

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park on Wednesday, 10th April 2013

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman

Cllr A Wells

Cllr B Newell

Cllr G Watts

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr A Day

Cllr L Smith

Mrs A J Buggs – Clerk

1 member of the public

57.13 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Booth, Cllr M Briggs, Cllr B Davies, Cllr V Falconer, Cllr P O'Brien, PC Paul Smith and PCSO Andi Hillman.

58.13 Declaration of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

59.13 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 13th March 2013 were approved as being a true record with the following amendment.

Page 9 – Item 50.13 Boundary Changes

Cllr Watts reported that the number of councillors at Suffolk Coastal District will be reduced by 12 to 43. This will now be considered by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and then put out for public consultation from the 23rd April until the 3rd June 2013 and information will be sent out all councils. **Action: Clerk**

60.13 Matters arising from the minutes

Page 1 – Item 04.13 Matters Arising from the Minutes

04.13 Admiral Windows / Boat Shop Felixstowe Road

Councillors expressed concern that the advertising notices outside the Boat Shop had still not been removed. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to David Chenery Suffolk County Council Highways (Copy to Naomi Goold Planning Officer Suffolk Coastal District Council) concerning this matter. **Action: Clerk**

Page 7 – Item 41.13 Clerks Report

Club House, Former Civil Service Sports Ground, Straight Road, Foxhall

The Clerk reported that she had again written to Daniel Kinsman Environmental Health Officer Suffolk Coastal District Council as it had been reported that children were playing on the site. Daniel Kinsman has replied saying that he shares the Parish Council's concern about the premises and that he had met with PC Paul Smith and PCSO Andi Hillman to discuss. As a result of the email from the Parish Council he has again spoken to the owners of the premises and said that he needed action to be taken if not he would be serving notice and organising the work to be undertaken by SCDC. If the work is not commenced very soon he will begin the process of the Council formally conducting the necessary works given the state of the buildings and continuing reports of young people accessing the site. It was agreed that the Clerk should continue to liaise with Daniel and the police to ensure an early resolution to this problem. **Action: Clerk**

Page 9 – 52.13 Future Plans for Parish

Clr Wells queried Clr Newell's comment that Martlesham is now with Waldringfield and Newbourne which means it is now separated from Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm. Clr Newell confirmed that this related to planning considerations.

The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

- Suffolk Police – PC Paul Smith – written report.

Brightwell

No crimes reported for this period.

Foxhall

7th April 2013 – Woodhouse Lane – Overnight unknown offenders have entered a livery yard and forced the locks to gain entry to outbuildings. Once inside, they have stolen various power tools. Enquiries on going.

Sainsbury's Crimes

8 offences of theft from shop – 7 detected and 1 undetected.

29th March 2013 – Home Base – Overnight entry has been gained to the compound of the store by forcing the service yard fencing. Once inside the offenders have removed approximately 50 metal trolleys. Enquiries on going.

Purdis Farm

No crimes reported for this period.

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

Suffolk County Council Annual Report 2013

We are all aware that the economic situation is serious and so local government, along with everyone else, has to take tough, but necessary decisions, in order to deliver services. We have made efficiency savings in reorganisation, the way in which we deliver services and, most

importantly, by working with other authorities. Government grants have reduced, and will continue to do so, thus changes to the way services are delivered is inevitable. More services will be provided by outside bodies but with the council remaining in the background to ensure ease of transfer and stability. However, despite the above Suffolk CC is wedded to growth and opportunity within the county, as you will see later in my report.

There will be no increase in council tax this year. This is the third consecutive year that the county council has frozen its share of council tax.

Alongside the freeze in council tax, the council voted through a budget for the next 12 months that will achieve savings of £25million – the second part of a plan to save £50million over two years. The savings will be achieved by reducing management and back office costs, cutting bureaucracy and working in new, innovative and more efficient ways.

During this year's budget debate Mark Bee, Leader of SCC, announced that the number one Conservative pledge at the forthcoming county elections would be a four year freeze in council tax.

Responsibility for the day to day running of the county's library series was transferred to Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) at the beginning of August last year. All Suffolk's 44 libraries, mobile, school and prison library services now come under the direct control of the IPS – a first in the country – which works in partnership with local library groups to support and expand the service.

