



EYE TOWN COUNCIL

20 Broad Street, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7AF
07713 196 251

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

7.30 pm Eye Town Hall, Tuesday 22nd May 2018
In the Chair, Cllr Mick Robins, Town Mayor

1. Welcome from Cllr Mick Robins, Town Mayor

In attendance 35 members of the public and the Town Clerk.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Caroline Byles

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 23rd May 2017

Cllr Walker proposed that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd May 2017 were accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Gould and agreed.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Ex Cllr Cooper was presented with a print of Eye Town Hall in recognition of his over 40 years services to the Council.

Ex Cllr Cooper gave his reasons for becoming a Councillor to help the people of Eye.

5. Presentation of 2017/18 Civic Awards

Raymond Pym – For his work as coordinator of the Eye Community Speedwatch Group. Ray has a genuine concern for road safety in Eye and works with great enthusiasm, dedication and good humor, even managing to smile in the face of abusive comments all too often received from passing motorists.

Sue Kaye – As the Street Carer for Eye Sue goes above and beyond the remit of her job description. She projects a positive image of the Council and the energy she puts into her role makes a real difference to the cleanliness of the town.

Sue Warnes – Sue provides a friendly, helpful and reliable, efficient and patient service to residents of Eye.

Johnnie Walker – John is a volunteer driver to help people without transport to attend medical appointments. He sometimes has to wait a very long time for people to return from their appointments, he is happy to push wheelchairs and uses his knowledge of all the hospitals to make to trips as efficient as possible. Nothing is too much trouble.

Andrew Brown – Andrew has made a significant contribution to the effective publicity of voluntary organisations in Eye. His technical advice and support has assisted the publication of the Eye Magazine. He also played a major role in the creation of the archive file “A year in the life of Eye”.

Pat and Charles Butler – For recognition of their aspirations and achievements as contributors to the well being of the community. Their instinct is to volunteer and help to many good causes including being good neighbours to the needy.

Julie Ward – Julie has made an outstanding contribution to the delight of passers by to the Fabric Shop window. Every season, event or happening is reflected in her original arrangements which are displayed. A huge amount of effort and work go into these displays year in year out which give everyone who sees them such pleasure.

The Dove Players – For their tireless work and commitment to engage with the local community. This is a non-profit organisations who bring a smile to the faces of the community through their performances, giving up huge amounts of their time to work with volunteers.

6. Outgoing Mayor’s Report

Cllr Colin Ribchester gave an account of his previous year which was extremely busy. He particularly enjoyed the events which involving the children. Another event he was proud to be part of was the Christmas hampers deliveries to 50 elderly and vulnerable people. This was extremely rewarding to see the smiles on peoples faces when the hampers were delivered by Father Christmas.

He was particularly pleased with the excellent work on the Town Hall. Praise and congratulations should be given the Town Hall Committee, Cllr Caroline Byles, Cllr Peter Gould, Cllr Richard Berry and all the other members of the committee deserve our gratitude and thanks for making this project a success.

Cllr Ribchester also thanked the clerk for her support to him and the excellent work in her first year bringing the administration of the Council back to a high level.

7. Councillors’ Reports

Cllr Berry gave an update on the works to the Town Hall. Funds have been raised to the sum of £106,000. The first phase of the project the refurbishment the roof is almost complete and has been worked within its financial framework.

The second phase of the project the upgrade of the toilets will start in July and complete by the 1st September.

Cllr Gould gave a Neighbourhood Plan update. There is great pressure to build houses within the parish boundaries. Although the Council has no objections to building, it needs to be on the condition that the infrastructure is in place to support them. Part of the Neighbourhood Plan is consultation on Eye's Housing Needs. Cllr Gould asked if people had received or return their surveys. Other methods of consultation have been used by the Council for the plan such as holding drop-in sessions. The draft plan will be submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council in Autumn after where it will be processed finally ending with a public referendum. If accepted it will form part of a planning framework when applications are considered.

Cllr Gould mentioned that the Mid Suffolk District Council did not have a local plan or a five years housing supply. This put the town in a vulnerable position because there is no framework to assess the applications against.

He welcomed the public's ideas and contributions at future consultation events.

