

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park on Wednesday, 14th November 2012

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman

Cllr A Wells

Cllr A Day

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr B Newell

Cllr G Watts

Cllr B Davies

Cllr M Briggs

Cllr L Smith

Cllr V Falconer

Mrs A J Buggs – Clerk

1 member of the public

159.12 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Booth, Cllr Batham, Cllr Patricia O’Brien, PC Paul Smith and PCSO Andi Hillman.

160.12 Declaration of interest

Cllr Smith declared an interest in Item 7 Planning of the agenda.

161.12 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 10th October were approved as being a true record.

162.12 Matters arising from the minutes

Charity Bins – Sainsburys

The Clerk reported that she had written to Sainsbury’s Head Office regarding the thefts from the charity bins. A reply had been received stating that although the charity bins are located at the back of the store they are constantly monitored by CCTV cameras. The Store Manager has advised that they are unable to move the bins to the front of the store but he would look at the possibility of adding a lock to the bins.

Cllr Newell reported that she had been to inspect the bins and that in her opinion they are too small to allow an adult to access the bins and felt that children were being used to get into the bins to retrieve clothes. Cllr Newell proposed that as this is a health and safety issue the Parish Council should contact Oxfam, as the owners of the bins, raising the safety concerns. **Action: Clerk**

163.12 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

- Suffolk Police – PC Paul Smith – written report.

Crimes reported between 5th October – 12th November 2012

Brightwell

No crimes reported for this period.

Foxhall

No crimes reported for this period

Purdis Farm

Sainsburys Crimes

10 offences of theft from shop – 7 detected, 3 undetected.

2nd November 2012 – During daylight hours in a busy supermarket unknown offenders have removed a purse that was in an unattended shopping trolley. Enquiries on going.

Pine Drive – 7th October 2012 – During the early evening unknown offenders have entered a residential property through an insecure door and stolen various items of jewellery and electrical equipment. Enquiries on-going.

Meadow Crescent – between 9th September and 18th October 2012 – During the stated period a pushbike has been stolen from an insecure garage. No further lines of enquiry.

Pine Drive – 29th October 2012 – During the hours of darkness unknown offenders have tried to gain entry to a residential property with no luck and have then made a search of the garden shed. Nothing has been stolen. Enquiries on-going.

Hazel Drive – 31st October 2012 – During the hours of darkness unknown offenders have thrown a hammer through the window of a residential property. Enquiries on-going.

- Cllr P O'Brien – Suffolk Coastal District Council / Suffolk County Council – written report

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

The Cabinet has agreed to go ahead with developing a full business case for increased collaboration and/or merger between Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Fire Authorities. This will include a full public consultation on the option of a merger of both authorities.

This is being considered because, although Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service is one of the most efficient and effective in the country, the likely reductions in local government funding over the next few years will place unprecedented strain on this and other vital front-line services.

This gives SCC the opportunity for closer collaboration with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority and, if possible, full merger. This could present the best means by which savings can be made to back-office costs.

In a climate of ever-reducing resources, we must explore every possible option for savings, and thus protect this, and other front-line services.

Felixstowe Fire Station

The first phase of the crewing reduction, from 12 to 8 full time firemen, has been successful.

Over the 12 months of the review, two thirds of the calls to the station were attended by on-call firemen. The number attended by full-time firemen effectively amounted to 1.3 calls a week. During this period, they responded to no fatal fires.

The new fire station at Ipswich East, just 8 miles away, has opened, with three fire engines and an aerial appliance to add resilience to the Felixstowe area.

The next stage of changes will be to move to a 'nucleus crewed model', as set out in June 2011's cabinet report. This involves a further reduction in full-time firemen from 8 down to 4.

It is important to stress that the changes are being phased with care.

Joint Suffolk and Norfolk Gypsy and Traveller Strategy

The above draft joint strategy has been approved together with the associated action plan for the next two years. This will provide a clear joint framework for tackling issues across both countries.

Future Back-Office Requirements of Suffolk County Council

A formal procurement process for the provider/s of our back-office services is to begin.

Our current contract with Customer Services Direct comes to an end in 2014. SCC needs to ensure that alternative arrangements are in place by then.

The back-office functions include: finance, HR, ICT and services for schools.

Police and Crime Scrutiny Panel

I have been elected as Chairman of the above. The election of the Police Commissioner takes place on 15th November.

Locality Budget £2,000

I would like your projects as soon as possible.

- Cllr V Falconer – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written/verbal report

This report will be fairly brief as casting my thoughts over the last couple of months, though busy but not an awful lot to update you on.