Schools in the Haverhill and Lowestoft area, that were in the first phase of the move from 3 to 2 tier under the Schools Organisation Review, have shown early signs of improvement (in writing 12%, maths 6%) as shown in the SATS results. In its drive to lift educational standards SCC have launched 'Raising the Bar' an ambitious project involving secondary school head teachers, colleges and business leaders, who aim to raise the attainment and employability of young people in Suffolk. At present, there are 1,600 young people aged between 16 and 18 who are not involved in any form of education, training or work, while over 4,000 18-24 year olds are unemployed. Meanwhile new and emerging industries are creating a demand for new technical skills, on top of a strong foundation of academic achievement. Therefore, it is timely that 'Raising the Bar' will aim to develop a collective understanding of the key priorities for Suffolk's youth.

Proposals developed with Care UK will see SCCs existing 16 council run residential homes replaced by ten new homes benefiting from the latest in design and technology and with the opportunity to increase the number of specialist dementia beds. (The 16 existing council run homes were built up to 50 years ago, and the cost to the county council of bringing these up to modern standards would simply be prohibitive.)

The county council has been working with borough, district councils and local businesses to produce the Suffolk Growth Strategy a strategy designed to create an environment in which the private sector can develop economic growth and jobs within a detailed delivery timetable. At the same time, a new, official 'Invest in Suffolk' website was launched – an easily accessible site for businesses looking to invest in the county – www.investinsuffolk.com. A New 'Inward Investment Service' – made up of a team of professionals to provide a single point of contact for investors has been announced.

At a special meeting of the cabinet in September, it was stated that the county council would be working in partnership with BT to deliver the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme. By 2015, 9 out of 10 Suffolk properties will be connected to fibre-based broadband, with speeds of at least 10Mbps.

In May last year, the official construction of an energy-from-waste facility for Suffolk began. The site will open in December 2014, diverting 252,000 tonnes of waste a year from environmentally damaging landfill sites. The waste will be used to create enough electricity for 30,000 homes.

In September I was elected Chairman of the Police and Crime Scrutiny Panel. It comprises of 7 district councillors, 4 county councillors and 2 independent members. Our remit is to challenge and support the Police and Crime commissioner, Tim Passmore. Process, governance and rules and regulations inevitably required our early scrutiny. However, we have commented on the draft Police and Crime Plan, which sets out the objectives and priorities for the Commissioner, the precept and agreed the appointment of the new Chief Constable, Douglas Paxton.

I have spent my local budget on such projects as grit bins, Christmas lights, jubilee mugs, tree felling, tree planting, tree survey, solar panels, soakaways, loo refurbishment, village hall heating system.

I am standing for re-election in the forthcoming county elections on the 2nd May.

Suffolk Coastal District Council Annual Report 2013

As stated in my SCC report, all local authorities have to find savings because of the decrease in government grant and the financial situation. SCDC is no exception. SCDC must save £1m this year and this will. Be achieved by change and innovation. Working ever closer with Waveney Council has produced savings for the 2 councils of £7m. There will be no increase in council tax.

A review of the boundaries for district council wards is underway. At present there are wide variations in the number of voters that councillors represent, the work councillors do and meetings they attend. These have reduced eg I am a member of one committee, The Audit Committee. At Full Council it was agreed that the number of councillors be reduced from 55 to 43. The Boundary Commission will be conducting the review.

For the past 6 years, it seems longer, I and many others have objected to the LDF, the Core Strategy for Suffolk Coastal in relation to the building of 2,000 houses at Adastral Park. I have presented my arguments in letter form and spoken at public meetings and hearings. We now appear to be entering the final phase of the Core Strategy; in January public hearings, by a government planning inspector, were held. The result of the hearings, a document, Main Modifications to the Pre-Submission of SC Core Strategy, is out for consultation until 5th April. I have responded to this document and the parish council has a copy. However, SCDC has stated that there will be a review in 2015 to consider Issues and Options as there is expectation that SCDC may have to consider another 3,000 houses by 2027.

All households have received a copy of SCDC Coastline publication that gives up to date information on the council's business.

- Cllr V Falconer – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written report.

The years do fly by and here we are again ending yet another yet. Over the year I have tried to keep up to date with various things that have been doing on.

