

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 11th November 2015

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman
Cllr B Newell
Cllr A Wells
Cllr G Watts
Cllr M Briggs
Cllr A Day
Cllr E Lawrence
Cllr J Batham
Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council
Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

148.15 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Finch.

149.15 Declaration of interest

None

150.15 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8th October 2015 were approved as being a true record.

151.15 Matters arising from the minutes

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Cllr Lawrence reported that he had spoken to Suffolk Coastal District Council regarding the graffiti on various items within the parishes. A report has been raised (Report No 3766183) regarding the graffiti. **Action: Cllr Lawrence**

The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

Cllr P O'brien – Suffolk County Council – written report

As you are all aware SCC, together with all public bodies, have to make savings. Government grant has been much reduced and after efficiencies and re-organisation has been achieved savings will still be required. The most vulnerable in society, those requiring Adult Care and Children's Services, are our most crucial services and it will be our duty to protect them. Making those additional savings means that tough decisions will have to be taken, and taken in areas that are deemed to have the least impact. Over the coming months we shall be looking at where further economies can be made and it will be inevitable that many people will challenge our choices. However, changes have to be made and perhaps communities and individuals will have to take on further responsibilities. I do not

regard that as negative. People thru' the ages have shown that 'when the chips are down' they respond outstandingly. Perhaps it is time for a new generation to show their metal.

Police

I chaired the Police & Crime Panel in Lowestoft recently and one of the main issues discussed was the annual report for 2014/15. The Commissioner stated that the pattern of crime was changing and that the police force has to change to meet new challenges, such as cybercrime.

Future savings are of major concern and until the chancellor's Autumn Statement and the national funding formula are delivered, there is uncertainty regarding the extent and areas that will be affected. The PCC is very keen to ensure continued funding in some specific areas such as: voluntary sector, rural crime, cybercrime and roads policing. He reiterated his call for other partner organisations to play their part.

I attended the Accountability & Performance meeting whereby the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable and Constabulary to account. It was interesting to hear the police views on how efficiently they were dealing with 999 and 101 calls. 999 were up to target but there was room for improvement for the non-emergency calls to 101. 101 calls require garnering information and advising the public, which can take some time. Many of the 101 calls are not for the police but for other organisations, NHS, councils etc. The police wish for a central response, for 101 calls, whereby the needs of the caller are identified and transferred to the correct corporate body. I understand that this is already being assessed.

Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written report

This month has flown by as I don't seem to have enough hours in the day for all the bits and pieces I need to do!

I was asked by the Leader of the Conservatives to join a Working Group on Affordable Housing. He knew this was a subject I am quite passionate about. This Group has been formed to find ways of building affordable housing in areas where they are required and not because a developer has agreed to put a few in a large housing development. The aim is to ask all Parish and Town Councils if they feel that there is a need for affordable housing in their area and also whether it should be for first time buyers or for people who are downsizing and may require a one bedroom bungalow.

The Brown Bin debate is on-going and as I intimated last month it is more than likely that Suffolk Coastal District Council will not charge for the brown bins.

Devolution is another on-going matter and Suffolk Coastal District Council are being very helpful in keeping residents informed on their website which is regularly being updated.

The Travellers Consultation comes to a draw on November 15 whereby all sites which have been submitted will be carefully assessed against the criteria. The Public Sector Leaders' Group will then put out the chosen sites for further consultation in December and then in February 2016 the chosen sites will put to the Planning Department for planning permission. The aim is to get these three sites up and running by the end of 2016.

There is an Annual Budget Review Meeting of the Town and Parish Councils which is being held on Monday 16 November a 6.0 pm in the Council Chamber. As mentioned in my previous report each Parish Council can be represented by two Councillors.

It has now been agreed that Suffolk as a County will take 200 Syrian refugees but due to the location of suitable housing, health, education and support services the refugees will predominantly be settled in the Greater Ipswich Area.

- Suffolk Police – no report

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from PCSO Glynn Bown stating that due to a new crime investigation system being introduced to Suffolk Constabulary IT systems they are unable to provide parish councils with a crime report for forthcoming meetings. PCSO Bown has suggested that we use the Police Crime Map on the internet www.police.uk. **Action: Clerk / All Councillors**

The meeting was re-convened.

152.15 Clerk's Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on outstanding issues, items received after the deadline for agenda items, correspondence and action taken by the Clerk.

