

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday, 20th April 2015, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Fleming, in the chair, Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Cushing, Mr Evans, Mr Whitmore, Cllr Andrew Reid, the clerk and six members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Jane Marson, Mrs Macfarlane, Mr Sutch, Mrs Watson, Mr Marr.

Minutes: Those of the Annual Parish Meeting of 12th May 2014 were read, agreed and signed as a correct record, with one amendment; the amount of money paid for books for Eyke Primary School leavers should have read £101.46, not £10.

Matters Arising: None directly.

Reports:

Councillor Andrew Reid SCC.

SCC share of council tax was frozen in February for a fifth year in a row while savings in excess of £130m have been made. Savings must continue with a further £120m budget shortfall forecast over the next three years. These will be delivered through wide ranging transformation programmes to make the council a leaner and more focused organisation, through reducing contingency budgets, and other budgetary savings. Over the last 5 years there has been a reduction of about 47% in workforce numbers across council services.

Educational attainment is slowly improving, and the county has moved up 12 places to 125th out of 151 local authorities in the past year. The Raising the Bar programme has helped narrow the gap between Suffolk and the national average to 1.7% this year, from 8.95% in 2012. There have been big improvements in early years and Key Stage 1 results, where Suffolk has now met or exceeded national figures.

75% of the population can now access Superfast Broadband, and the aim is to reach 95% of homes and businesses in Suffolk.

A £1.5m campaign was launched aiming to double the number of apprenticeships in Suffolk, to tackle skills shortage and create job opportunities.

The first UK Youth Employment Centre opened in Ipswich in December, to offer free training, career and employment support to 16 – 24 year olds.

The new deal between Norfolk and Suffolk, whereby Norfolk sends up to 40,000 tonnes of residual waste to Great Blakenham which is used to generate electricity at the new energy-from-waste plant began last September. Both counties stand to save around £1m each from the two year deal, through economies of scale for Suffolk, and landfill costs for Norfolk.

Shared bases for fire, police and ambulance services – Suffolk's Blue Light Partnership - have received a government grant of £4.94m to help increase their numbers. There are now five, with a sixth being planned in Woodbridge.

Suffolk County Council has pledged to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination.

Suffolk's Hate Crime Service and partnership organisations has launched Stay Safe badges to help support vulnerable adults.

Finally, Sizewell C and EDF have announced no immediate plans for the second stage of consultation. It remains for issues at Hinckley Point to be resolved first.

In the absence of questions, Mr Fleming thanked Cllr Reid for attending.
Cllr Reid left the meeting at 7.35pm.

Councillor Jane Marson SCDC.

Cllr Marson emailed her apologies for not attending, and passed on her good wishes to the Council and its next District Councillor. She enjoyed representing Eyke, and hopes she provided a good service. She asked to be kept in touch about the progress of the playground.

Woodbridge and District SNT.

No report.

Neighbourhood Watch Written Report: Mrs Macfarlane & Mrs Watson.

It has been a quiet year. There have been regular updates of local crimes from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, via Police Connect and any relevant information has been passed to the editor of the Village Newsletter when important issues have arisen, to ensure it is received by every household. It is recommended that villagers sign up to Police Connect to get information. For those without internet access, a printed application form is available from Karen or Linda to sign up for telephone/text information.

Eyke Charities. Written report from Mr Sutch.

Year ending 31.12.14. The charity continues to exist for the benefit of pupils at Eyke Primary School, Eyke widows and widowers, Eyke residents over the age of 80, and All Saints Church, Eyke.

Annual income: £265.92 Derived from investment dividends – funds managed by the CCLA (Churches, Charities & Local Authorities Association.)

Expenditure: £207.12: £120 to Eyke residents over the age of 80 and widows/widowers. £87 in books to Eyke School leavers.

Assets: £8165 (previous year: £7792.00)

The charity trustees last met on 18.3.15 to ratify the above, and will next meet in November to consider the 2015 grants.

Eyke VECP School.

Mrs Scurrell reported that there are 125 children on roll, 6 teaching staff, two of whom are part time and six support staff. The 4 midday supervisors and 2 cooks who jobshare, all live locally. Numbers have fallen as expected, and this is likely to continue. The school is being promoted as a school of choice to help address this.

Positive links are maintained with the Little Leaders Pre-school next door, and with the church which is used weekly for worship and for other special times. Thanks go to Mr Whitmore and Mr Fisher who ensure the church is open and warm, and to Rev Janice Leaver for her input, both for leading worship and for her role as Foundation Governor.

There are various people in the village who help in many ways in school, and this is much appreciated.

Topics covered this year have included Mexico and the Aztecs, Toys, Woodland and Forests, Minibeasts, Dunwich and the coast. A SIAMS Inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) this year rated the school as 'good'.

With the ending of reporting of Levels of Attainment and Progress, there are now "End of Year Expectations" with no national tracking system. Eyke uses an online tracking tool called Target Tracker which is used by several other schools in this cluster. This ensures consistency of expectation and helps with moderating teacher assessment.

There will still be SATs tests in May for Years 2 and 6, but what will be in place for the coming year is unknown.

There are continuing improvements being made to the school buildings, and the pool is currently being retiled and the possibility of school family and community use over the summer is being explored.

The school has joined in with a project to plant daffodils and trees on the rec, and is now consulting with the parish council to provide a play area there.