As mentioned in previous years, the latest edition of Coastline which came out last month, details most of Suffolk Coastal highlights. A copy of this should have gone to every home in the District. Pages 6 and 7 highlight some of the Council's achievements.

The Nacton Ward

Here in Suffolk Coastal we still enjoy a relatively safe, peaceful and relaxed lifestyle and despite all the doom and gloom that is going on. I hope and believe that will continue for a long time to come. The Ward has kept me extremely busy with Planning Applications for everything from extensions, numerous new builds, wind turbines, solar panel farms to discussions with future applicants for large developments at Trinity Park 300 dwellings, Purdis Farm 25 dwellings and the former Amberfield site 25 dwellings.

In addition, one has been keeping an ear and eye open for future development on the outskirts of the Ward that will possibly impact on this area – at present most of these are on the outskirts of Felixstowe – Innocence Farm – 200 acres with possible huge container depot with railway terminal. Tesco's development at Walton, another large convenience food store proposed along with improvements to Felixstowe Station and development of the Mushroom Farm at Trimley St Martin for 66 dwellings. A huge amount of our greenfield land is fast vanishing.

Review of the Planning Services

In 2010, 13 recommendations on how the Planning Service could be improved took place and in November 2012 it was resolved that the Head of Planning Mr Ridley, be asked to provide further progress on these 13 recommendations taking into account Development Management, Building Control and the Planning Support Teams of both SC and Waveney. This he duly did but the wonderful new IT facility – Idox Uniform system – which is being operated by Waveney DC, who is a market leader in its field, is still not up and running due to various delays. The system will enable everyone to view all the Planning Applications, letters, maps, etc. Hopefully this will start in June/July this year.

General – Suffolk Coastal

The Government has reduced the Council's spending power by £1,025,000 or 7% however –

1. For the 3rd year, SC is freezing its Council Tax.
2. Suffolk Coastal local economy is the biggest in Suffolk and its growth means the Council will get more Government money to support local projects.
3. Vital coastal defence works costing over £10 million in Felixstowe has been completed as well as defence work at Thorpeness.
4. The pioneering partnership (which I have mentioned many many times) means that Waveney DC and Suffolk Coastal new business plan services will be more efficient and value for money. This partnership working has driven down the costs of the two councils by over £7 million.
5. SC are working hard with EDF and SCC to ensure that if Sizewell C is built, jobs are maximised and there will be benefits to the communities.
6. The Felixstowe South Seafront development costing £20 million started last summer and will see not only new homes but leisure and more car parking facilities.
7. In this District we have one of country's highest recycling rates. 58.2% of household waste is recycled or composted. Since July 2012, 92 tonnes of textiles have been collected through the kerbside service.
8. It is estimated that income from the New Homes Bonus could produce £750,000 in the next financial year. This is based on the number of new homes built and existing ones brought back into use.

9. Income from the business rates retention scheme will be in the region of £2 million. Money from these last two however, cannot be relied on in future years but it will allow SC to finance some new initiatives in the run-up to 2015.
10. Cleanliness of and repair of Public Conveniences has fulfilled 95% of its target.
11. Over the last few years many staff have left or been made redundant and the head count is now 319 of which 295 are full time workers. One can understand the reasons behind the possible office move in the next three years to a more eco friendly and fit for purpose building.

Reduction in District Council Members

As mentioned at the next election we will be voting for less councillors – at present there are 55 in Suffolk Coastal – Suffolk Coastal have made a recommendation to the Boundary Commission for 43 members and the Boundary Commission will make its final decision for this District in July 2014.

Apprentices

Suffolk Coastal/Waveney last year started an apprentice scheme – at present there are 8 working for both councils in a range of teams from HR to IT. The successful applicants will be supported to gain a Level 2 Business Administration or Customer Service apprenticeship. Permanent jobs are not guaranteed but their training and experience does improve their prospects and they are allowed to apply for internal vacancies. The Council employees benefit from their skills and enthusiasm.

Tourist Information Centre – Woodbridge

From 25th March this service started operation from Woodbridge Library.

LDF

This subject has once again dominated a huge amount of District Council work. Consultation on Issue 3 and 5 and the Sustainability Appraisal finished last week and we now await the Inspectors decision. It has been an exhausting on going exercise.