Police Presentation

You are invited to an information evening on Thursday 10th December 2015 at 1900 hrs, at the Visitors Centre conference room, Landmark House Ipswich. IP1 5PF

The Temp /Chief Constable, Gareth Wilson, the PCC Tim Passmore and Supt Jenny Powell will talk through the changes Suffolk Constabulary will be making in order to meet future demand, whilst making the cuts placed upon us in the Government spending review.

In order to ensure there is sufficient capacity please limit attendance to one person per council.

Parish Councils: The Case for the Right of Appeal in the Planning Process

Suffolk Association of Local Councils has a long-standing policy position that town and parish councils should have a right of appeal against planning decisions to mirror the right of developers. SALC presented this policy to the National Association of Local Councils and it was adopted. It is appreciated that the right of third party appeal for local councils is only likely to progress with Government if it were confined to specific circumstances.

It is pleasing to see that not only is NALC continuing to take this matter forward with Government but pressure is growing from other quarters. The latest instance is a resident in Staffordshire who has initiated an online petition. If you are interested in signing the petition, please note the details below. With sufficient signatures, a parliamentary debate is triggered.

With the government planning up to one million homes in the next five years and the current presumption in favour of sustainable development when a local authority cannot demonstrate a five year land supply, there is a real danger of planning consents being granted improperly. The guidelines on what constitutes a sustainable development are so vague that they can be interpreted according to the subjective views of each individual planning officer. In the recent case of an application in respect of a development that bordered two local authorities, one authority found that the development was not sustainable while the other found that it was. The two authorities took completely opposing views on the sustainability of a single site.

Planning decisions impact communities, landscapes and the environment for generations. Given the amount of discretion that the sustainable criteria confer, these are decisions that should be subject to proper scrutiny. At the moment, third parties have no right of appeal if a planning consent is granted and it seems contrary to the principles of natural justice that there is no mechanism to review the propriety of local authority consents. A general right to appeal might lead to the planning inspectorate being bogged down with frivolous appeals from neighbours and NIMBYs and has previously led to the idea of third party appeals being dismissed out of hand.

I've started a petition to ask the government to give parish councils the right to appeal planning decisions. Parish Councils will usually have a detailed understanding of an area and local needs. Most parish councils can be trusted to act in the best interests of their constituents and are usually run by responsible individuals who would be loath to bring frivolous appeals. However, in an era where more and more development is planned, a limited right of third party appeal would ensure that particularly contentious decisions can be reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate, and using the existing parish council infrastructure minimises legislative and operational cost and impact.

If you agree, please sign the petition at this link: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110489>

If we get 10,000 signatures, the government must publish an official response to the proposal. At 100,000 signatures, the proposal will get debated in Parliament.

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

What is in this for local councils?

Local councils will wish to be aware of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill. This significant piece of legislation once again proposes a major change to local government. Local councils will be concerned about the potential impact on principal local authority services and their democratic accountability but will also be considering what the impact might be on their own councils as the most local tier of local government. In broad terms the Bill is designed to introduce directly-elected mayors to combined local authorities in England and to give statutory authority to decisions to transfer powers to local areas, such as housing, transport, planning and policing. It also contains a clause reducing the voting age to 16.

The Bill has been through the House of Lords and had its Second Reading in the House of Commons on 14 October 2015. Whilst the First Reading is a formality and takes place without any debate, the Second Reading is when the general principles are debated.

The Local Government Association has responded to the devolution proposals with a document which gives its views of the local government offer of partnership with Government, *English Devolution, Local Solutions for A Successful Nation*, a 26 page document with no mention of local councils. The National Association of Local Councils has published a 'white paper' entitled 'Devo Local' which cites measures which it believes will empower local councils and support devolution.

Government has claimed its devolution plans are a 'major step forward in plans to devolve powers from Whitehall and into the hands of local people and businesses' and has received 38 bids from major cities and regions across the country with the aim of creating a local devolution deal. It states that this is 'part of its "one nation government's" plans to rebalance the economy and provide opportunity for all.' Agreed bids will be supported through the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill currently passing through Parliament and will be considered as part of the Spending Review process. The proposals include:

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire *England's Economic Heartland*
<http://tinyurl.com/qgnbjes>

Cornwall *Case for Cornwall* <http://tinyurl.com/o3bre6k>

'D2N2' – Derbyshire, Derby, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham <http://tinyurl.com/ohooovp>