Members Briefings, Meetings, Hearings and Conferences

Subjects have included Water Management, Localism Act (which I still find a mystery) Safeguarding Children where I learnt that Lowestoft has the second highest incidence of teenage pregnancies in Europe. The Suffolk Coastal and Estuaries Community Conference covering subjects such as The Crown Estates, Saltmarshes and Levies/Sea Walls, The Shotley Project etc. Wind Turbines up to 40

metres high. We now need training on Solar Panel Farms. Involvement with the Deben Estuary Partnership has been heavy. The DEP Plan is due to come out in April 2013, and it will form one of the consultee bodies to be used in all future planning applications to safeguard the Deben Estuary. I chaired a meeting Licensing and Health Panel Review re a Bar/Restaurant in Felixstowe at the request of nearby residents.

Planning

The latest 'in' applications seem to be Solar Farms – another form of Renewable Energy. Planning Application C12/2059 just outside Bucklesham – land between the C375 and the A14. 62 acres 40,000 Black Solar Panels in rows. There will be a 6 ft deer security fence surrounding it. A pop-in session to see the plans was held on Monday at Levington Village Hall. The construction will take approximately 3 months to erect. There is still time to write in.

This is the third Solar Panel Planning Application in SCDC – 29 ha at Parham Air Field and 51.29 ha (127 acres) at Church Farm Hacheston.

Landscape/Tree Warden

Suffolk Coastal District Council continues to make cut backs and savings and sadly Anne Westover has recently been made redundant. Her loss will be felt throughout the District. She is hoping to set up on her own so those seeking valuable advice will still be able to contact her. Suffolk Coastal District Council replacement will be operating from Waveney DC.

Reminder

The Police and Crime Commissioners Election take place on Thursday, 15th November next – you can vote at Bucklesham Village Hall. There are four candidates.

Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Inspector's Examination

This is now taking place (7 days in all). Representatives from BT, Hopkins, Persimmon and Bloor Homes along with barristers, SCC Highways, Education and the Environment Agency. NANT, STAG, Martlesham Trimly St Martin, Trimley St Mary, Ipswich and Waldringfield Parish/Town Councils are participating which is making for a very interesting examination – highly professional. The last day is tomorrow the 15th in the Council Chamber 10 am to 1 pm.

The meeting was re-convened.

164.12 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.

Ash Dieback Disease

An email has been received from Suffolk Coastal District Council regarding the outbreak of ash dieback disease (*Chalara fraxinea*) confirmed in 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 Forest 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 County Council. When this is received we can then order suitable grit bins.

Budget Setting 2013/2014

SALC have advised that budgets should be agreed by Parish Councils however they 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

or by contacting us on 0845 606 6171.

165.12 Planning

The Planning Committee Chairman reported that the following applications were in the process of being circulated to Planning Committee members:

C12/2288 111 Bucklesham Road **Purdis Farm** – Proposed replacement dwelling and associated cart lodge

C12/2301 Foxburrow Farm Waldringfield Road **Brightwell** – Change of use of existing redundant agricultural barns to Class B1 (business) use

C12/2307 74 Bucklesham Road **Purdis Farm** Erection of a two-storey side/rear extension to house and associated alterations

C12/00143/TPO134A Bucklesham Road **Purdis Farm** 1 Oak Crown reduction by 33% and thinning to 2 Sycamore

166.12 Locality Budget 2012/2013

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Cllr O'Brien regarding the purchasing of a 40 mph flashing sign for Felixstowe Road from the Locality Budget. A reply had been received stating that Suffolk County Council Highways Department believe that fixed signs can be thought to dilute effectiveness and were favouring the use of mobile flashing signs which could be moved around different parishes.

Following discussion Cllr Warham proposed, seconded Cllr Briggs that the Locality Budget should be used for the following:

- Waste Bin – Murrills Road Bus Shelter. It was agreed that the Clerk should apply to Suffolk County Council Highways for a licence to erect a waste bin.
- Waste Bins – Woodrush Road area Purdis Farm
- Grit Bins – Foxhall (Waddling Duck Hall Road and Spring Bank Farm Monument Farm Lane). It was agreed that the Clerk should apply to Suffolk County Council Highways for a licence to erect two grit bins.
- Purchase trees to be planted between Admirals Windows and the Trinity Park roundabout on the Admirals Windows side of the road. Cllr Smith to investigate with Suffolk County Council Highways to ascertain who owns the land. **Action: Cllr Smith**

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Cllr O'Brien putting forward the proposal for using the Locality Budget. **Action: Clerk**

167.12 Parish Meeting Dates 2013

The meeting dates for 2013 were confirmed as the second Wednesday each month except August as follows:

9th January 2013
13th February 2013
13th March 2013
10th April 2013
8th May 2013 (including Annual Parish Meeting)
12th June 2013
10th July 2013
11th September 2013
9th October 2013
13th November 2013