The school is grateful for the gifts to the year 6 leavers from Eyke Charities, and Mrs Scurrell is addressing the lack of thanks from the pupils.

Finally, visitors to the school are most welcome to pop in and have a guided tour.

Friends Of Eyke School.

Mrs Fayers, the chairperson described the fundraising activities undertaken by FOES, including a 'Word in a word' challenge, which raised £483, a Christmas Fayre and a disco. Future events include a Fun Run and barbecue on June 5th at 4pm, which will raise funds for cancer research, and the Summer Fayre on 11th July, from 2 – 4pm.

Events being considered for the future are a car wash, and a boot sale.

FOES still fund £3 for each child on school trips, to reduce the cost to parents, an Easter egg each, and thank you cards, Christmas cards and calendars, which are used continuously through the year.

Future funding will include a sand pit, and outdoor teaching area.

Eyke and Rendlesham Village Hall.

Mr Fisher reported that the hall has seen regular use by the Parish Council, the Over 50s for meetings, jumble sales and their annual Christmas Party, and by the PCC for events in the year.

It has also been used for various private parties, salsa dancing and yoga classes.

Repairs to the guttering in the year cost £428.17. The accounts will be available for inspection in the near future; it looks as if there will be a surplus of about £600, but there is likely to be a major expense in the near future to the parking area at the front which has suffered damage caused by subsidence.

Thanks go to those who use the hall, and keep it in reasonable condition, and to Mervyn Whitmore for keeping the outside tidy and weed free.

With the input of the parish clerk and members of other organisations in the life of the village, the annual report has been made to the Suffolk Local History Society.

Recreation Ground.

Mr Whitmore reported that rabbits and moles continue to wreak havoc on the rec, and instead of continually filling in the holes, he is letting them have their fun, so walkers there are advised to watch their footing.

Fly tipping is still a problem, but the weekly checks keep it under control.

Thanks are due to Mr Fleming for cutting the main area, and thus helping to keep the ragwort under control.

The holes on the main track were filled with crushed concrete in March.

Although there are doggy bins conveniently situated, some dog walkers continue to ignore them.

Millennium Group. Written report from Mrs Watson.

Eyke Millennium Group is still active, even though 2014 was a quiet year: down on members but not in spirit and planning two possible events for 2015. The first is a cinema evening to be held at the village hall, which would include a film and food. Janna McKendrick has been in touch with Suffolk Cinema Network who load out all the equipment needed to support an event like this and a trial evening has been agreed, possibly in the autumn, with a showing, if possible, of a remastered *Akenfield*. Another event under discussion is an Afternoon Tea, possibly linking with a VE day theme.

Swanns Nursery kindly donated the Christmas Tree outside the Church, and the group is most grateful for their continued support.

Little Leaders Childcare.

No report.

Village Magazine - Inside Eyke. Written report – Mr Marr.

The magazine has had another satisfactory year, with three issues produced, which may now be the pattern, as Mr Marr has work commitments in South America over the winter months for the foreseeable future.

The content of the magazine is much the same – a mix of the serious and less so, with an emphasis on local history, local people and their stories and events such as the fete and parish council meetings. Suggestions and contributions are constantly looked for and very welcome, and input from the school would be particularly welcome. Within the obvious financial constraints, the aim is to use more colour pictures, which, along with high production values, thanks to Katy Bell, sets the magazine apart from others.

Village Tree Warden.

Mrs Clements reported that the ash trees in our parish still appear to be healthy, despite all the gloomy reports of Ash Die Back disease.

Last November children from Eyke school took part in planting 105 saplings on the recreation ground to form a new copse to be enjoyed by future generations. The saplings came free from The Tree Council as part of their 2014 campaign to 'Plant a Tree' and offered a unique opportunity to Eyke to help revitalise the recreation ground.. The children have taken a great interest in the project, and will be helping to maintain the copse by weeding, etc. The saplings are doing well, despite a little damage, most probably by deer; some were uprooted, and stakes knocked down. Mrs Clement and Mr Cushing replanted and restaked them.

Again, thanks go to Mr Fleming for his advice, and for the manure he delivered to the site.

The National Tree Council are continuing the 'Plant a Tree' campaign, but Mrs Clements sees little need to plant more, as this is a rural area with a wealth of mature trees. However, if anyone has any suggestions for sites within the parish which could benefit from more trees, she would be pleased to know.

Parish Council.

Mr Fleming welcomed the new members who have joined the parish council within the past year – Mr Evans and Mrs Stangoe.

He hoped that residents appreciated the new traffic calming measures, and felt that the flashing 30 sign at the

Bentwaters end of the village has a noticeable effect. He hopes that now the work can be completed, with the southern gate and flashing 30 sign installed very soon. He thanked all those people who help to keep the village a safe and pleasant place in which to live, particularly Mervyn Whitmore and Mike Fisher, and all those attending the meeting who gave a report. The collaboration between the school and the parish council to build a play area on the recreation ground is an exciting step forward, and thanks go to Mrs Scurrrell, Mrs Clements and Mr Cushing for their work on this. Funds have already been secured thanks to Cllr Jane Marson, from the Enabling Communities Budget, and the parish council hopes to obtain further help from the Outdoor Play Space and Sports Fund at SCDC. Cllr. Andrew Reid will also be approached for funds from the County Council.

Finance.

The Parish Council accounts were available for inspection.

In the absence of any other business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.