

EYDON PARISH ASSEMBLY
TUESDAY APRIL 19TH 2011
At 7.30pm in Eydon Village Hall

Present: Councillors P Broome, M. Hawes, J. Ellis, R. Blanshard, S. Russell, G. Denby and the Clerk Mrs J. M. Rowling.

District Councillor R. Herring

County Councillor K. Melling

Mr. S. Hall, Dr K. Lodge, Mr. D. Kench, Mr and Mrs R. Taylor, Mr. R Forsyth, Mr. J.S.F. Grindlay, Ms. C. Bedford, Mr. A. Blackstock, Ms....., Mrs S Shaw, Ms E. Coulter,

The Chairman of Parish Council, Paul Broome welcomed everyone.

HS2

The Chairman introduced Mrs Jo Wilson from Aston le Walls who said that HS2 would be heard in Eydon, it would ruin the countryside, blight properties, lead to reduction of services on West Coast Mainline. Whilst being constructed there would be maximum inconvenience to residents. Would there be light pollution? The line would need to be in a type of cage to prevent debris getting onto the line.

She introduced Alan Seeds, Culworth Parish Councillor but also SNAG, South Northants Action Group, representative. He spoke of the LABOUR Government proposal, announced in March 2010, to build a high speed rail link between London and Birmingham with intentions to extend to Manchester and Leeds at a later date. New stations would need to be built at Euston which didn't link with HS1 to the Channel tunnel. It uses London St Pancras. Even if station built at Old Oak Common near Heathrow there would need to be a link to airport. The Coalition with Philip Hammond as Transport Secretary supports the plan.

Sadly neither the business case nor the environmental one has good foundations. They are flawed. HS1 has been bought recently for far less than it cost to build which was way over estimate. The estimate for HS2 is £34 billion. The country is in a state of economic gloom. Throughout Europe, High Speed rail has to be supported by National Government to keep it going. None are returning a profit. It is appreciated that the West Coast Mainline from London Euston to Birmingham and north west is overcrowded at commuter times. Alternative plan of Atkins RP2 would ease the pinch points much sooner, at a fraction of the cost. It would allow longer trains. RP2 would enhance all West Coast stations. He urged all residents to attend the roadshows, and fill in a consultation form. SNAG is offering guidance. SNAG is part of group of action groups up and down the line that is working together to fight the plans. However, County Councils District Councils, and residents in other parts of the country are not aware of the potential blight either on the land or in economic restrictions due to the costings. Sadly NCC is in support of HS2 but not necessarily the route. Councillor Ken Melling has spoken on a number of occasions at NCC against the HS2 proposals. A clear handout was given to those present and is on file. One resident felt it was not in the best interests to support SNAG as this could mean the development of the Great Central Railway as the preferred route. Mr Seeds said that whilst the origins of that line were for continental gauge, there could be no chance of travelling at 250mph on that route.

Another resident stated that County Councillor Ben Smith, the Cabinet Member for this project, is for HS2. She suggested that he be lobbied and encouraged to visit the sites but even more to be urged to relook at the economic and environmental cases to see how flawed they are.

Police- PC Reid was called away

Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly 20th April 2010 were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

No matters arising

Parish Council Chairman's report Paul Broome

Planning

It has been a quite year for planning with only 15 applications put forward. Parish councillors have been to planning meetings at South Northants Council.

Village Green

It must be now 400 years when we started the process of trying to get the village green registered, well that's what Jose would say, and can probably remember, well this year it has final been registered.

Winter gritting and maintenance

With a second cold winter the road through the village from Woodford to Culworth were gritted most nights when the temp was low, so there was one route safe out of the village.

Pot holes and general road maintenance seems very slow and the road surface around the village is very poor.

To me the roads around the village and other parts are deteriorating, so fast that general patch work is not working, the roads are like a patch work quilt with lots of holes, With the increase of traffic the government need to put there money into helping councils repair these roads, rather than a train that will save you 20 minutes from London to Birmingham

Bus service

New bus services have been going through the village, with buses being full on Thursdays lets hope it keeps in service. Mr Melling may be able to tell us what will be happening with these services.

VDS

A sub committee, with two parish councillor and residents of the village was formed 4 years ago, with a lot of information, hard work, and time, a draft VDS has now been sent off to SNC for public consultation and there approval. I would like to thank the sub committee for there help.

County Councillors Empowerment Fund

I would like to thank councillor Mr Ken Melling for this, a number of projects in the village have now been finished or on the final stage.

Theses project will help the village and also help the community

These are ...

The muga sports field

Help with the refurbishment of the kitchen, new tables, cooker for the village hall
Lighting for the library which is now open in the church
Rutland communication Broadband Survey to see how this would cost to bring high speed broadband in to the village, sadly the cost was too high.
The Youth bus to the fete.
The 30mph signs on the Culworth road are still in the process of being moved, this hopefully will provide a safer route for people using the sports field.

Litter Pick inside and outside the village

Each year this is Very successful with a good turn out from residents on the day or before and is big help with keeping the roads to the village and the village tidy. A big thank you to Mick for organising this, and residents for there help.

NALC Village of the year competition.

