

## **BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes**

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013

#### **Present**

Cllr E Warham – Chairman

Cllr A Wells

Cllr B Newell

Cllr G Watts

Cllr L Smith

Cllr M Briggs

Cllr J Batham

Mrs A J Buggs – Clerk

1 member of the public

#### **01.13 Apologies for absence**

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

#### **02.13 Declaration of interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **03.13 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were approved as being a true record.

#### **04.13 Matters arising from the minutes**

##### **Admiral Windows / Boat Shop Felixstowe Road**

The Clerk reported that an acknowledgement had been received from the Planning Department Suffolk Coastal District Council stating they would be investigating the complaint by local residents that signs had been erected on the boundary fence. **Action: Clerk**

#### **05.12 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:**

- Suffolk Police – PC Paul Smith – written report.

##### **Crimes reported between 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

#### **Brightwell**

19<sup>th</sup> December 2012 Sheep Drift Farm – Overnight unknown offenders have stolen an industrial estate sign by cutting it from the posts. No further lines of enquiry.

## **Foxhall**

31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 Purdis Lane – During daylight hours an unknown offender has smashed the side window of a vehicle parked in Purdis Lane. Nothing was stolen from within. No further lines of enquiry.

## **Sainsbury's Crimes**

5 offences of theft from shop – 3 detected and 2 undetected.

17<sup>th</sup> December 2012 Sainsbury's Car Park – Offenders have stolen a quantity of clothing from the Oxfam charity bins at the location. Enquiries on-going.

## **Purdis Farm**

No crimes reported for this period.

- Cllr P O'Brien – Suffolk Coastal District Council / Suffolk County Council – no report
- Cllr V Falconer – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written report

## **Sizewell Consultation**

In December all parishes were issued with the Consultation Paper re the proposed construction of Sizewell C. The document requests your comments and there is a questionnaire to complete and submit by 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013 re proposed accommodation and transport sites. Three standalone lorry parks are earmarked in this Ward – two off the A1156 (old Felixstowe Road) opposite Trinity Park Showground, one more further down the road towards Felixstowe opposite the Crematorium up to the Seven Hill roundabout. Combined Lorry Parks and Park and Ride sites further up the A2 are also earmarked.

## **Council Tax**

There are changes to the Council Tax benefits which will be introduced in April 2013. We members were only informed just before Christmas and all parishes were informed of it and a meeting was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January to explain some of the changes. Reforms are being made to Council Tax legislation to give councils discretion in some discounts. Councils will be able to charge up to 00% in respect of second homes. Councils will be able to reduce the discounts awarded in respect of certain classes of empty homes to encourage them to be brought back into use more quickly. I believe Angie attended this meeting so can let you have the low down as it is complicated and will impact on your Council.

## **LDF**

The examination of the Core Strategy ended in November by a Government Inspector and he has now said that he will proceed with the consultation on the main modifications set out in Issue 4 (changes, which in the Inspector's view, will make the CS sound. As a result of this, a sustainability appraisal and parallel consultation will take place soon. However, on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 the Government unexpectedly announced that it had laid before Parliament an Order to revoke the East of England Plan known as the Regional Spatial Strategy and that this revocation would come into effect on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January. The Inspector has now requested that the Council delay consultation on its

Main Modifications until the RSS consultation has been completed. A special Full Council Meeting is to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January at 2 pm at The Riverside to consider these issues. All very unsettling and worrying.

### **Boundary Changes**

Parishes have been invited to attend a briefing session on future boundary changes on 6<sup>th</sup> February in the Council Chamber. This should be a very interesting session on the outcome of the review that the LGBCE (Local Government Boundary Commission for England) conducted last year on the size of Suffolk Coastal District Council, with a view to reducing the number of councillors that will represent the Council from May 2015. A briefing was held in November which I was unable to attend but I hope to go in February to hear all about ones future.

### **Solar Panel Farm**

An application for 40,000 Black Solar Panels to be erected on 62 acres of good agricultural land between Bucklesham and Levington adjacent to the A14 has been submitted. It is proposed it will provide electricity for 2,000 houses. It is due to be discussed by South Development Control on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 9 am.

