

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park on Wednesday, 9th October 2013

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman
Cllr A Wells
Cllr B Newell
Cllr G Watts
Cllr J Batham
Cllr E Lawrence
Cllr Patricia O'Brien – Suffolk County Council / SCDC Councillor
Mrs A J Buggs – Clerk

159.13 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Booth, Cllr A Day, Cllr B Davies, Cllr M Briggs, Cllr V Falconer – Suffolk Coastal District Councillor, PC Paul Smith and PCSO Glynn Bown.

160.13 Declaration of interest

None

161.13 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of them 11th September were approved as being a true record.

162.13 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

Cllr O'Brien – Suffolk County Council / SCDC Council – written report

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Full Council agreed the recommendation of the Working Group's draft working pattern for the district. It is to be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England by 1st October in order for them to carry out a review of the numbers of district councillors. At present SCDC has 55 councillors and the recommendation is to reduce the numbers to 42. The reduction would give savings in the region of £100k.

SCDC proposes that the present Nacton Ward is divided into 2 wards K & N. K Ward comprises of Brightwell, Foxhall, Nacton and Purdis Farm. N Ward comprises of Bucklesham, Falkenham, Hemley, Kirton, Levington, Newbourne, Stratton Hall, Waldringfield.

During this period of consultation any interest party may submit a warding proposal. When the LGBCE has reviewed all the submissions, and carried out their investigations, they will publish their recommendations in February 2014.

Suffolk County Council

The scale of the financial challenge facing Suffolk's eight largest councils is being addressed by the local authority leaders and chief executives.

From April 2014 until March 2016, Suffolk councils are expecting to experience a £62.7 million cut in government funding, equivalent to 39%. If the costs associated with increasing demand for services, inflation and an additional two years of Government austerity cuts (2016/17 – 2017/18) are taken into account, more than £160 million will need to be saved.

Thus the political leaders and chief executives from the county council, the seven district and borough authorities met Suffolk's police and crime commissioner and chief constable to find ways of working together to save money.

Leaders aim to build on existing joint working arrangements and collaborate further to protect services. Importantly, they agreed not to take financial decisions that simply move costs around the public sector, rather, they would find ways of integrating services. They agreed to call on Suffolk's MPs to raise the implications of the funding cuts with communities' secretary, Eric Pickles.

Suffolk's Growth Strategy

The plan for helping Suffolk's economy to grow over the next few years has been supported by the county council.

The plan focuses on four key areas: skills, inward investment/enterprise, infrastructure, and growth locations. The Plan has been developed by all the local authorities in Suffolk. They will be working together and pooling resources to help achieve the results aimed for in the Growth Strategy. - Suffolk has a number of key industries and competitive advantages, and there will now be a sharp focus on developing the infrastructure and inward investment to ensure these are maintained and developed as far as possible.

Fly-tipping

The Suffolk Waste Partnership, which comprises the county council and all the district and borough councils, has been working with enforcement agencies and local landowner groups to develop an initiative that will name anyone convicted of fly-tipping. This scheme has been made possible by a grant of £25,800 from the government.

Fly-tipping cost Suffolk tax-payers £265,000 last year. This new initiative, which will see greater liaison with landowners to help them with fly-tipping issues, aims to increase the number of successful convictions for the offence, as well as publishing the names of those found guilty.

Please submit bids for Locality funding/Quality of Life funding

CLLr V Falconer – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written report

Crime report for the Parishes of Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council – 11th September – 3rd October 2013

Sainsburys

9 recorded crimes

Foxhall

No crimes reported

Brightwell

FE/13/1592-Theft other-At a time unknown between 20/7 and 8/9 a remote control unit for a caravan was stolen from a farm on Waldringfield road. Due to no lines of enquiry to follow this crime has now been finalised.

FE/13/1634- Attempted burglary other building. Overnight on the 10th of September an attempt to enter a building located in the woods of Foxhall road occurred. No forensics no witness's no further lines of enquiry.

Purdis

FE/13/1570-Criminal damage- overnight on the 12th September a vehicle was damaged on their driveway in Foxglove crescent. The vehicle was scratched down the length of one side. This crime has been finalised as nothing was seen or heard by neighbours.

FE/13/1590- Common Assault- during a road rage incident that occurred on the 14/9 at approx. 1430hrs a male was assaulted by another road user. This crime is still under investigation

FE/13/1626- Theft of motor vehicle- overnight on the 21st September a vehicle was stolen from the driveway of a property in woodrush road. The vehicle has subsequently been used to try and gain entry to a secure boat yard but has failed. The vehicle has then been located burnt out at a farm near to Nacton village. This crime is still under investigation.

The meeting was re-convened.

163.13 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.

Parking Meadow Farm Crescent

Following the last meeting I wrote to Malcolm King Suffolk County Council Highways concerning the inability of the refuse lorry to gain access to Holly Close to empty refuse bins. I have received the following reply:

"We have had a number of complaints recently due to the narrow nature of Meadow Crescent and the number of cars parking along there in the evenings and at the weekend and this seems to be the cause.