8. Report from County Councillor – Mr Guy McGregor

Cllr McGregor gave a report on his previous year in office as Hoxne and Eye's Suffolk County Councillor. The full report can be found in Appendix A attached to the minutes.

9. Report from District Councillor – Mr Michael Burke

Cllr Burke gave a report on his previous year in office as the District Councillor for Eye. The full report can be found in Appendix B attached to the minutes.

10. Police Report – Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team

For full report please see Appendix C.

11. Reports from organisations and charities within the Town

The following gave a verbal report of their activities at the meeting.

- Eye Magazine
- Eye Town Moors Woodlands
- Eye and District Twinning Association
- Eye Plodders – Walking Group
- Eyes Open CIC/The Bank
- Dove Players
- EGG
- Eye Cinema

Reports were also received from: -

- Eye Company of Ringers

- Ability Net
- Village Voices Community Choir
- 2018 report on 490th BG Eye
- Eye Women's Institute
- Eye Rainbows

All reports will be made available with these minutes.

12. Elector's questions

Member of the public asked that Paddock House would not be cast into the long grass. Do we have any dates for works would begin?

Cllr Burke – Biggest issue with the Paddock House development is that no consultation has taken place with the Town. The land is owned by MSDC. No agreed plan is available, so it is difficult to give definitive dates.

Member of the public asked about the building at the entrance of Cross Street.

Cllr Burke – the building belongs to SCC. Plans have been submitted to change the use to a domestic dwelling.

Cllr Mc Gregor added that the middle section is to be the library, he is aware that the plan has been submitted for a single dwelling.

Member of the public – concerns regarding the application for this building where no objections were made. Can not understand how the Town Council could not object. Is there a forum where objections can be made?

Cllr Burke explained the planning process objections need to be on certain grounds. The Town Council had made comments. Anyone can make objections on-line or in writing during the consultation process.

Member of the public – Rose garden at the bottom of Castleton Way is in dis-repair. Asked if Suffolk County Council as the owners of the land could maintain this area before the Open Garden Event in June.

Cllr McGregor said that he would enquire with the relevant authority at Suffolk County Council to clear before the Open Garden event

Member of the public asked about the yellow lines on Church Street. Why are they there when there are no car parking spaces?

Cllr Evitt – contacted the local authority when the lines appeared. Shop has an entrance off Church Street which requires access to their gated area.

Cllr Burke also said that parking is an element of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Member of the public asked whether Eye was going to have an electric charging point for vehicles.

Cllr Burke confirmed that MSDC did have this on their agenda.

Member of the public – asked for reassurances that the planning provision would be in place for the infrastructure required to support the increase in housing.

Cllr McGregor – responded that in essence local government is responsible for the provision of these resources. Pressures are huge to provide money for local needs.

Cllr Burke added other local areas are under the same pressure. Increased houses leads mean more benefits for residents.

Member of the public asked if the developments would lead increased vehicles particularly large lorries.

Cllr Gould responded that he also shares these concerns. A restriction to the size of lorries coming through the town has been signed up to. Ultimately, this is a County Council issues.

Member of the public – Asked if the Safer Neighbourhood Team could ask if they could give a figure for resolution to crimes.

Clerk to contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team for a response.

Member of the public – What is the response rate for the Housing Needs Survey.

Cllr Gould said that it is approx. 25%, this would be relevant for a relative sample.

13. Any other business

No other business reported.

APPENDIX A

County Councillors Report – Mr Guy McGregor

From the residents' viewpoint the most significant item is the fact that for the first time in many years there has been an increase in Suffolk County Council's (SCC) element of the Council Tax.

An additional precept which will be used exclusively to fund Adult Social Care will be levied.

The availability of additional money for Adult Social Care is to be welcomed but the principle of whether Central Government should determine where Council Tax Payers money should be spent is questionable.

The next significant item is the continued excellence of Hartismere High School. I have enjoyed my visits to School Functions especially the presentation evenings.

I continue to serve as a member of the Diocesan Education Committee.

Eye Library will move into new premises at the turn of the year.