**The meeting was re-convened.**

### **06.13 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.

### Future Plans for Parish

A letter was sent to Guy McGregor the Portfolio Holder for Road and Transport and David Chenery Suffolk County Council requesting that they urgently re-assess the traffic flow caused by the development of Waitrose and John Lewis plus the further future development. A reply was received from Guy McGregor stating that Suffolk County Council as a Highway Authority gives advice to District Councils (who are the Development Control Authority) but cannot direct a Decision. SCC will continue to monitor and give advice to District Councils on Highway matters.

A reply has been sent to Guy McGregor reiterating our request as follows:

“Thank you for your email explaining that the District Council is the Development Control Authority and that SCC as the Highway Authority gives advice re highway matters but cannot direct decisions.

As a Parish Council we realise that planning permission was granted for the development of the local area and the decision was made based on the evidence available however we are asking that Suffolk County Council, as the Highway Authority, monitor and assess the situation with a view to enabling the better flow of traffic in the area.”

### Register of Electors 2012/2013

The latest Register of Electors has been received from Suffolk Coastal District Council.

### **07.13 Precept 2013/2014**

The Clerk reported on the briefing for Parish and Town Councils she had attended at Suffolk Coastal District Council regarding the Council Tax Benefit Localisation. The options offered by Suffolk Coastal are (1) accept the grant – not increase charges, (2) don't accept the grant – increase charges or (3) accept the grant to offset against the impact of LCTR and increase charges for additional spending. The Clerk reported that there would be no capping for 2013/2014 but this may be introduced beyond 2013/2014.

Following discussions Cllr Newell proposed, seconded Cllr Wells that the Parish Council should increase the precept for this year to £7,000 and accept the grant and increase charges for additional spending from Suffolk Coastal District Council – all agreed. **Action: Clerk**

### **08.13 Planning**

#### Sizewell C

Cllr Wells reported that the Consultation Paper re the proposed construction of Sizewell C is the process of being circulated to all councillors for comment. Comments are to be submitted by 6th February 2013 re the proposed accommodation and transport sites.

The EDF preference for the Lorry Park site is at Wickham Market with the Park and Ride (as stated in their literature). However they have also identified 3 possible options for standalone lorry parks:

Option 1 – Orwell Lorry Park (West) Accessed off the A14 and is opposite the houses on the northern side of A1156

Option 2 – Orwell Lorry Park (East) Accessed off the A14 and is behind the houses on the southern side of the A1156.

Option 3 – A1156 old Felixstowe Road opposite the Crematorium adjacent to the Seven Hills roundabout.

Cllr Day reported via email that according to the EDF representatives at the Nacton exhibition SCC/SCDC want the lorry park located as per Option 3 so it can be used for Operation Stack in the long term.

Following discussion it was agreed that comments should be submitted to Cllr Wells by the end of January 2013 to enable him to formulate a reply. **Action: Cllr Wells / Clerk**

### **09.13 Jubilee Tree**

Cllr Smith reported that he would be meeting with Suffolk Coastal Services to discuss the type and size of the tree to be planted. Councillors suggested that the tree be situated on the playing field. It was agreed that Cllr Smith should come up with a proposal for submission to the Parish Council for approval and passing to the Clerk for action. **Action: Cllr Smith**

### **10.13 Locality Budget 2012/2013**

The Clerk reported that the Locality Budget of £1,500 had been received from Suffolk County Council and the grit bins would be ordered from the supplier when details of delivery and depot opening times have been received from Suffolk County Council. **Action: Clerk**

### 11.13 LED Lights

The Clerk reported that she had received a reply from Swansea Council stating that the newspaper reports were misleading as they claimed Swansea are changing 14,000 lights to LED at a cost of £1.4 million. The reality is that Swansea is only changing 6,000 lights with that money and that the majority of the lights were switched off 4 years ago. Swansea is suggesting that the Suffolk County Council estimation of their costing is most probably correct.

Suffolk County Council has stated that in the future when lights needed replacing they would replace with LED lights. Cllr Smith confirmed that LED lights would be installed for all new developments.

The council agreed that no further action would be taken.

