

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.00pm in Eyke Church.

**Present:** Cllr. Fleming, in the chair, Cllrs. Abu-Hejleh, Cushing, Stangoe, Thomas, Whitmore, the clerk and three members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Clark, Cllr. Mallinder, East Suffolk Council, Cllr. Reid, Suffolk County Council.

**Election of vice chairman:** Cllr. Thomas was proposed by Cllr. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. Whitmore. She accepted the nomination, which was carried unanimously.

**Minutes:** Those of the Annual Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and the planning meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Adjournment for Parish Forum:** No matters were raised.

### **Matters Arising:**

1. Village hall update. Mr Smith was invited to speak. The hall has now been stripped out and the woodworm treated. A new beam to support the bi-fold doors has been installed, and there is new insulation in the roof. The main hall is now rewired, the radiators are in position, although cannot be permanently fixed yet. Work continues on the toilets. Outside, the timbers are being treated and prepared, and it is hoped that the exterior plastering can be done in August, although sourcing skilled plasterers who are free then is a challenge. The new porch is in place.

Cllr. Thomas proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Smith and Mr Weavers particularly, who have worked so hard on this project. This was carried unanimously. Mr Smith accepted this, adding that they had received valuable help from several volunteers, for which they were very grateful. He invited those present to look round the hall after the meeting.

### 2. Recreation Ground.

a) Grass cutting. Cllr. Cushing explained that his contact with Gerry, from a company near Dobbie's on the A12 has come to nothing, as he did not make the promised contact with Cllr. Fleming or himself, regarding the use of equipment. Cllr. Fleming said that he would do the cut, to save further problems. It was agreed that he must be paid for this at a realistic level, and the sum of £250 was agreed. The clerk will also check with Hollesley Parish Council as to who does their cutting.

b) Height barrier. There have been recent issues with overnight parking, and also a reported fire, when the fire brigade needed access. Cllr. Whitmore experienced great difficulty with opening and closing the barrier. Cllr. Cushing endorsed this. It was agreed that the barrier needs a radical overhaul or replacement, and it was agreed that Cllr. Cushing will talk to Kim Tester at Metalfix. It was agreed that when this is done, along with a height sign, there would be a "No camping or overnight stay" sign affixed to the barrier.

3. Traffic issues. Cllr. Cushing reported that he has met with Cllr. Mallinder, who now understands the problem that there are conflicting written statements regarding traffic flow and future projections particularly at the Melton crossroads, and through to the peninsula. Cllr. Cushing feels that the driving motivation from East Suffolk Council is the desire to open up Bentwaters to further development. There was some discussion about whether this information should be aired more widely, but it was agreed that the matter should be given more consideration, as it is a very major issue. It would be important to have the backing of other affected parish councils.

The clerk cautioned against the use of what could be seen as inflammatory language, which had at the outset troubled Cllr. Mallinder, and reminded the Council that when they speak in public, they must be representative of the view of the Parish Council as a body.

4. End of moratorium period- Elephant & Castle. The moratorium period officially ended on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and the owners are now free to sell to the purchaser of their choice. There is now a protected period, when they can sell with no further moratorium period being triggered, until 30/5/23.

5. Lord Lieutenant's Torch Relay. It was agreed that this had been very successful, as the torch travelled through Eyke. Cllr. Whitmore, the torchbearer, did a great job, with lots of village support, and photographs of the occasion shared on social media.

6. State of pavements in Eyke Street. An inspection by the Community Liaison Engineer from Suffolk Highways on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 “noted no issues with drainage and whilst the footway is worn, there are no intervention level defects”. It was agreed to pursue this further with Cllr Reid, and to establish with the Community Liaison Engineer exactly what constitutes “intervention level” defects. It was also agreed to put the link to the reporting tool in the next village newsletter.

#### **Reports:**

In the absence of both Cllr Reid and Cllr. Mallinder, their reports, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read.

#### **Other matters:**

1 SALC online dates for the diary: AGM 20/7/22; area forum: 13/9/22 at 7.00pm. Councillors were asked to contact the clerk if they wished to book.