SCC Elections will be upon us in a month's time and the year rumbles on.

Thank you all and I remain as ever your councillor and will do the best for you and this Ward.

The meeting was re-convened.

61.13 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.

Notice of Election

Information has been received regarding the Notice of Election for the forthcoming elections a notice of which has been displayed on the notice board.

Precept Referendum Bill

Information regarding the precept referendum bill has been received from Suffolk Association of Local Councils as follows:

“Local councils will wish to be aware that a Bill was introduced on 19th March 2013 (first reading) which aims to cap local council precepts by imposing referendums on a precept increase of 2% or more. As it was introduced during the build up to the budget announcements the day after, there is a danger that this Bill will have gone largely unnoticed. It is the Parish and Town Council Precepts (Referendums) Bill.

Government has introduced a series of challenges to the historic local freedom to precept according to local need namely:

- The introduction of a central Government annual decision on whether to impose costly and automatic precept referendums on communities.
- The introduction of a new council tax system which has reduced the tax base, creating a starting point for the calculation of council tax (and precept) whereby its cost is spread across fewer households.
- The introduction of a paternalistic discretionary grant, designed to compensate local councils for the new council tax system, which subjugates local councils to the will of the local billing authority which has freedom to withhold the grant or provide it with conditions.
- The anticipated absence of a compensatory grant in 2014-2015 which, among other things, will leave those councils that reduced their precept and topped up their income with a grant in 2013-14 more vulnerable to automatic precept referendums if they are imposed in 2014-15.
- The introduction of this latest bill by Conservative MPs which aims to prevent local councils from increasing their precepts by 2% or more. Given the size of most local council precepts this figure is clearly misguided.
- The introduction of these measures, which take control away from local people, has a cumulative effect which take control away from local people, has a cumulative effect which seriously undermines the ability of local councils to:
 - Respond to the localism agenda.
 - Help communities to become more self-reliant and resilient.
 - Deliver or support valued services which have been cut by principal local authorities.
 - Identify and protect vulnerable groups.
 - Grant fund community, voluntary and charitable organisations and
 - Undertake meaningful engagement with the community.

The introduction of the Bill can be watched at:

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/main/player.aspx?meetingId=12780>

The Bill is not yet available but will be available on the Parliament site closer to the date of the second reading.”

Therese Coffey MP has replied to Suffolk Association of Local Councils as follows:

“Following our brief conversation last week, I thought I would write to give you my reasons for supporting the Ten Minute Rule Bill concerning requiring popular mandate for increases in precept beyond the limits prescribed for referendum for district and county councils. So you are aware, this Bill will not proceed further but is a nudge to DCLG to get on and resolve the outstanding matter.

I have previously contacted DCLG Ministers before on this matter.

My proposal is that increases above the % threshold and a de minimis amount should require endorsement at the Annual Meeting or at a Special General Meeting with a secret vote. This would reduce the cost of any ballot.

In recent years, council tax payers in Suffolk have had their council tax frozen for district and county council services. It is only through the Police (though not this year) and parish or town councils have increases been levied. Some councils have made substantial increases in their precept year on year. I think constituents deserve similar protection to such increases as they enjoy from other precepting authorities.

I recognise that the council tax base will be changing this year. I also commend Suffolk Coastal District Council for passing through the transition grant without conditions.”

Cllr Lawrence requested that the Parish Council should register their disagreement to the Bill and that we hold the same views as Suffolk Association of Local Councils. He went on to say that the area is going through a period of considerable expansion and if the Bill goes through it will limit what we can do as a Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

62.13 Planning

Applications Received

C13/0375 – Land at Oakhurst Bucklesham Road Foxhall – Erection of one two-storey dwelling – No objection.

63.13 Jubilee Tree

Cllr Smith reported that on receipt of the email from the Clerk he had submitted the Parish Council’s requirements to Suffolk Coastal Services but had not received a reply. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would contact the suppliers and report back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Smith**

64.13 Suffolk Coastal District Council Core Strategy Modifications

The Clerk reported that no comments had been received from councillors to submit to Suffolk Coastal District Council.