SCC's Fire and Rescue Service is the most cost-effective service in the country, however, I am not happy with the proposals that control should be passed to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Care UK's splendid new Care Home (Hartismere Place) is now over a year old and I do urge you to pop in for tea. This Care Home is a wonderful facility and it is a credit to the provider and to the vision of SCC.

We all know that we have had a severe winter, but I am not convinced that SCC's response could have been better (especially on the A140). I hope that the change in leadership on Thursday will see this improved.

The methodology used by SCC in reporting highway defects and repairing them leaves much to be desired.

The 20 mph zones in the Town Centre are now imminent.

My thanks to the Town Council. In these difficult times it does splendid work in promoting the town of Eye.

APPENDIX B

District Councillors Report – Mr Michael Burke

It is difficult to believe that a year has gone by since I appeared before you as your newly elected District Councillor. I thought I had retired in 2015 but taking on the role as District Councillor and Town Councillor I can definitely confirm that I am not retired.

There was a lot of talk and discussion during the year on a merger between Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils. This is currently on hold. However, the work forces of the two councils have merged and are now based at Endeavour House in Ipswich. This move is forecast to generate £5.8 million of savings over the next decade, and therefore provide more funds for council services.

Given that Suffolk County Council now have a new leader, I believe the whole process of Unitary or otherwise will be looked at again. Watch this space on this one.

Town Hall – Our Town Hall Committee have done a tremendous job with the work on the Town Hall i.e. the roof, the kitchen, the redecoration and ongoing the toilets and hallway. Our thanks go to all those involved who I know have put in a tremendous amount of hard work.

Although Historic England supported the project with a majority of the funding, Mid Suffolk also contributed approx. £30,000 towards the overall costs through the grant process.

Locality Awards – At the end of last year we were pleased to allocate the following Mid Suffolk Locality awards to the following groups: -

Eye Arts Club	£500
Eye Goes Green	£400
Eye Playing Fields Association	£500
Eye Opportunity Group	£500
Debenham Girls Group	£500
Hartismere League of Friends (Eye Directory)	£600
Eye Cricket Club	£500
1 st Eye Scouts	£500
Town Moors	£400
Eye Works for You	£500
Eye District Girl Guiding	£500
Eye Town Council (CCTV)	£600
Rural Coffee van	£250
TOTAL	£6250

Library/Toilets – First of all I would like to congratulate Councillor McGregor on all the work he put in over the years to secure a new Library for Eye, no mean feat.

As reported last time Mid Suffolk are reviewing their policies on public toilets. We have met with officers of MSDC and they have agreed to attend the June meeting of the Council to discuss possible options going forward. This will probably result in the Public Conveniences being given over to the Town. This will not be done unless they are handed over in a good state. That could involve refurbishment or new building and hopefully some financial help

to run them. In the meantime, they have agreed that the existing toilet can be redecorated, and that work will be undertaken by Eye Business Forum Group and our thanks go to them for volunteering to carry out the work and supplying the materials. The keys to the other toilets have been found and these will be brought under consideration within the options discussed above.

Paddock House – This has been a big topic in the Town, and if I walk in the town or on the Penning's I will almost certainly be asked about Paddock House. I won't go into all the meetings and emails and discussions that have been held on this topic, but it is reported on monthly to the Town Council.

The latest is this: -

Meeting was held with Mid Suffolk as scheduled on the 25th April

- Work on this project has been put on hold in view of this meeting
- Agreed to set up a sounding board panel which will include myself as District Councillor and 2 other representatives Eye Town Council.
- Design will incorporate as much green space as possible with the agreement that the Town Council will manage the site on a lease, at no cost to MSDC.
- Sketch being prepared utilizing all garden space which will then be looked at in terms of viability return on the project. This will start at 65% affordable and could then be reviewed depending on viability.
- These sketch plans should be available in the next couple of weeks
- Noted that English Heritage and Suffolk Heritage maybe of the opinion that the building line should be in line with the rest of Church Street.
- Survey results so indicate that in a targeted survey 76% were in favour of retaining open space, and in the Housing Needs Survey 9% were in favour of retaining open space.
- This has been a long and drawn out battle and I would like to think the lass is half full on this one, but there is a way to go yet.

Hartismere Hospital – As we all know Hartismere Hospital is a very nice building following the refurbishment work that was carried out. However, it still remains a very under utilised building.