The village came runner up in the new comers and highly commended in the small village.

I would like to thank the Parish councillors and Clerk for their time, hard work and support over the last year.

Also residents for all their help with keeping the village tidy and making Eydon is a lovely village to live in!!

Eydon Educational Trust Councillor Joe Ellis

EYDON EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND

(Registered Charity No. 309866)

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR 2010 TO THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

AIMS AND PURPOSES

The aims of the Trust are to promote the education of young people under the age of 25 who, or whose parents, live in the parish of Eydon and who are in need of financial assistance. This can be put towards scholarships, bursaries or grants at any school, college, university or place of further education, or it may be to assist with the purchase of clothing, tools, or books or to undertake educational travel, or to prepare to enter any trade or profession upon leaving their place of education. The trustees will be pleased to give advice upon whether or not expenditure might be considered eligible within the terms of the trust and will deal confidentially with any enquiries or applications.

ASSETS AND INCOME

The original assets of the trust are non-disposable and are invested by the Official Custodian for Charities in the Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) which is currently managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. In recent years the capital value of the fund has fallen back sharply, but in 2010 its value began to recover. The interest from that investment had levelled off in 2008 and 2009 and a marginal increase was shown at the end of 2010.

The disposable assets of the trust are wholly held in a National Savings Investment Account, which receives the quarterly interest from the investment with COIF. The interest from the N.S. & I. account has reduced significantly as a result of the financial crisis and this continued in 2010 with a gross income only slightly above that for

2009. Detailed accounts are available from the treasurer (Mr D Kench) who will respond to any questions about the finances of the charity.

ACHIEVEMENTS, GRANTS & PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trust is now in its 26th year and during that time grants of well over £11,500 have been made to over 100 young people from the village to assist them with their education. In 2010 only 1 application was received in spite of several notices in Eydon Village News and a grant of £100 was paid. The accounts for the year also include two other grants which were approved in 2009 but due to delays caused by the postal strikes at the end of that year they were not paid out until early January of 2010. Making a total of £360 paid in grants in 2010.

PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

We would like to record our thanks to the Rev'd Tim Oakley for his work as Chairman of the charity for over 10 years. He retired as Rector of Eydon during the year so the position of Ex-Officio Trustee for the charity is currently vacant until the appointment of a new incumbent for the benefice has been concluded.

The availability and criteria for grants were publicised during the year, both at the Annual Parish Assembly and in the Village Newsletter. In order that grants could be assessed and budgeted for in a fair manner, taking into account the Trust's limited resources, applications were invited and then considered late in 2010 following the start of the university academic year.

CHAIRMAN HON. SECRETARY HON. TREASURER

Ex Officio Trustee Joe Ellis David Kench

(Parish Council Nominative Trustee) (Co-optative Trustee)

Currently Vacant 6 Preston Road, Eydon. 20 High Street, Eydon.

April 2011

A balance sheet is attached to the minutes

Parish Council Finance Report.

Councillor Denby addressed this. Copies were distributed to those present. The accounts will be internally audited on May 23rd and Externally audited on 8th July. All residents are welcome to inspect the accounts, given notice to the Clerk. They are on the website.

Neighbourhood Watch

Ms Bedford asked that all residents remain vigilant to strange happenings. Please report to either her, Dr Lodge, or Mrs Blanshard. Contact details in newsletter.

Footpath and bridleways. Mrs Sarah Shaw reported that these were well used and in fair order.

EYDON VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall, situated on the High Street serves a valuable purpose as a meeting place for the various village organisations and is also used throughout the year by many residents for private functions. The hall was used last year on more than 150 occasions for events as diverse as Humpty Dumptys and the British Legion. Notably twice yearly the hall is turned into a theatre for Eydon Players excellent productions.

The hall is run by a committee made up of elected volunteers and representatives from organisations that use the hall regularly. The hall is now over 80 years old and

maintenance is a constant and expensive problem. Revenue is raised from hire charges, the annual village fete (shared with the church) and some very successful fund raising events. These have included the Christmas Gift Fayre, the very popular band events organised by Craig Cutler and entertainment from Northampton Touring Arts. Also, last year the Eydon 200 Club raised £200 for the hall and thanks to increased uptake there should be £300 this year.

2010-11 has seen upgrades of hall facilities. The meeting room has been provided with upholstered chairs, donated to the hall by Physio First, Northampton and the small tables have been replaced by modern folding types. The major work has been the complete renovation of the kitchen. Thanks are due to the Parish Council for grants from the Councillors' Empowerment Fund, to our kitchen fitters, John and Ian Dickson, for donating the built in refrigerator and the wall tiles, to Bernard Lees for tiling the walls, the volunteers who assisted with the redecoration, Simon and Amber Beddoes who donated the new electric shutters and to Janet Arrand, who managed the project so efficiently.

Eydon Village Hall is available for hire for private or public functions; bookings can be made by contacting the Village Hall Secretary: Judith Watson 01327 261220

EYDON PLAYERS AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1989 and based at the Village Hall in the High Street, Eydon Players has regularly provided the village with live entertainment. In general, there are two public productions each year; a play or musical in May and the pantomime in early December. These are well supported by the village. In particular, the pantomime is very popular and often sells out. Rehearsals take place at the Village Hall on Monday and Wednesday. Also there is a members' fund-raising/social evening in September, a dinner in January/February and a Garden Party in July. These are open to guests and prospective members.