65.13 Grit Bin – Dogswood Close

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from a member of the public to install a grit bin adjacent to the corner of Dogswood Close / Woodrush Road. Following discussion it was agreed that due to the current number of grit bins in Woodrush Road it was not appropriate to install another bin.

66.13 To discuss letter from parishioner concerning various issues in Murrills Road

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from a member of the public which had been circulated to all councillors and discussions took place as follows:

Vehicles Speeding in Murrills Road

The Parish Council agreed that this is a police matter and considered that the Parish Council's duty is to encourage the police to investigate and take action in co-operation with the Council. There appears to be a problem but the police are monitoring the situation. The police reported at the last meeting that they were going to repeat the checks at different locations and the Parish Council should ensure that they do this as a matter of urgency. It was agreed that the Council should request copies of the police proposals and continue to monitor the situation. **Action: Clerk**

Other Traffic Issues in Murrills Road

The Parish Council considered that the issue of the use of mobile telephones, dangerous three point turns and failure to stop at a pedestrian crossing were all police matters and that there is no evidence that they occur more in Murrills Road than any other similar location but that they would bring this matter to the attention of the police.

Dog Bins

Cllr Watts reported that the green bin referred to in the email appears to be used. There is a street light close by which appears to be working. It is partly obscured by vegetation but is visible from at least 10 metres from the path leading from Murrills Road. It has the advantage of being located at the end of the path and at the crossroads between Whitethorn Road and Mill Road Drive thereby allowing dog walkers who choose to travel from Mill Road Drive to Whitethorn Road easy access. Following discussion the Parish Council agreed that they thought the bin was in the right place but should consider the possibility of siting an additional bin. It was agreed that the Clerk should put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

It was agreed that the Clerk should reply to the email outlining the comments made by the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

67.13 John Banks Honda – Light Pollution

The Clerk reported that as a result of the letter she had sent to Environmental Health Suffolk Coastal District Council with a copy to Naomi Goold Planning Officer Suffolk Coastal District Council she had been contacted by Naomi Goold who had visited the Honda/Suzuki site and spoken to Alan Harris the Sales Manager for the Suzuki building. He provided her with some further background. Naomi says that Mr Harris seems willing to try and resolve the situation. He is going to look into whether the lights are on a timer and what area the lighting illuminates. Naomi has suggested having a meeting with Alan Harris to try to resolve this matter. Daniel Kinsman Environmental Health Officer has stated that to take action he needs a letter of complaint from the resident.

Cllr Day stated that he had spoken to the resident concerned who will be writing formally to Environmental Health requesting that they take action. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Day**

68.13 Parking Problems – Purdis Farm

Cllr Briggs was not present at the meeting to report on this item therefore it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

69.13 Parish Plan

Cllr Day reported that a meeting had been held on Friday, 5th April to discuss the Parish Plan and it had been agreed that the action points should now be typed. He reported that the Parish Plan is making good progress. Cllr Day confirmed that the 'free text' had been added to the document.

70.13 Annual Parish Council Meeting / Annual Parish Meeting 2013

It was agreed that the Parish Meetings should commence at 7.00 pm and the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm. The Clerk reported that she had asked Christine Bond Trinity Park whether they would be in a position to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting regarding the development however Christine had replied that it was not anticipated that they could talk to the Parish Council until the end of the year.

71.13 Future Plans for Parish

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

72.13 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

Clerk's Salary & Expenses March 2013	£240.02
HMRC – Jan-March 2013	£154.48
SALC – Subscription	£648.00

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

Action: Clerk

73.13 Correspondence

- a. A1156 Parking Restriction Order. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Jane Stevenson Senior Legal Officer Suffolk County Council stating that the order will come into effect on the 15th April 2013 and that a period of 6 weeks is given for representations to be made as to the validity of the Order. It was agreed that Cllr Day should contact Jane Stevenson regarding the apparent delay for the Order to be implemented. **Action: Cllr Day**
- b. The Clerk reported that Suffolk Acre will be holding a Networking lunch in Woodbridge on the 17th May 2013 to provide information to voluntary and community organisations.

74.13 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

None

75.13 Members questions to the Chairman

None

76.13 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 8th May 2013 at Trinity Park

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.02 pm.

Signed Date.....

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