### 12.13 Parish Plan

Cllr Wells reported that the Parish Plan is progressing and that he was in the process of transferring the Foxhall section into the new template. It is anticipated that the Parish Plan will be completed by the end of March 2013 as reported at the last meeting. **Action: Cllr Day / Cllr Wells**

### 13.13 Future Plans for Parish

#### Congestion at the Sainsburys / Felixstowe Road Roundabout

The Clerk reported that she had written to Guy McGregor Portfolio Holder for Road and Transport and David Chenery Suffolk County Council requesting that they urgently re-assess the traffic flow caused by the development of Waitrose and John Lewis plus the further future development. A reply had been received from Guy McGregor stating that as the Highway Authority Suffolk County Council gives advice to District Councils (who are the development control authority) but cannot direct a decision. Suffolk County Council will continue to monitor and give advice to District Council on highway matters.

The Clerk reported that she was continuing to pursue the matter with Suffolk County Council. **Action: Clerk**

### 14.13 Finance

#### Income

Locality Budget	£1,500.00
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#### Expenditure

Clerk's Salary and Expenses December 2012	£217.97
HMRC Tax Oct-Dec 2012	£155.33

The Clerk reported that as from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 employers would be required to log employee income tax, national insurance, VAT in Real Time. Suffolk Association of Local Councils is holding a briefing seminar on the 12<sup>th</sup> February at a cost of £20 plus VAT. It was agreed that the Council would pay for half of the cost of the course and that the Clerk should seek to acquire funding for the remainder from Bucklesham Parish Council.

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

**Action: Clerk**

**15.13 Correspondence**

a. Drainage Service Road Felixstowe Road

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Neil Goldie who lives in the Service Road Felixstowe Road concerning the flooding in the service road caused by gullies blocked with leaves. A reply had been received by Mark Nicholas East Area Highway Management Economy, Skills and Environment stating that he would contact Bagnall & Morris to clear the gullies. Cllr Smith confirmed that the drainage and also the verges would be inspected. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Smith**

b. Felixstowe Road – Service Road Waiting Restrictions

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Alan Thomas stating that he was under the impression that following discussions with Suffolk County Council that it would not be possible to have a restriction to parking for certain periods in the service road therefore he was surprised that a notice had been erected stating that the road would have double yellow lines and then the notice was removed. Cllr Day has written to Mr Thomas stating that the proposed restrictions were voted in by local residents at a Parish Council meeting and the proposal would be reported to the Rights of Way Committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Day**

c. Boundary Commission – Electoral Review

An email has been received from Suffolk Coastal District Council stating that following agreement at Full Council, earlier this year, the Boundary Commission will be carrying out a review of the Electoral Arrangements at SCDC. This includes the overall number of councillors and ward boundaries. A presentation is being held for Parish and Town Councils on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00 pm at SCDC Offices in Woodbridge. It was agreed that Cllr Watts should attend and report back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Watts**

d. Case No NH/EN12/0252 Land North of Shepherd & Dog Piggeries between Railway Line and Felixstowe Road Purdis Farm – Erection of Unauthorised Advertisements

A letter has been received from Naomi Goold Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department regarding the alleged breach of planning control stating that the Parish Council's representations have been logged onto the enforcement team's computer records for investigation. **Action: Clerk**

**16.13 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk**

- a. The Clerk reported that she had attended the meeting organised by Suffolk Coastal District Council to inform towns/parishes about the changes to the Council Tax benefits and how they will affect budget decisions.

**17.13 Members questions to the Chairman**

- a. Cllr Briggs reported that allegedly employees from Sainsbury are not allowed to park on site at certain times and are parking in Foxglove Crescent opposite Sainsbury's garage. Cllr Briggs reported that the situation was being monitored and photographs taken and she would report back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Briggs**

- b. Cllr Wells reported that rubbish was being dumped on the Hollies site inside the perimeter fence. It was agreed to ask Cllr Booth to contact the owners. **Action: Cllr Wells / Cllr Booth**
- c. Cllr Newell asked the current position with regard to the security lighting at John Banks. Cllr Smith reported that he had contacted Naomi Goold Planning Department Suffolk Coastal District Council but had not received a reply. Cllr Smith to pursue. **Action: Cllr Smith**
- d. Cllr Newell requested that the Parish Council's list of planning application should be reordered so that the new applications appear at the top of the document. **Action: Clerk**

**18.13 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at Trinity Park

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.21 pm.**

Signed ..... Date.....

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