When I visited this site during the day it was clear of parked cars and this has been the case when I have looked at other problems along Meadow Crescent.

I am very reluctant to put in any restrictions as this will reduce the space available for residents which are already at a premium and it is likely to open the floodgates as I think there are many other problems with parked cars in the area.

Assuming the refuse lorry visits during normal working hours I do not think this is more than an occasional problem. It may be that the residents could ask for the lorry to visit at another time if they are trying to empty the bins before the residents are going to work or if an obstruction is being caused the police should be called."

Hilary Hanslip Principal Planning Officer (Policy) Presentation

Hilary Hanslip has kindly agreed to come and give a presentation to the Parish Council at their meeting on the 13th November at 7.00 pm. Hilary would like some pointers on specific areas of concern which the Parish Council would like her to talk about.

Outdoor Space Purdis Farm

Following the last meeting when it was highlighted that the park area off Murrills Road has large holes in the ground where the goal posts are located. Additionally dogs are being allowed to foul on the area. I have received the following report from Sarah Shinnie the Active Communities Officer as follows:

"I've been forwarded you email from Jennie. I've contacted Simon Walker (simon.walker@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) at Suffolk Coastal Services to go out and look at the site. The suggestion would be to move the goals in order for the repairs to the ground to take place.

I have also contacted Heidi Gatfield at Suffolk Coastal Services with regards to the dog fouling and she should be in contact with you soon."

Charity Bins Sainsburys

I have received an email from Pc Paul Smith following my email concerning the thefts from the charity bins as follows:

"The investigation has come to a halt as our main offender a Latvian gentleman has returned with his family to Latvia and is not returning. He is aware that the police are seeking to talk to him.

I have another Latvia male on bail but there is insufficient evidence to continue any prosecution against him. However, the crimes have now stopped."

Complaints from Residents in Woodrush Road

Pc Paul Smith has received complaints from residents who live in Woodrush Road who back on to the store car park about ASB issues by youths playing football in the car park and music being played until the early hours of the morning. Paul is in discussions with Jo Francis Manager of Sainsburys and is waiting for a date for a meeting to discuss the barriers/car park security.

Precepts and Grants to Local Councils

SALC have written a letter to Stephen Baker Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils as follows:

“I am writing to you owing to concerns from local councils in your area about changes which have affected local council’s precepts. The concerns are broadly that:

Localisation of council tax discounts has resulted in the subjugation of local council finances to the will of their local billing authority.

Compensatory grant arrangements are unfair as it is not mandatory to pass them on to local councils and, in future, they might be for an unspecified amount. One District Council has given a clear indication of the position regarding the grant up to and including 2016/17. This clarity gives local councils the opportunity to respond to the position as they see fit and plan their budget arrangements.

Compensatory grant arrangements have resulted in some councils reducing their actual precept demand which means that should the grant reduce, the community, in some cases, will now be subject to an unavoidable increase in payments at least back to earlier levels in order to cover loss of income for essential services. Given that local councils do not generally have significant reserves and already work at an extremely efficient level through cooperative and cost-effective local arrangements there is little scope for further efficiencies and reductions in their budget in the event that the grant is reduced.

The scope for local councils to do more will be severely restricted by any reduction in the compensatory grant. Sensible measures, such as upgrading street lighting to make it more environmentally-friendly and cost-efficient, will become a problem. Likewise taking on assets and services from principal local authorities will become less likely.

The annual decision of the Secretary of State on whether and to whom to apply precept referenda creates uncertainty and further restricts the ability of local councils to feel they can contribute to localism and local community resilience.

I have attached a letter from Brandon Lewis MP, which urges billing authorities to help keep precepts down by providing the required grants.

I would be grateful for your advice on any active steps you are taking to ensure that the Government addresses these significant concerns which will impact on communities. Additionally, whilst it is helpful that one District Council has detailed its position, and no doubt local councils in Waveney and Suffolk Coastal would value similar clarity, we would urge you to ensure that any grant payment is passed on at least at similar levels to that which Suffolk Coastal paid over in the current financial year and to engage fully with local councils in this regard in both areas. You will appreciate that local councils are expressing concern on the lack of clarity and engagement in reaching decisions on the grant. In particular, the decision of Waveney District Council to pass on no grant whatsoever caused outrage at the apparent contempt shown for the work of local councils in their communities. This is most unhelpful at a time when we are trying to encourage partnership working.

I look forward to being able to report to local councils about the support that both district councils are giving to local councils in relation to Government and local policy. I have no doubt that you

share our aspiration to ensure that efficient local council financial arrangements are not undermined so that the exemplary work carried out by local councils for their communities can continue.

I hope we can meet at some point soon to discuss this and other matters of common concern.”

