

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park on Wednesday, 11th April 2012

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman
Cllr B Newell
Cllr A Wells
Cllr J Booth
Cllr L Smith
Cllr M Briggs
Cllr G Watts
Cllr A Day
Cllr E Lawrence
Cllr B Davies
PCSO Andi Hillman
Mrs A J Buggs – Clerk

50.12 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P O'Brien - Suffolk County Council / Suffolk Coastal District Council, Pc Paul Smith, Cllr J Batham and Cllr V Falconer – Suffolk Coastal District Council.

51.12 Declaration of interest

A declaration of interest was declared by Cllr Smith for Item 15 Planning on the agenda.

52.12 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 14th March 2012 were approved as being a true record and signed by the Chairman.

53.12 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

54.14 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

- Suffolk Police – PC Paul Smith – written report
- Cllr P O'Brien – Suffolk Coastal District Council / Suffolk County Council – written report
- Cllr V Falconer – Suffolk Coastal District Council – please refer to the March report.

The meeting was re-convened.

55.12 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report had previously been circulated and it was agreed that some of the items should be discussed as per the agenda.

SALC Training

The new SALC Training Schedule has been distributed to all councillors. If any councillors would like to attend a training course please let me know as soon as possible.

It was agreed that Graeme Watts should attend the two day Councillor Training Course on 14th and 21st June 2012.

Funding Availability for Suffolk Foundation

Suffolk Foundation has available funding from the Transforming Suffolk Community fund (closing date for applications to the next grants round are 21st May 2012. Any parish voluntary/charitable community groups are advised to contact Sue Wright Suffolk Foundation on 01473 734127.

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council website is now complete and details have been sent to all councillors for comment. The website will need to be kept up to date with the latest events, agenda, minutes, planning applications and news from our District and County Councillors.

Annual Suffolk Coastal Town and Parish Council, Information and Consultation Meeting

Suffolk Coastal District Council is holding two Annual Parish Council and Town Council Information and Consultation Meetings.

Tuesday, 24th April 2012 6.30 - 8.30 pm Suffolk Coastal District Council, Council Chamber

Monday, 20th April 2012 6.30 – 8.30 pm The Market Hall Saxmundham

These events provide an opportunity for an open discussion around local and national issues, whilst providing improved understanding between the Town, Parish and District Council.

Preliminary topics for discussion will include, The Localism Bill, East Suffolk Partnership, Community Led Planning, and working together to support local communities.

In attendance will be the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and appropriate Officers. The sessions will include presentations from Superintendent Phil Aves Suffolk Police, Chris Bally, Assistant Director, Suffolk County Council and Dr Wil Gibson, Chief Executive, Suffolk Acre.

Please could you confirm your attendance by contacting Lacey Crowe on 01502 523301 – Lacey.Crowe@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

Cllr Wells stated he would be attending the meeting at Suffolk Coastal District Council on Tuesday, 24th April 2012.

56.12 Localism Act 2011 / Neighbourhood Plans

The Clerk reported that she had approached Hilary Hanslip Suffolk Coastal District Council to give a presentation at a Parish Council Meeting. Hilary has indicated that she would prefer to meet with a

small group from the Parish Council during the day or early evening. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Hilary asking for some dates and times.

57.12 Future Plans for the Parish

Hollies Site

Cllr Newell reported that the Hollies Site could be developed to build small one or two bedroomed bungalows for purchase by older retired people who would like to downsize to smaller properties in the area. Although concern was expressed over the local bus service Cllr Newell stressed that she envisaged the properties would be purchased by able-bodied older people who would like to continue living in the country.

Cllr Newell stated that she believed that there is sufficient land to also build a Community Hall and that additional land owned by Trinity Park would not be required.

Chris Bushby Trinity Park was present at the meeting and reported that the Hollies has planning permission for office use, however if the value of the land changes ie planning permission for housing, an uplift would be incurred by the developer.

Felixstowe Road

Cllr Newell expressed concern that the land along the railway line from the Storage Facility to Admiral Windows is intended for commercial use which would be an addition to Ransomes Europark. Cllr Day supported this view and suggested the following action be taken by the Parish Council:

1. Contact Anne Westover Suffolk Coastal District Council with regard to planting trees now to ensure privacy for the residents before the area is developed.
2. Write to Ipswich Borough Council stating that we are concerned about the encroaching development and the impact on the parish as it does not appear that consideration has been given to the disturbance to the residents on the opposite side of Felixstowe Road.
3. Write to Ipswich Borough Council concerning the lighting on Ransomes Europark.