I have been involved with three to four meetings now with Councillor McGregor with the CCG/NHS and to date the main achievement is to have the rubbish bins moved from the front to the back of the hospital. IT is a painfully slow process and one leaves the meetings in a positive frame only to find that nothing happens. The last meeting involved the SCC Scrutiny Committee Leaders with the NHS coming to Hartismere and seeing first hand the facilities we have here and our desire to bring about services to the community rather than always having to travel to Norwich, Ipswich or Bury.

There are certain possibilities being talked about, but again we have to wait and see whether or not talk translates to action.

Neighbourhood Plan – In taking on the District role it became painfully obvious very quickly that in view of the fact Mid Suffolk did not have a five year land supply and in the absence of an Eye Neighbourhood Plan we were faced with potential big problems from developments that would be difficult to stop.

We had to have an up to date Neighbourhood Plan and if we did the five-year requirement drops to three years. I was delighted that the Town Council agreed with this and I was further delighted that Peter Gould agreed to Chair the Neighbourhood Plan Group. He has taken on the task producing the plan in record time so that it can hopefully be aligned to the MSDC Local Plan. I would also like to express our thanks to Andy Robinson who has done sterling work for the Town in making this happen.

New Developments – We already know about the 284 houses on the airfield. In addition, planning requests have come in for 126 off Tuffs Road/Maple Way and a further 20 in Langton Green. Given other smaller developments we are looking at application approaching 450 houses something approaching 50% of current houses in the town. I don't like to say it but this may not be the end.

Other Developments – We have other major developments going on Eye over the next couple of years.

1. Crown Chicken £54m investment in a new processing factory on Eye airfield, 18000sq meter factory on 40 acres, creating around 400 jobs, completion 2010.
2. Two new roundabouts on the A140 at Yaxley and the Thrandeston turn. £3.75m investment. MSDC supported the successful bid by SCC to improve these junctions and open up the airfield. Completion 2020.
3. New Gas fired Power Station. Subject to successful bid round a new gas fired power station will be built by Progress Power, part of DRAX, on the airfield at Eye. This will support intermittent forms of energy at times they are unable to meet demand. Fully automated plant, so no jobs apart from any in the construction phase. Again completion around early to mid 2020's subject to securing the Capacity Market Contract.

A lot going on at the airfield over the next few years, particularly if they also start to build the 284 houses and the new care home.

CCTV – This time last year we asked you about CCTV in the Town. Nobody was against its introduction. Having looked into it with a view having total coverage, it transpired that the costs were too great to go on the all-encompassing route. Upwards of £20,000 and annual running costs on top. The Council agreed that we would look at a reduced scheme and I am currently in the process of applying for a £3500 grant from the Police Commissioner together with the £600 already allocated from Locality Awards. This should enable us to have key coverage in the Town with ANPR. My apologies it has taken so long. Would it have made a difference to some of the incidents we have had? I don't know.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, and just to say again if you have any issue that concerns you please feel free to contact me anytime.

APPENDIX C



Eye SNT, The Lodge, Castleton Way, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7BH
Tel: 101 Email: eye.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk www.suffolk.police.uk
Twitter: @HaleswrthPolice

Between 1st April 2017 and 1st April 2018 there has been 205 recorded investigations in the locality.

The investigations are classified as follows;

- 37 x Assaults (including domestic related offences)
- 24 x Criminal Damage (including Arson)
- 23 x Thefts (including attempted offences)
- 14 x Public Order Offences
- 10 x Non-Dwelling Burglaries (including attempted offences)
- 5 x Dwelling Burglaries (including attempted offences)
- 8 x Drugs Offences
- 29 x Other Crimes
- 55 x Non-Crime & Historic Investigations (including safeguarding & ASB)

Over the same period in the 12 months prior there were 173 recorded crimes. This shows an increase of 18%. Some of this increase can be explained by changes in the recording of Non-Crime investigations and Vulnerable Person referrals. We have also seen instances where several Theft/Burglary offences happen over one night.

Local Interest

Crime – 1. The most significant crime to have taken place over the year involves a break in to the Town Hall where several thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused to antique paintings.