Drama apart, the Eydon Players have also supported village fetes, the Millennium celebrations and the 2002 Jubilee by providing entertainment. Donations to children's charities are also made on a regular basis. There is an active social side to the society. Visits are made to other groups' productions and to other events of interest. After rehearsals, there is often an extended "discussion session" at the local hostelry, the Royal Oak.

The Players latest production was the pantomime "Red Riding Hood" by Tina and Robert Burbage, which took place at the beginning of December 2010 and was well supported by the village. The next event is the "Murder Mystery" produced in association with famous and farcical Farndale Avenue Housing Estate's Townswomen's Guild. Villagers may remember the last time the ladies of the guild entertained us, with a tale of romance and shipwreck on board a cruise liner in "We found Love...aboard the SS Farndale Avenue". Tickets will be on sale from the middle of April.

New members are always welcome.

Contact: Hon. Secretary: Judith Watson Tel 01327 261220 or go to our web site www.helgar.demon.co.uk for full and up to date information about the society.

EYDON COMMUNITY SPORTS FIELD

2010 was, from the administrative point of view, disappointing. The committee Chairman resigned early in the year, as he moved away from the area and no replacement was elected. The only Committee Meeting took place on February 26th 2010, and an AGM was held on May 14th 2010. At this meeting no minuted elections took place. It was not until February 23rd this year until a further meeting took place, and a complete committee was re-formed finally on March 14th 2011.

However, from the use and facility viewpoint, it was a good year.

This is because the Multi-Purpose Games Area (MUGA) was finished, up and running and well-used. *Ad hoc* volunteers kept things moving during 2010, the Field was kept in good condition, thanks to support from the Parish Council and Cricket Club volunteers, and little further expenditure was required on capital and maintenance.

The year (2010) started with cash assets of £3205.70, and finished with £2344.04. The total capital expenditure on the Play area and MUGA since inception has been £39923.85 (2008 through 2010). Of this, £27446.15 (68%) was provided from Local Authorities.

The Eydon Parish Council has kindly pledged further continued support for the year 2011/2012.

John Grindlay
Hon. Treasurer & Trustee

District Councillor Herring said as Deputy Leader she was much involved in the decision making of the Council. Horton Hospital had been saved this time round. New health service s proposals need monitoring.

The new drivers course at Silverstone, funded by users now was worthwhile in retraining and reducing accidents in young people.

Following elections in May, Mrs Herring intends to keep the momentum up on HS2.

County Councillor Ken Melling.

- Introduction

I have been your County Councillor for the past six years. I represent a large rural area, from Upper Boddington & Eydon in the north to Middleton Cheney & Kings Sutton in the south.

- What do I do ?

I am one of 73 elected members who vote & agree on future policy – the staff is then responsible for implementing the policy and day-to-day operations. I also advise on local issues and help local people in their dealings with the County Council.

I am Chairman of the County Council Pension Fund Committee, a £1.3M fund that includes county, borough & district council staff, schoolteachers, civilian police workers and university & college staff. The committee determines future policy for the investment of pension contributions.

I am also a member of the internal Audit Committee; ensuring proper controls are in place for spending your money. Irrespective of how it is spent, we make sure that proper controls are in place.

- **Budget Cuts**

You will all be aware of the £68M reduction in the 2011-12 budget due to government policy. A further £25M has to be cut next year.

The subsidy of £3.1M per annum for local buses in Northamptonshire has been removed, although a transition budget of £1M has been set aside. Consultation on the future of local transport will be published during April.

No libraries are closing this year, but all Public Libraries are being reviewed during 2011 to reduce costs and increase efficiencies.

Plans are currently being prepared on a reduction in Street Lighting, to be introduced during the summer.

School Crossing Patrols are being terminated by the summer holidays.

The Casualty Reduction Partnership is being closed, and the police have already switched off all Speed Cameras.

The County Council will reduce staff numbers by approx. 900 jobs this year. A new staffing structure is currently being prepared.

- **The Good News**

Your NCC Council Tax is the lowest of any shire county in England.

The merger of back-office services with Cambridge County Council has saved £Ms and won a national award for excellence.

The new Chief Executive is paid £30,000 less than his predecessor. He is reducing administration costs, including less Directors & less Heads of Service.

- **High Speed Rail**

There was a debate at County Hall on HS2 in March, but no vote was taken. Some County Councillors seem ambivalent about HS2, or are attracted to the idea of better services on the existing lines.

NCC will decide on a formal response to the consultation by the end of May. I have spoken out strongly against HS2 – objecting to the speed of 250mph, which prevents it following existing transport corridors, and to soundness of the business case, which we all know is totally unreal. We must continue to fight against HS2 now, to convince the government to stop this plan.

Eydon Parish Assembly 19th April 2011 Minutes

If you want to get in touch, please ring 07950 038128 or e-mail kmelling@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Any other business NONE

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.