58.12 Visibility Woodhouse Lane / Bucklesham Road

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Suffolk Association of Local Councils who has stated that the council do not have a power that allows expenditure on items for an individual if it is intended only for their use. However, if it is situated on public land or by agreement on private land and intended to assist with a general safety issue it could be provided by the council. Whether or not it attracts the possibility of a liability will be a matter for the council insurance policy and the council should consider undertaking a risk assessment and contact the insurance company to find out whether this would attract a liability or an additional premium.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact their insurance company and report back to the next Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Davies stated that the landowner was prepared to have the hedge trimmed back to give wider visibility. It was agreed that Cllr Smith should find out the legal position regarding whether or not the hedge is on private or public land.

59.12 Brightwell Seat

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Suffolk Association of Local Councils regarding the legal position regarding the positioning of the seat in Brightwell. The SALC have suggested that the Parrish Council place a notice on Brightwell Notice Board, the Parish Newsletter and the Parish Council website stating the council's intentions.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should erect notices stating that it is the council's intention to arrange for a seat to be sited in July 2012 for the benefit of the local residents.

60.12 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that she had written to Anne Westover Suffolk Coastal District Council asking whether she would give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting on suitable trees for planting in the parishes.

The Clerk reported that she had not received a reply to her request. Cllr Smith said that he would be meeting Anne Westover in the near future and would discuss the request and report back to the Clerk.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be advertised on the Parish Council Notice Boards, the notice board at J Sainsburys, Bucklesham School and the Parish Council website. It was also agreed that a notice should be placed on the Parish Council notice boards advertising the new website.

It was agreed that timing of the evening should be as follows:

Annual Parish Meeting – 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Brightwell – 7.00 pm
Foxhall – 7.10 pm
Purdis Farm – 7.20 pm
7.20 – 7.30 pm Questions
7.30 pm Guest Speaker

Annual Parish Council Meeting 8.00 pm

61.12 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

Clerk's Salary and Expenses March 2012	£
SALC Subscription 2012/2013	£633.00
St Augustine's Church Hall – Hire of Hall 02/03/2012 Extra Hour	£8.70
HMRC Payment – (Jan-Mar 2012)	£184.47

Precept 2012/2013

A letter has been received from Suffolk County Council District Council informing the council that the precept for 2012/2013 will be paid as follows:

£2,750 on 30th April 2012
£2,750 on 28th September 2012

Cllr Warham proposed, seconded Cllr Booth that the above expenditure be agreed – all in favour.

62.12 Correspondence

- a. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Brightwell Church requesting a donation to help with the upkeep of the churchyard. It was agreed that the Clerk should check the outstanding balance of the recycling credits and report back to the next meeting.
- b. The Council noted that LAIS 1327.2 regarding Traveller Policy had been received from Suffolk Association of Local Councils and circulated to all councillors.
- c. The Council noted that LAIS1327.1 regarding National Policy Planning Framework had been received from Suffolk Association of Local Councils and circulated to all councillors.

63.12 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

- a. Cllrs Day and Wells reported that they had attended the Neighbourhood Planning event on the 21st March organised by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils which they have found to be very informative.
- b. Cllr Warham reported that she had attended the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting on the 21st March. Only two items were relevant to the parishes.
 1. Concerns about speeding along Murrills Road – Pc Smith will ask the speed enforcement team, the Specials and SNT officers to conduct speeds checks in the area.
 2. Speeding and using mobile phones when driving – Concerns were raised in relation to motorists speeding and using mobile phones whilst driving. Also reported was an incident of motorcycles speeding and undertaking and overtaking recklessly. PS Harper stated that if this is witnessed registration numbers could be taken and then passed to the police for them to action where appropriate.

64.12 Planning

The Parish Council discussed the following planning applications:

PC1027

SCDC C12/0523 Purdis Poppy Farm Purdis Farm Lane Purdis Farm – Change of use of agricultural buildings to Class B(iii) light industrial (resubmission).

As a result of discussions it was agreed to send the following letter to Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department.

The Group Parish Council opposes this application for the following reasons:

1. There is confusion about the proposed use in this application. Both at a public meeting and also to the District Councillor and residents, the applicant has spoken of flat-pack units being imported and assembled here. Is this really second-hand furniture and if so where is it being disassembled or is it reproduction? Greater clarity is needed here.

