

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 28th February 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Clark, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore, the clerk and seven members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Abu-Hejleh, Cllr. Mallinder, ESC, and Cllr. Reid SCC.

Declarations of Interest: None

No adjournment for a Parish Forum was requested.

Minutes: Those of 10th January 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

1. *Village Hall.* Councillors had received a copy of the notes from the last Village Hall Committee Meeting on 22nd February for information.

Mr Smith was invited to give an update from the floor. Work continues to refurbish the front of the building, with replacing the porch, new doors and windows, new kerbing and tidying up. The next stage will be upgrading the toilets, then removing the stage, tackling the roof and putting new doors at the back of the hall. Cllr. Clark then introduced the need for an agreed procurement process. It is essential that all expenditure is transparent and approved.

The suggested procurement process put forward by the Committee for Parish Council agreement was unanimously approved. Under the agreed Village Hall Constitution, the committee has delegated powers from the Parish Council, but, it was also agreed that any potential large expenses would be referred to the Parish Council as Trustee for ratification.

The clerk has contacted SALC for financial advice. SALC has clearly stated that the CIO is entirely separate and its business must be dealt with totally separately. In terms of VAT reclaim, SALC has referred this to its VAT advisor. It is still not clear if the CIO could be VAT registered, or if there is any way to reclaim these costs.

2. *Traffic Issues.*

a) Repair of noisy drain cover, Eyke Street. The matter has been the subject of several reports since last July, but has been rejected by SCC because it is not seen as dangerous. The clerk reported that it was suggested that the village could pay for the repair, or it could be funded from the Local Highways Budget, which is within Cllr. Reid's control. Cllr. Reid is looking into this, and expects to get back to the parish council this week. There is now, it seems, a crack in the cover, which the clerk will report.

b) Potholes and road debris. The bottom of White Woman's Lane and near Sink Farm have been inspected, with the advice from SCC that it is normally the responsibility of East Suffolk to clear mud, silt etc, unless the build up is heavy and compacted, in which case SCC would attend and scrape the road. The potholes near Sink Farm are under a watching brief from SCC. Cllr. Mallinder has stated that it is up to SCC to contact landowners, who are responsible for much of the build up of debris on the local highways. He has asked Norse to make an inspection.

c) Cllr. Cushing reported that the latest response from Luke Barber at SCC regarding further clarification over traffic concerns such as road width, volume, lack of pavements, and planning policy is still unsatisfactory, particularly in relation to the traffic modelling. The Joint Village Transport Group meets later this week, and Cllr. Cushing asked for Parish Council support if he suggests that the members of the group club together to pay for an independent traffic modelling consultant to analyse the report, at a cost of between £1500 and £3000. If all parties agreed, this could mean an outlay per parish of up to £300. Councillors queried what this would ultimately achieve, but it was agreed this could provide a focus for future action. It was agreed that Cllr. Cushing should put this to the next JVTG and report back at the next meeting.

3. *Recreation Ground.* A new height sign is needed on the barrier at the Church Lane end. This will need to be measured first to establish the exact height all the way across. It was agreed that the clerk will order a new 'No Dogs' sign for the playground.

4. *Sale of the Elephant & Castle.* Cllr. Thomas reported that the feedback from villagers who had supported the registration of the pub as an Asset of Community Value, suggested that the only way forward would be if

an interested party came forward to purchase, and then perhaps wanted to involve the community with a share option.

5. *Queen's Platinum Jubilee*. The Millennium Group will be happy to arrange an Afternoon Tea during the weekend. Cllr. Clark suggested a barbecue on the Saturday, and will look into this.

Tree Warden's Report. Following on from the above, Mrs Clements reported that she has collected the Jubilee Oak from Suffolk Norse. It is a good size, and appears healthy. She now also has the plaque to go with it.

It was agreed that it needs to be planted out soon, and the location decided on is the open area to the left on entering the cul de sac at the Rendlesham end of The Street. It was agreed that whoever is able should meet (with spades) on site on Saturday, 5th March at 2pm to do this. The location is prominent in the village, it offers enough room for the oak to grow over the years, and is in a convenient spot for it to be tended.

On another matter, currently, licences are being processed for each individual from Hollesley Bay and once they are authorised, arrangements can be made for them to come and work.

Other Reports: Those of Cllrs. Mallinder and Reid, having been previously circulated were taken as read.

Festival of Suffolk. The Lord Lieutenant's Torch Relay will take place between 13th May and 1st June travelling over 550 miles and passing through 250 towns and villages, including Eyke, which will be on 30th May. Nominations for torch bearers, who will travel by e rickshaw, are requested. It was unanimously agreed to nominate Cllr. Whitmore, who accepted the nomination.

Planning:

1. Planning Permission: DC/20/5278/FUL A phased development of 75 dwellings, car parking, public open space, hard and soft landscaping, and associated infrastructure and access. Land to the north and west of Garden Square and Gardenia Close, Rendlesham, Suffolk.

2. Planning Consultation: DC/22/0475/FUL Small infill link between barn and annexe, installation of rooflights to barn. The Barn, Low Road, Eyke IP12 2QF
Councillors supported this application.

Finance:

1. Cheques agreed:

A Comber, website services: £36.90;

HM Revenue & Customs, 4th quarter: £145.60;

Mrs Pooley, salary, 4th quarter: £582.60;

Mr J Fleming, purchase of padlocks: £69.17;

East Suffolk Travel Association, 4 year membership: £21.00.

2. Account balances: Community Account: £5221.22; Rate Reward: £8601.82; Business Savings Account: £118.63.

Items for Information: Cllr. Whitmore queried whether the rumour of the suspension of the green bin collection service was true. It was clarified that this is just a delay because of problems at recycling sites, and bins should be put out as normal, but may be collected a day later.

Date of next meeting: 9th May 2022 in the Village Hall.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00pm

Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45pm.

In the absence of other business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

(A copy of the agreed procurement process has been placed in both the Parish Council and the Village Hall files)