Valley Works

The Clerk stated that she had received reports that the amount of HGVs using Bucklesham Road going towards Bucklesham has increased during the early hours ie 2 am – 3 am. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Newell should speak to Cllr Booth to endeavour to gain additional evidence to support this claim to enable the Parish Council to take remedial action. **Action: Cllr Newell**

164.13 Planning

DC/13/234/FUL Caris House Purdis Farm Lane Purdis Farm

Following discussion it was agreed to hold a meeting of members of the Planning Committee to discuss and formulate the Parish Council’s comments for submission to SCDC Planning Department on the 14th October 2013.

Trinity Park

The Clerk reported that Chris Bushby Trinity Park had agreed to come and give a presentation to the next Parish Council on Wednesday, 13th November at 7.00 pm. It was proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded Cllr Newell that the Parish Council should accept the offer – 5 in favour, 1 abstain. **Action: Clerk**

165.13 To discuss purchasing additional grit, dog and waste bins

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

166.13 Audit 2012/2013

External Auditor’s Report

The Clerk reported that the external audit had been successfully completed and outlined the comments of the auditor. The Clerk drew the Parish Council’s attention to the following:

The Internal Auditor has recommended that when signing cheques signatories should also sign the copy of the invoice.

Cllr Wells proposed, seconded Cllr Watts that the External Auditor’s report is accepted – agreed. **Action: Clerk**

167.13 The Hollies

The Clerk reported that following reports from councillors she had contacted Daniel Kinsman the Environmental Health Officer Suffolk Coastal District Council informing him that the premises had again been entered following the recent work carried out to secure the building. Daniel has replied that he had recently received a report from the police and that he had attempted to contact the owners of the property to rectify the situation.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department to request that the planning regulations for the property be broadened to make it easier for the site to be developed.

Cllr Newell reported that she had witnessed vans being parked adjacent to the Hollies and was concerned whether the owners of the vehicles might be fly-tipping. It was agreed that the only action to enable the police to prosecute offenders would be to install surveillance cameras. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact PC Paul Smith to discuss a possible course of action. **Action: Clerk**

168.13 Brookhill Woods

Cllr Newell reported individual plots in Brookhill Woods were in the process of being sold. She said that she was concerned that this might result in buildings being erected which would be to the detriment of the woodland. It was agreed that Parish Councillors should remain vigilant to any buildings being erected. **Action: All Councillors**

169.13 Trinity Park Notices

Cllr Newell reported that she was concerned about the number of different types/sizes of advertising notices appearing on the Trinity Park Showground. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Suffolk County Council regarding regulations concerning the erection of notices close to the public highway. **Action: Clerk**

170.13 Sewage Bucklesham Road

Cllr Warham reported that an Anglian Water would be holding a meeting in the near future to discuss the recent sewage problems. Mr Minter is going to experiment with a trap and suggest to residents at numbers 117 and 119 to have 'non return' valves fitted.

171.13 Locality Budget 2013/2014

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

172.13 Traffic Management – Purdis Farm

The Clerk reported that she had received confirmation from Malcolm King Suffolk County Council Highways Department that the traffic management programme for Murrills Road, Sainsbury's roundabout and Bucklesham Road would go ahead over the next 2/3 months and that Cllr Patricia O'Brien had agreed that the project would be funded out of her Quality of Life Budget.

Councillors expressed concern about the hold up of traffic at Sainsbury's roundabout due to motorists blocking the roundabout. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Malcolm King Suffolk County Council Highways requesting that consideration be given to painting a white keep clear box on the road for vehicles approaching Sainsbury's roundabout from all entrances.

173.13 Parish Plan

Nothing further to report. It was agreed that this item should be deferred until the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

171.13 Ward Boundaries

Please refer to report received from Cllr Patricia O'Brien.

172.13 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

Clerk's Salary & Expenses September 2013	£278.55
HMRC Tax July – September 2013	£158.60
Suffolk Coastal Services –Repair of Litter Bin	£79.20
R J Smith – Brightwell Seat Siting	£135.00

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

Action: Clerk

173.13 Correspondence

None

174.13 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

None

175.13 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr Newell reported that she had attended one of the recently held MP Surgeries delivered by Dr Therese Coffey. Therese Coffey has said that she is encouraging Martlesham Parish Council to go ahead with their proposed Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible. Therese has also explained to Martlesham Parish Council that it is acceptable to initial submit a part of the plan.
- b. Cllr Lawrence mentioned that he had seen an advertisement for the Foxhall Poors Land and Fuel Allotment Charity. Cllr Newell stated that the charity could accept requests for help from Foxhall or neighbouring parish residents. Cllr Newell reported that the new Clerk Mrs Davies was advertising the charity locally.
- c. Cllr Batham expressed concern about the inconsiderate parking in Murrills Road on the day of the Copdock Bike Show. She said that in past years cones had been placed in Murrills Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact PC Paul Smith to discuss what action could be taken. **Action: Clerk**
- d. Cllr Batham reported that recently there has been a strong smell of what appears to be sewage in the Murrills Road / Meadow Crescent area of Purdis Farm. It was agreed that Cllr Batham should contact Anglian Water. **Action: Cllr Batham**

176.13 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 13th November 2013

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm

Signed Date.....

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