2. The applicant has also said on both occasions that “this is a one man business (Jimmy)”, but the application proposes possible future employment opportunities for local residents. This suggests the intention for possible future expansion. The Group Parish Council is fearful of intensification post any apparently straightforward application. The application makes no contribution to the local economy.
3. Previous agricultural use of the access over the past 50 years has been considerably less than suggested in the supporting statement. Lairage attempts were not successful and therefore short-lived because the lorries, smaller than 7.5 tonnes, became stuck in the sandy track across the heath. Current use of the access by agricultural vehicles to fields, not now owned by the applicant, is low and sporadic according to the seasons. The most recent use of buildings was for the fattening of pigs involving movements only every 12 or 14 weeks. The vehicle used for the movement of pigs was small and much less than 7.5 tones.
4. The applicant describes the vehicle as a van. The general understanding of a van is less than 3.5 tonnes, 7.5 tonnes is certainly a lorry. The egress from Purdis Avenue on to Bucklesham Road is narrow and hazardous for any vehicle. It is on a bend and visibility is limited.
5. Purdis Avenue is a private road maintained by its residents and bordered to the east by open access woodland. It is single track with no passing places, pot-holed, not drained and the surface is unsuitable for regular use by a 7.5 tonne vehicle. A previous submission has stated that movements could be up to 10 per working week (ie daily in and out). The condition of this road is already threatened by another application for private housing.
6. The access crosses Purdis Heath. This is an SSSI and is the beginning of the 60-mile Sandlings Path through the Suffolk Heathlands. It supports a colony of the endangered Silver Studded Blue butterfly. The narrow track has a loose sand surface, is a public footpath and unsuitable for lorries of this size. The Parish Council is most concerned for the environmental sustainability and survival of the heath because of the continued increasing pressure from development.
7. The supporting statement says there is no effect on biodiversity but there has been no environmental assessment and neither English Nature nor RSPB have been consulted.

The Parish Council believes that this application is contrary to the LDF Core Strategy and Development Policies December 2011 as follows:

DM14 Farm Diversification – The use proposed should have regard to the immediate road network and accessibility to the primary road network and should not lead to traffic movements that would prejudice highway safety, the free flow of traffic or materially harm the living conditions of the residents.

DM15 Agricultural Buildings and Structures – The local road network system is inadequate and the site is not well related to a primary road network.

This application will detrimentally affect the quality of life, financial burden and safety of access to properties, for the local residents. It will not raise the quality of life and the environment for the local community. It does not respect or enhance the local distinctiveness or intrinsic qualities of the countryside.

PC1028 SCDC C12/0556 59 Woodrush Road Purdis Farm – Erection of two-storey side and single-storey rear extensions. PC Comments: No objection.

PC1029 SCDC C12/0518 87 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm – Erection of single-storey and two-storey rear extensions. PC Comments: No objection.

PC1030 SCDC C12/0585 Purdis Poppy Farm Purdis Farm Lane – Erection of annexe.

65.12 Members questions to the Chairman

a. Better Broadband Suffolk

Cllr Davies presented his report on the Better Broadband Suffolk Conference he had attended recently as follows:

1. The aim is to raise access speeds to a minimum of 24 MB per second for 90% of all inhabitants and businesses.
 2. The remaining 10% (many of whom currently have no access at all) will be improved to at least 2 MB per second probably using local wireless or satellite links initially.
 3. It is intended that this will be completed by 2015, though the most deprived areas will be given priority and are expected to be largely complete earlier.
 4. The ultimate aim is to have 100 MB per second available to every household and businesses by 2020.
- b. Cllr Day reported that he had been in contact with Suffolk County Council concerning the Felixstowe Road Service Road parking who had stated that this matter had not been taken forward as they had not received a response from the Parish Council. However, the member of staff who was dealing with the matter has apparently left the council. It was agreed that a copy of the Parish Council's original response should be forwarded to Andrew Pearce Suffolk County Council Phoenix House.
- c. Parish Plan – Robert Shaw has stated that the 'first' draft of the Parish Plan will be completed by week ending 14th April 2012.
- d. Cllr Newell requested that two new grit bins be purchased to be located in Monument Farm Lane and Hall Road. It was agreed to place this item on the next Parish Council agenda for discussion.
- e. Cllr Warham reported that the yellow lines adjacent to Sainsbury's Petrol Station in Murrills Road were now in place.

66.12 Date of next meeting

The Annual Parish Meetings will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 9th May 2012 followed by a presentation at 7.30 pm and the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 8.00 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07 pm.

Signed Date.....

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council