

Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Parish Council
Wednesday, 14th November 2012

Report of the Parish Clerk

The purpose of this report is to update members on outstanding issues, items received after the deadline for agenda items, correspondence and action taken by the Clerk.

Ash DieBack Disease

An email has been received from Suffolk Coastal District Council regarding the outbreak of ash dieback disease (*Chalara fraxinea*) confirmed in a woodland in Great Glemham recently. The Forestry Commission's website has all the latest information and advice about this disease.

This disease could be quite devastating to Suffolk Coastal's populations of ash trees and have a terrible impact on the landscape if it gets a hold. At the moment all we can do is be vigilant and try and spot any other early outbreaks of the disease and use the information provided by the Forestry Commission as a guide.

The Tree Warden has already been sent some information about this subject.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara>

Grit Heaps / Bins

We are waiting for a licence from Highways Department Suffolk Coastal District Council. When this is received we can then order a suitable grit bins.

Budget Setting 2013/2014

SALC have advised that budgets should be agreed by Parish Councils however but should be mindful that the final demand may have to be adjusted following the expected Government guidance during December 2012. There are two issues that have yet to be officially resolved or confirmed:

- a. One is the effect of the new calculations for council tax and specifically what affect the new concessions regime would have on Band D rates rising even if precepting bodies did not increase their demands. We have been led to believe by NALC that the Government are considering measures for local councils to be removed from the tax base to resolve this issue but have yet to have this confirmed.
- b. Two is the threat of local councils being included within new regulations for automatic referendums of excessive increases of council tax. Indications from CLG were that for the coming financial year at least we would not be included but until we have further guidance on this, local councils should be mindful of it.

Those councils which are affected by the district timetable for final demands to be issued before January 2013 can still send in the demand but are advised to inform the billing authority that the figure may be adjusted subject to new information.

Suffolk Passenger Transport

Several bus services will change during November and December 2012. A new downloadable timetable is available from:

[http://www.suffolkonboard.com/timetables leaflets/passenger transport service changes](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/timetables_leaflets/passenger_transport_service_changes)

or by contacting us on 0845 606 6171

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