This appears a mindless act and at the time of typing this report the motive is a mystery. Significant amounts of man hours are being placed into this investigation and an image of the potential suspect has been released to the media. There are still a number of lines of enquiry still being undertaken with this investigation and Suffolk Police continues to pursue the investigation as far as reasonably possible.

2. The town hall was also entered in a daytime burglary and work men's tools were stolen. Due to the vigilance of local people a suspect was identified attempting to sell the stolen property on. Eye Safer neighbourhood Team attended the call and the male was arrested. Due to the amount of evidence gathered against the suspect he pleaded guilty to burglary at court and was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison.

ASB – 1. Misuse of the airfield by vehicles caused a significant number of complaints during the summer of 2017. The Safer Neighbourhood Team have been working with the land owners to find a solution. While it is unlikely the land can be secured indefinitely, a working strategy is in place to minimise the impact of this issue and reduce the opportunity for large numbers of vehicles to gain access. Hopefully working in partnership the police and landowners can minimise the disruption to residents and businesses throughout 2018. In addition to this strategy the landowners have funded the cost of new signs, which have been installed. The signs clearly set out the expectations and acceptable level of behaviour to anyone using the space. It should also make it clearer that this location can be considered a public place to which the full powers under the road traffic act are available to police in dealing with poor driving and behaviour. Anyone using the airfield in a vehicle will be required to have a valid MOT certificate, driving licence, insurance and “L” plates in the case of learner drivers.

2. Regular patrols of areas previously subject to a higher number of anti-social behaviour related incidents have taken place. This has included the Community Centre which police have received no calls to during 2018. The Pennings site which police have also received no calls to in 2018.

Staff – During September 2017 a new Constable was appointed into the Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC 1856 Peck replaced PC Andrews-Pearce as the Eye PC.

In November 2017 after 10 years of service to the town of Eye PCSO Steve Long left Suffolk police to join our colleague in Norfolk as a Police Constable. Losing Steve is a significant loss to the town due to his significant local knowledge and enthusiasm for serving the community. The Safer Neighbourhood Team are still in regular email contact with Steve and he still is able to offer advice regarding local issues.

As a direct replacement for Steve, in December 2017 PCSO Kane Martin to Eye returned to Eye SNT base. Kane has previously worked in Eye alongside Steve but has had a period of time working from Halesworth. Kane is a local lad and shares Steve’s passion to serve the local community.

County Wide Crime Trends

There has been a force wide increase in acquisitive crime. Published figures show a total of 689 burglary & vehicle related theft offences for February 2018 and increase of 165 incidents on the same period in 2017.

General

In response to the increase in theft from motor vehicle and residential non-dwelling burglaries (shed/garage break-ins) Suffolk Police would like to promote our TOOL SMART Campaign; S-secure, M-Mark And R-Register T-Tools.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team have held a number of community engagements to promote the advice and more engagements are planned for the summer.

Photograph and record valuable items on nationally recognised website, such as www.Immobilise.com Consider the use of tracking devices and marking property with “traceable solutions” like SmartWater®.

We often receive complaints regarding the waiting times during 101 calls. When calling 101 you will be charged a one off fee of 15p regardless of the length of the call, you are not charged by the minute. The waiting times regarding 101 is heavily influenced by calls made to police to report matters that other agencies may be better placed to deal with.

There is a significant amount of information available on our website including Crime Prevention Advice, when to call 101, when to call 999 and Reporting Crime and ASB.

Please note that the Safer Neighbourhood Team **cannot** take crime reports via email. We strongly urge people to use the online reporting tool for incidents that have previously occurred and there is no immediate threat or danger to any person or property.

Police Connect

Police Connect is a messaging service connecting you to the very latest policing news for your area via e-mail, text or phone.

There is no charge for this service - all messages you receive are free.

You can register to receive information about the issues that most matter to you and be among the first to be alerted by police in the case of an emergency affecting your area.

There is the option to receive information about a range of specific interest areas – such as ‘rural’ or ‘rivers and coastal’ – as well as updates for business owners and news from your Police and Crime Commissioner.

You can register for Police Connect [here](#).

IF YOU THINK A CRIME IS IN PROGRESS ALWAYS DIAL 999.