2. Draft Housing in Clusters and Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside Supplementary Planning Document: consultation. This runs until 5th August, and all the details can be found easily online for individual response.

3. East Suffolk Services Limited. This is the recently established company which will take over the delivery of crucial services such as waste and recycling collection, ground maintenance and street cleansing from Norse, when its contract comes to an end next year.

4. Village Fete: 17th July at 1.00pm A reminder that the fete will take place in The Old Rectory Gardens for the first time in three years.

#### **Planning Application:**

DC/22/2273/FUL Creation of wetland habitat within the EDF Sizewell Estate, which includes provision of 55 car parking spaces at Bentwaters Park to support the workforce.

Today, the clerk received what appeared to be an updated application, with exactly the same reference which has omitted the provision of parking spaces. It was suggested that this would need to be a separate application, but in any case the clerk would respond that Eyke Parish Council could not support this application on the grounds of increased traffic through the village.

#### **Finance:**

1. Cheques agreed: Mrs Pooley, salary second quarter: £582.60; HMRC second quarter: £145.60

2. Account balances, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022: Community Account: £13,886.6; Rate Reward: £8602.18; BPA: £118.64. Since the last meeting, 15p interest has been received, and DDR payments in respect of BT for the village hall wifi of £93.45 have been paid in the first quarter of the year.

3. A letter of thanks for the donation to the PCC has been received from Mr Fisher.

4. Notification of exempt status has been received from the auditor regarding the annual accounts.

The period allowed for public examination ends on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

#### **To Receive Items for Information:**

1. The clerk will report the road surface at the end of Church Lane, which is breaking up, and investigate the noisy drain cover near Hope Cottage.

2. Cllr. Fleming thanked Cllr. Cushing for spraying the weeds round the new fence on the rec.

3. The headteacher has confirmed that Eyke School has taken over the Old School House, as the nursery closed last year. It is now the Eyke Music House, redecorated and filled with music lessons. There will also be a breakfast and after school club from September.

Cllr. Fleming thanked those present for attending the meeting, which closed at 8.25pm.

## **Eyke Parish Council**

### **SCC Newsletter - June 2022**

#### **Court rules crooked company director must pay £50,000**

It was announced on June 1<sup>st</sup> that the director of a Suffolk mobility furniture company which left customers significantly out of pocket has today been ordered to repay proceeds of his crimes.

David Waters, 73, of Manwick Road, Felixstowe, was the sole director of Anchor Mobility, whose products were marketed as life-improving and largely aimed at elderly and disabled people. He was sentenced to 32 months in prison after Ipswich Crown Court found Anchor Mobility guilty of 15 counts of unfair commercial practice at a hearing in December 2019. These offences included fraudulent trading, poor customer service, and misleading consumers by taking large deposits with the promise of delivering goods without ever doing so. One customer paid over £8,000 for two beds, which were never delivered, and no refund was ever received.

Suffolk Trading Standards uncovered the fraud after several victims made complaints about the company, leading them to launch an investigation into Anchor Mobility. This revealed more than 20 victims between 2016 and 2017 alone, who lost over £80,000 of their hard-earned savings. While Anchor Mobility was fined £15,000 for its offences in 2019, additional compensation has been sought by Suffolk Trading Standards for all known victims, with this resulting in a further hearing at Ipswich Crown Court today. The court ruled that Waters must repay £50,000 in proceeds from his crimes, reflecting the assets available to him.

Waters is still banned from being a company director until 2029 and has also been made the subject of a criminal behaviour order, preventing him from selling products in a person's home or having any involvement in a mobility aid company.

#### **Council objects to Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals**

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Suffolk County Council confirmed its intention to object to the proposals for National Grid's East Anglia GREEN pylon run.

A new network is needed to deliver electricity between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury, to cope with the increasing amounts of renewable and low carbon electricity being generated around East Anglia.

This is National Grid's East Anglia GREEN proposal, which would see many pylons installed across the county, affecting the Suffolk countryside and its communities.

But the council does not support this proposal as it stands. It believes that there are better ways to manage the project, for example involving an undersea network which has not been fully investigated.

