implementation. This should be by the end of the year.

Traffic counters are again in situ in various places in the area to better understand the movement of HGVs to and from Bentwaters.

Cllr. Cushing again highlighted the increasingly congested traffic at all times of day, especially at the Melton crossroads, and questioned the information which goes into the computer modelling which then suggests there is no problem, and on which the planners rely.

Cllr. Reid, along with fellow county councillor Alexander Nicoll, continue to investigate these problems in relation to Bentwaters, and he is happy to press the case at the county council. He asked that the parish council write to him to outline their concerns.

Cllr Reid then left the meeting.

Matters Arising from the minutes:

1. *Village Hall.*

Cllr. Clark reported that there is over £51,000 in the bank account, and it is expected that there will be a further £14,000 grant from DEFRA. The pop up fete raised £1000, still to be added, so the account is in a healthy state to pay for current works, but a further £60,000 will be needed as the works progress.

Mr Smith was invited to give a works update.

Work has continued to complete the drainage works, and to bring the electrics up to date. The kitchen units are assembled, and will be installed once the preparatory work is completed inside. Gutters and down pipes will be replaced to make the hall watertight for the winter, although the painting of the outside will have to wait.

Volunteers worked last weekend, shifting rubble and backfilling the drainage trenches, and working inside, scraping paint and filling holes, but more help is still needed.

Cllr. Clark said there had been enquiries regarding booking, and it is tentatively hoped that some could start in November, and that there can be a New Year's Eve party there. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous effort and time given by Mr Smith.

Cllr. Fleming gave a vote of thanks to him on behalf of the parish council.

2. Recreation Ground.

A quotation for supplying and erecting 158 m of heavy duty green chainlink fencing has been received from Miles Better Fencing, for £5218, which was generally seen to be reasonable. The clerk has not received a quotation from MJH, yet, although he did meet Cllr Cushing on site to discuss. She will check her junk mail to see if it has gone there, and contact MJH to send or resend. Both quotations will then be sent on to councillors for a decision. It was agreed not to try and build this in to a package with fencing at the village hall, as currently most companies have more work than they can cope with.

Cllr. Fleming will chase up on the work needed on the barriers, and will also arrange to top the brambles and ragwort in November, which will not solve the ragwort problem, which was seen as fairly unsolvable anyway, but will keep it under control for the time being.

3. Housing development next to Eyke School.

Mr Robinson has explained that matters are moving extremely slowly at the moment: the proposed developer is still undertaking due diligence, and following this will have to fix a proposed design, after which there will be a consultation with East Suffolk and Eyke Parish Council. He does not anticipate that this will be until much later in the year, or even early next year.

There was much discussion on "compensation" to the village for the upheaval, intrusion and change to the village which will be caused by the building of around sixty houses, and whether the landowner should be approached for some financial recompense, particularly in view of the upgrading works to the hall.

The CIL payment, levied on the developer, should yield a fairly significant sum, and it was felt that a separate approach to the landowner is not usually successful in these cases. It was agreed not to pursue this. The most important thing is to keep all channels open and for all involved to remain on harmonious terms.

Cllr. Mallinder felt that the parish council has an extremely strong case for accessing its share of the CIL fund, in regard to the village hall.

Reports:

Cllr. Mallinder. (His report had been previously circulated.)

In addition he acknowledged that there are issues with highways at East Suffolk and he works to help improve this.

There is a focus on achieving carbon neutrality: East Suffolk vehicles are moving from diesel to palm free hydrotreated vegetable oil, which will significantly reduce the carbon footprint.

There are massive changes ahead in waste collection, as council areas try to develop common practices to avoid confusion. There could be a weekly collection of food waste, possibly with a small bin to fit inside the large one, and possibly a three week cycle for landfill collection. Updates will follow.

Cllr. Mallinder has attended the Martlesham Climate Summit, and the Aldeburgh Food Festival.

On the peninsula, there has been an issue with the profusion of parking signs at Ramsholt, which is being dealt with by planning enforcement.

Cllr. Mallinder is taking part in the 10k Southwold run, to raise funds for Eyke Village Hall. Details of an online donation page will follow.

He encouraged the Council to attend the Deben Group meeting on 25th November.

Tree Warden.

Mrs Clements briefly reported by e mail that Neil Lister of Suffolk Coasts and Heaths has been instrumental in providing four volunteers who will help with a grand clear up and some planting of saplings in the copse in November.

Other Matters:

1. *SALC area forum:* 30.9.21 at 7pm via Zoom.

2. *Steve Gallant, leader of East Suffolk Council.*

Together with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, East Suffolk has entered a joint bid for UK City of Culture 2025, the first time groups of towns can join together in this way, as a catalyst for levelling up areas outside London and other major cities.

More details will be shared in due course.

3. *Festival of Suffolk.*

Cllr. Fleming expressed his interest in attending a Zoom meeting, chaired by Lady Euston, some time ago, in order to to hear more, share ideas and learn how communities can get involved. The clerk will resend him the details.

Planning Application: DC/21/4151/FUL

Erection of single storey annexe at Tye Cottage, The Street, Eyke IP12 2QU.

Councillors supported this application.

Finance:

1. The clerk was confirmed as the Responsible Financial Officer.

2. It was agreed that the current insurances meet the ongoing requirements. Cllr. Clark Said that the village hall was in a position to contribute to the insurance costs if required. It was agreed to leave this for the time being.

3. *Cheques agreed:*

- Clerk's quarterly salary: £582.60
- HMRC second quarter: £145.60
- Mr A Comber website services: £87.55
- Business Services at CAS: Annual Insurance: £781.32
- Royal British Legion for poppy wreath: £17.00 (clerk to collect, Cllr Whitmore to lay)
- CAS website hosting: £60.00

4. *Annual Audit:* the notification of Exempt Status has been received.

5. Monies banked since 3.6.21: £377.92 (Vat repayment); 22p interest.

6. *Balances at bank:*

- Current account: £15,813.94
- Rate Reward: £8601.46
- BPA: £118.63

7. *Internal half yearly check of accounts:*

Cllr. Stangoe will do this when the clerk has prepared the half yearly statements.

To receive items for information:

1. *The Deben Group Meeting*

25th November at Hollesley. If Cllr. Cushing is well enough, he will attend with the clerk.

2. *Beacons for the Queen's platinum jubilee.*

This idea was rejected in favour of accepting the young tree donated by East Suffolk and having some sort of independent celebration.

3. *Forestry England:*

Comments are being invited on the Rendlesham and Tunstall Forest Plan. The clerk has circulated details, and as the timescale for reply is short, councillors are asked to make individual responses if they wish.

4. *Elephant and Castle:*

Following contact by a villager, an assistant enforcement officer visited the pub to check on whether there was residential use of the pub area, which he did by looking through the windows.

This was felt to be inadequate, and following a second contact from another individual, returned, with the same result, but agreed to monitor the situation in future. There was general concern that the building was sold as a pub, and remains closed after all this time, although there are examples of such buildings coming back from the brink and reopening.

5. *Hedge cutting:*

The clerk will contact MJH Garden and Tree Services with a view to cutting the hedge at the car park, as usual at this time of year.

Date of next meeting: Monday, 8th November 2021. 7.00pm in the village hall

The meeting closed at 8.25pm