Gloucestershire *We are Gloucestershire* <http://tinyurl.com/ohtgjez>

Hampshire and Isle of White *The Southern Powerhouse* <http://tinyurl.com/peblwmc>

Leicester and Leicestershire *Delivering Growth Together* <http://tinyurl.com/qfwuc4z>

Norfolk *The Norfolk Offer* <http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/view/NCC168721>

Suffolk *A Devolved Suffolk Working for a Better Future* <http://tinyurl.com/q9frple>

West of England (Avon) *Devolution* <http://tinyurl.com/orwcwwa>

West Midlands Combined Authorities (geography of the three Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) of The Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire and Greater Birmingham and Solihull). Details being kept confidential. <http://tinyurl.com/q85hyhv>

Some areas have not submitted bids. For example in Hertfordshire discussions are taking place but they did not submit by the deadline set by Government. Hertfordshire County Council's leader Robert Gordon (Con) told LGC: "We want to get it right rather than get it quick."

152.15 Planning

Cllr Watts Chairman of Planning Committee reported that the Planning Committee had raised no objection to the following applications.

DC/15/423/FUL 69 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm – Two storey side and rear extension.

DC/15/4282/VOC Former Civil Sports Ground Straight Road Foxhall – Proposed demolition of existing buildings and erection of 14 dwellings with associated vehicular access and external works – variation to Condition 2 and 3.

153.15 Budget 2016/2017

The Clerk had previously circulated a copy of the budget 2016/2017 and the following changes were agreed.

Clerk's Expenses

Increase to £220.00

Clerk's Salary

Following discussion Cllr Day proposed, seconded Cllr Wells that the Clerk's salary be increased from £8.29 per hour to £10.00 per hour – all in favour.

Newsletter

The figure for producing a newsletter increased to £350.

Graffiti Cleansing Services/Materials

A figure of £300 added to the budget.

Neighbourhood Plan

Additional cost of £750 added to the budget.

Cllr Warham proposed, seconded Cllr Day that the above changes are made to the Budget 2016/2017 – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

It was agreed that the Clerk should amend the Budget 2016/2017 as agreed and an item be placed on the December 2015 agenda to discuss and agree the precept for 2016/2017. **Action: Clerk**

154.15 Parish Council Meeting Date 2016

The Clerk reported that the meeting dates for 2016 had been sent to Trinity Park for approval for the use of the meeting room. Trinity Park has approved all the dates except May which they have changed to Wednesday, 4th May 2016. **Action: Clerk / All Councillors**

155.15 Neighbourhood Plan – Kesgrave Parish Council / Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council

The Clerk reported that she had met with Kesgrave Parish Council regarding their proposal for Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council to be part of their Neighbourhood Plan with themselves and Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Lawrence would contact Kesgrave Parish Council. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Lawrence**

156.15 Preferred Options Public Consultation (9th October – 30th November)

Cllr Finch had commented by email that the land around the lorry park on the A14 is clearly identified as a strategic site for development for employment, even to the cost of AONB. This again needs to be carefully managed and input from the Parish Council should be taken into account (although it sounds as this is another pre-determined plan). The A14 acts as a boundary but mention is made of crossings but I should not determine whether this meant to the north or south of the site. Access surrounding further development of the site must be considered as the current Ransomes' entrances are already at gridlock during peak periods.

Cllr Day reported that a page 57-61 of the document concerning the parcel of land behind the houses on Felixstowe Road is of concern regarding employment provision and the impact on the local housing and the landscape. It is farm land which is currently being farmed.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Day would formulate a reply and send round to councillors for comments before submitting to Suffolk Coastal District Council. **Action: Cllr Day / All Councillors / Clerk**

157.15 Locality Budget 2015/2016

The Clerk reported that she had contacted both Cllr O'Brien and Malcolm King Suffolk County Councils Highways regarding use the Locality Budget 2015/2016 for erecting flashing signs in Purdis Farm and Foxhall. Malcolm King will be reporting back to Cllr O'Brien within the next two weeks. It was agreed that this item should be referred to the next Parish Council Meeting. **Action: Clerk**

158.15 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses October 2015

£256.35

Heelis & Lodge Audit Fee

£66.00

CLr Warham proposed, seconded CLr Briggs that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour.

Action: Clerk

159.15 Correspondence

None

160.15 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk

None

161.15 Members questions to the Chairman

None

162.15 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 9th December 2015

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.35 pm

Signed Date.....

Angie Buggs

Clerk to Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council