The council has been campaigning for government ministers and officials to introduce a more co-ordinated off-shore approach to meet the demands of all the energy projects in the region.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Environment, has written to the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth:

“The council absolutely supports ambitions for renewable energy and the government's commitment to meet the target of Net Zero by 2050. We recognise the benefits that can come from this project, and we continue to work with the government to develop coordinated off-shore transmission.

“However, the council objects to the proposal for National Grid's East Anglia GREEN as it stands. I am determined that Suffolk will not suffer unnecessarily as a consequence, we will continue to protect our communities, residents and natural environment.

“Suffolk County Council has been lobbying government for 11 years on the issue of better coordination for off-shore transmission. We are demanding that a more collaborative solution is found to manage the different network connection requirements coming into Suffolk and East Anglia, and that all network options are fully explored.

“Alongside other regional councillors and MPs, through our OffSET group (the Off-Shore Electricity Grid Task Force), we regularly speak with government ministers and officials to express our concerns about the impact of these projects on Suffolk, and East Anglia. Last week I wrote directly to the Minister, to continue to represent Suffolk's communities and residents, to re-emphasise the recent points made by OffSET.”

National Grid's public consultation on East Anglia GREEN was open until Thursday 16 June 2022 and was available on the [National Grid website](#).

## **New fantail installed on historic Suffolk windmill**

A historic Suffolk landmark has had a key feature restored in a refit by Suffolk County Council. Buttrum's Mill in Woodbridge has had a new fantail installed which mirrors the long-lost original. The six-bladed fantail automatically turns to ensure the sails always face into the wind, regardless of whether they are turning. This is important, as if the wind gets behind the sails, the mill is at risk of serious damage. Built in 1836, the windmill worked until 1929 and was preserved by the former East Suffolk County Council under a 100-year lease in 1950. Suffolk County Council is now responsible for the Grade II-listed mill's upkeep.

Standing at more than 60 feet it is the tallest surviving mill in Suffolk. It was built by John Whitmore, a millwright of Wickham Market, for the Trott family, and taken over in 1868 by the Buttrum family which ran it until its closure. The original fantail was lost in the 1940s as the mill fell into disrepair following its closure. In restorations in the 1950s a slightly smaller replacement fantail was made, but this did not matter as the sails and windmill cap no longer turned. In the early 1980s, further restoration work enabled the cap and sails to turn once again, retaining the smaller fantail. However, it was damaged beyond repair in gales in March 2021 and it was decided to build a new fantail of similar size and appearance to the original.

The new fantail is two feet bigger in diameter than the one it replaces, and the blades are painted dark green as they were in the 1930s. The work cost £14,300 and was carried out by Bill Griffiths of MillBill millwrights in Ipswich, who remembers the mill from living in Woodbridge as a child.

The mill is in the grounds of a house built for the miller's family and now owned and lived in by Nancy Waters, partner Henry Palmer, and their two children.

## **Communities awarded £6.4m to 'Reclaim the Rain' and tackle flooding**

Norfolk and Suffolk County Council's joint Reclaim the Rain project, which aims to implement innovative and sustainable water management projects, progressed on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Norfolk and Suffolk County Council's joint Reclaim the Rain project, which aims to implement innovative and sustainable water management projects progresses as six communities are selected across both counties.

The project team received 37 formal applications from communities keen to be involved in Reclaim the Rain. These applications were carefully considered and whittled down to three communities in Suffolk and three in Norfolk.

The three chosen communities in Suffolk are:

- Boxford – this community displayed a strong interest in sustainable water management and ways in which the community could be more involved with water management.
- Friston – who are exploring innovative ways of resolving long-standing hard-to-resolve flood issues.
- Little Blakenham – they identified some excellent opportunities to work with upstream landowners, allowing them to have a more proactive approach in managing flood water running off their land.

The selection process was based on various factors, including each community's vulnerability to surface water flooding, water resource needs, rurality and the likelihood of attracting funding outside of our project.

In the coming months, Reclaim the Rain will be working closely with these communities to develop projects which maximise the opportunities to manage risks from both flooding and droughts. The overall project objective is to identify new ways of working that can be learnt from and evidenced to inform and influence future policy, approaches to, and investments in how flood risk is managed nationally in the coming years.