11th December 2013

Action: Clerk

168.12 Jubilee Trees

Members discussed various planting locations for a Jubilee Tree. It was agreed that Cllr Smith should investigate various locations based on the information which had been supplied by Anne Westover. It was agreed that the Clerk should report at the next meeting the finance available to cover the cost of the trees. **Action: Cllr Smith / Clerk**

169.12 Budget 2013/2014

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils regarding the following:

- a. Updated LTN 80 includes new guidance Under S34 on granting dispensation to councillors before setting the precept. NALC are of the view that because there are differing legal opinions on this matter the safest thing to do is to grant a dispensation. This being the case it is advised that councils consider giving the Clerk the delegated power to grant a dispensation in the circumstances whereby the council is inquorate for an item under LGA 1972 s101(1)(a).
- b. There are two issues that have yet to be officially resolved or confirmed:
 1. 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 had 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.
 2. Two is the threat of local councils being included within new regulations for automatic referendum of excessive increases of council tax. Indications from CLG were that for the coming financial year at least we would not be included 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 can still send in the demand but are advised to inform the billing authority that the figure may be adjusted subject to new information.

The budget having been previously circulated was discussed by councillors and the following amendments were agreed.

Subscriptions should be increased by 5% to £682.00 and Section 137 Donations of £500 should be removed from the budget. Councillors believe that it is necessary to increase the precept for the financial year 2013/2014 due to the rapidly increasing local population.

Cllr Newell proposed, seconded Cllr Warham that the Parish Council should accept the budget with the amendments and the precept for 2013/2014 should be set at £7,000 – all in favour.

In view of the comments received from Suffolk Association of Local Council it was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the December 2012 meeting. **Action: Clerk**

169.12 Future Plans for the Parish

No further discussions. Defer until next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

170.12 Brightwell Seat

Cllr Newell reported that due to the bad weather it had not been possible to erect the seat. **Action: Cllr Newell**

171.12 Finance

Income

Precept £2750.00

Expenditure

Clerk's Salary and Expenses October 2012 £255.03

Cllr Warham proposed, seconded Cllr Briggs that the above expenditure is approved – agreed.

172.12 Correspondence

- a. The Clerk reported that an email had been received regarding First Revision of 76 and 77 Bus Services. Cllr Lawrence reported that the service had improved since the change in the timetable however this view was not the opinion of all councillors. It was agreed that any emails received regarding the bus services should be passed to Cllr Lawrence. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Lawrence**
- b. The Clerk reported that a request had been received from Magpas – The Emergency Medical Charity to make a financial donation to the charity. It was agreed that the Parish Council should not make a donation.
- c. Outdoor Playing Space Contributions

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Suffolk Coastal District Council regarding the outdoor playing space contributions. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the local authority asking for further clarification. **Action: Clerk**

173.12 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

- a. Suffolk Association of Local Councils Area Meeting

Cllr Briggs reported that she had attended the recent Suffolk Association of Local Councils Area Meeting. There had been a presentation by Suffolk County Council Highways Department about illegal road signs. Any sign on a grass verge is illegal however it is not practical to go round and remove every sign. Cllr Smith said that he would not advise anybody to take them down due to the risk to life. Additionally cars parked on the highway displaying a "For Sale" sign is also illegal and SCC Highways will send a text to tell owners they are breaking the law.

- b. Foxhall Charity

Cllr Newell reported she was now the Chairman of the charity due to the resignation of Bob Brander. Margaret Davies is now the Clerk to the charity due to the resignation of Bev Chesterman.

174.12 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Fly Tipping Kennels Road

Cllr Newell reported that she had reported instances of fly tipping.

- b. Foxhall Waste Bin

Cllr Newell stated that she had reported to the Clerk that the waste bin by the Foxhall village seat had been stolen. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Parish Council's insurance company. **Action: Clerk**

- c. Lighting John Bank's Honda

Cllr Day asked Cllr Smith whether any progress had been made with Suffolk Coastal District Council with regard to the lighting at John Bank's Honda. Cllr Smith reported that Naomi Goold the Planning Officer had stated that a refusal notice had been issued in 2005 and that she was going to ring/write to Honda. Cllr Smith agreed to contact Naomi Goold again. **Action: Cllr Smith**

- d. Admirals Windows / Boat Shop Felixstowe Road

Cllr Day reported that Admirals Windows/Boat Shop premises were an eye-saw. He said that signs had been put up on the fence of the property. Cllr Smith stated that if the signs can be seen from the road and are more than half a metre square then Planning Permission is required. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department. **Action: Clerk**

175.12 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 12th December 2012 at Trinity Park

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.42 pm.

Signed Date.....

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