Norfolk and Suffolk both face considerable surface water flood risk, while also being the driest region in the UK. The project will aim to store flood water and make it available for use by agriculture, industry, communities, and the environment.

The project will involve both partner organisations and the community in the development of suitable flood water reuse schemes. The schemes will address the

community's needs in terms of flood risk and water resource requirements, and could result in provision of:

- Habitat creation and restoration;
- Irrigation reservoir recharge
- Rainwater Capture and Reuse for community, agriculture or business use;
- Retrofitted SuDS;
- Smart Leaky Water Butts;
- Rain Gardens and more.

## **Extra funding agreed by Cabinet to fund new SEND places**

Funding for second phase of £45 million five-year project agreed by Cabinet.

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has today agreed an additional £15.9million to complete the funding for the creation of at least 879 specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

This money marks the second phase of a £45million five-year project to deliver specialist provision for SEND students in Suffolk. These places include units attached to mainstream schools and three new special schools.

So far, 500 new places have opened across the county, with another 325 due to open between September 2022 and September 2024 under phase 1. The additional money will enable the completion of phase 2 of the project, and the creation of between 54 to 72 new places, depending on design and planning.

The new SEND places support the growing number of children and young people in Suffolk who need specialist help at school. Between September 2021 and May 2022 there have been 1,333 referrals for specialist placements for children currently in mainstream schools.

## **Lowestoft convenience store owner prosecuted for selling illegal tobacco**

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, a Suffolk shop proprietor was prosecuted for selling illicit tobacco following Trading Standards' continued crackdown on this serious crime.

Mr Ahmed Shokoulty, 36, owner of Town Mini Market, a convenience store on Bevan Street East, Lowestoft, appeared at Ipswich Magistrates Court on the 24th June having been charged with breaching tobacco packaging regulations.

Suffolk Trading Standards received intelligence that Shokoulty was selling illicit tobacco at his store, and subsequently carried out a test purchase, during which illegal tobacco was sold to an undercover operative posing as a customer.

Following the sting, a raid was conducted by Suffolk Trading Standards in September 2021 as part of Operation CeCe, a National Trading Standards initiative in partnership with HMRC to tackle illegal tobacco.

This resulted in the seizure of approximately 2,000 cigarettes and more than 7kg of hand rolling tobacco. The tobacco seized did not comply with tobacco packaging regulations

and contained health warnings which were not written in English, as well as the packaging itself being of an incorrect colour.

In sentencing, Mr Shokoulty was issued a fine of £5000, £190 surcharge and £3302.50 in costs (£8492.50 total).

Those wishing to protect themselves from inadvertently buying illegal tobacco can look out for the following:

- A lack of health warnings on the packet
- Unknown brands
- Prices that look too good to be true
- Packaging that isn't plain olive green or contains text that is not in English.

**Andrew Reid**

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**July 2022**

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

### **East Suffolk beaches among the best**

Our beautiful beaches have once again received national awards, ranking them among the best in the country.

Four of East Suffolk's beaches have been awarded Blue Flags and Seaside Awards this year.

Both Felixstowe (Felixstowe South and Pier) and Southwold (Southwold Pier) have received combined Seaside Awards and Blue Flags, while the beaches at Lowestoft South of Claremont Pier (bathing/resort) and Kessingland (non-bathing) received Seaside Awards. Although we all know our beaches are wonderful and Shingle Street continues to have a special place in our hearts .

Eighty beaches met the high standard required for a Blue Flag across the country, while 128 beaches received Seaside Awards, and 57 beaches are proudly displaying both Blue Flag and Seaside Awards.

This is the third consecutive year in which Felixstowe has received the Blue Flag, while it comes as a welcome return to Southwold, which was last awarded a Blue Flag in 2018.

### **Another step towards environmental aims with dedicated officer role appointment**



This Council has stepped up its commitment to delivering on environmental ambitions by appointing a dedicated lead officer to help shape policy in the fight against climate change.

The new Environment and Climate Change Lead Officer will be responsible for advising the Council on environmental strategies, policies and initiatives, and their contribution to national, regional and local goals.

Acting as a champion for environmental issues, the Lead Officer will also raise awareness of the impact of emerging environmental issues and the difference the Council can make.



In January, ESC demonstrated its commitment to delivering against its environmental ambitions by approving the additional funding required for the new post.

The Council has now confirmed the appointment of Paul Mackie – bringing with him more than 15 years of experience in the environment sector to this important new role.

Paul spent seven years working with East Suffolk Council as part of Coastal Partnership East, raising more than £75million of investment for projects to help make our coastal communities resilient to climate change.

As well as advising colleagues and partner organisations on the Council's Strategic Plan objectives, strategies and associated work concerning climate change mitigation and adaptation, Paul will work closely with Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor James Mallinder.

## Platinum jubilee

I had a really busy four day weekend, starting with ringing for a wedding in Hollesley which was a great start to the bank holiday event .

Delighted to help plant the Hollesley village Jubilee tree.

I popped in to say hello to the Hollesley tea dance, which was beautifully organised and then finished up at Bawdsey fete again dedicating the tree to the community .



Sunday was my busiest day with 3 parties to attend – Bromeswell , Eyke and Shottisham  
It was lovely to be your invited guest at Eyke and I was delighted to propose the toast to the queen



## Landmark café opens doors on Felixstowe's South Seafront



The eagerly anticipated opening of an acclaimed new café has been met with celebration in Felixstowe, as part of the continued wider redevelopment of the town's South Seafront area.

The strikingly designed contemporary venue opened its doors to customers at the entrance to Martello Park – after the building's architects, Plaice Design Company, were 'Highly Commended' at the Riba Suffolk Design Awards 2022.

The £1.5 million landmark project was funded by ESC, with grant funding of £950,000 from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund and a further £30,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund.

It's the latest development in a wider project of ongoing regeneration in the South Seafront area, following the arrival of new homes, a play area and parking at Martello Park, as well as further investment in the refurbishment of the two public shelters and the long-term maintenance of its historic Martello tower centrepiece.

Working alongside ESC, Plaice Design and the Kitchen @ Group on delivering the project were Barnes Construction, Superstructures and Gill Associates.

## Helping to deliver affordable homes in East Suffolk

A new planning document has been adopted to help guide the development of affordable homes being delivered across the district.

This Council has adopted a new Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which provides guidance to support the implementation of planning policies on affordable housing.

The new document includes guidance on the design of affordable housing, legal agreements and carrying out local housing needs assessments. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications going forward.

[View the Affordable Housing SPD, and supporting documents, including the Consultation Statement and the Adoption Notice.](#)

Physical copies of the documents are also available at ESC's Customer Service Centres and at all libraries in the district.



## Housing improvement programme making progress

ESC is making progress with a detailed improvement programme following the authority's decision earlier this year to report itself to the Regulator for Social Housing.

The Council's review, which encompasses information dating back to East Suffolk's predecessor authority Waveney District Council, is considering how we set our rental charges, to ensure we meet the requirements set out in the nationally recognised 'Rent Standard'.

The Council previously explained that some tenants, who moved in after 2014, may have been incorrectly charged a higher rent. An independent, external audit of every rent account is now underway, and this will identify which tenants have been affected and calculate any overpayments that should be credited back to the rent account.

The review is also looking at all aspects of Health and Safety related to our properties, including Fire Risk Assessments, Asbestos Management, Water Safety, Gas and Electrical Safety as well as the management and maintenance of equipment including Lifts and Stairlifts.

Following the Council's decision to report itself, the Regulator has considered the information provided to them by East Suffolk and has now shared its findings. As anticipated, they confirm breaches of Housing Regulations, and their findings have been published in the form of a [Regulatory Notice](#).

The Regulator for Social Housing acknowledged that the Council acted in an appropriate manner, understands the issues fully, has taken appropriate advice and has developed a detailed plan to address all issues in a timely fashion.

## Misc

I am working with communities dept and the leader to developing a fund to assist residents with the cost of living crisis more details of this when available

I am sorry I cant be with you at your meeting , but I will certainly see you all at your fete later this month .

**James Mallinder**

**Deben Ward**

**Environment Portfolio holder**