

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 9th March 2016

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman
Cllr B Newell
Cllr G Watts
Cllr A Day
Cllr E Lawrence
Cllr A Finch
Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council
Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

17.16 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Wells, Cllr M Briggs, Cllr J Batham and Cllr Patricia O'brien – Suffolk County Council.

18.16 Declaration of interest

None

19.16 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 10th January 2016 were approved as being a true record.

20.16 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the 10th January 2016 minutes. All items needing further discussion formed part of the main agenda.

The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

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

Police

I have been very busy with police issues. Friday 29/1/2016 I chaired the Police & Crime Panel to, amongst other issues, support or veto the police precept. The Panel unanimously supported the increase of £1.958% which will allow for 30 additional police officers and 3 PCSOs.

Serious sexual offences and domestic violence were other major items on the agenda and the Commissioner, Tim Passmore, paid tribute to volunteers whose valuable help aids the police when dealing with these vulnerable people.

Budget

At Full Council on February 11th the administration outlined its proposal to freeze Council Tax for the sixth successive year. The proposal will also consider the option to introduce the national Adult Social Care levy, which will give the county council an additional £5.4million of funding to help ease the pressure on adult social care services.

The council has made savings in excess of £170million since 2011/2012 and needs to make further savings of over £80million over the next two years.

Greater collaboration with partners, across the public sector, and the use of technology and resources, are vital in making the savings required.

Health

I attended the Health & Scrutiny Committee at Ipswich Hospital. The committee was updated on the transformation of child and adolescent mental health services. I was very impressed with what is already taking place. The main points focused on were: early help is vital; a single point of access for families; support in the right place at the right time; a more confident workforce; reduce the wait for support.

The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust is planning to purchase, subject to Trust Board approval, the former Bridge School on Heath Road in Ipswich. Its purchase will allow for non-clinical services to be transferred from Heath Road.

Other Issues

Martlesham pc has made a very good suggestion. It suggests constituting a forum, with parishes in my division and near neighbours, to push our concerns, regarding highways issues. Most concerning is, of course, A14. I am very happy to join and would urge participation. I understand Susan Robinson, Martlesham clerk, is going to get in touch

As you know, changes are taking place in all areas of public service, in the wake of smaller government grants and benefits. It has become even more important for organisations to work together; this is now being realised.

There is a preference, by government for a larger devolution ensemble consisting of Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridge & Peterborough. Leaders are meeting with government officials to discuss.

A very good example of partnership working is done by The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which brings together police, health, social care services for both children and adults, and SCC. Resources are pooled and teams bring about the best approach for safeguarding the vulnerable. The office is in Landmark House.

Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written report

March is the month when the Council Tax bills start to appear on our door mats. This year, for the first time since 2010, Council Tax bills will rise by 1.99% for all residents in the Suffolk Coastal District.

The reality is that our funding from Central Government has been cut by 40% in the last five years. In the same period Suffolk County Council also froze its portion of the Council Tax, leading to a reduction in our net budget of £3.7 million.

Now Government is removing the Revenue Support Grant, significantly reducing our core funding by over £2.5 million by the end of this Parliament. Another essential part of our funding, the New Homes Bonus is also likely to be cut. Taken together, funding from these sources reduce from over £3.6 million in 2015/16 to around £500,000 in 2019/20.

We recognise that Government is doing this as part of the drive to reduce national deficit, but on a local level we need to properly fund our services.

We believe that a small increase of £2.97 per annum to our portion of the Council Tax this year will put us in the best possible position to continue to invest in enabling our communities and drive economic development to safe guard the future prosperity of this area.

We are committed to providing grants through each Councillor to help build stronger communities through our successful Enabling Communities Initiative and continuing to collect brown bins (organic waste) for free.

We are also investing £1.68 million in creating more affordable homes to ensure people can stay within the communities where they are raised and work.

We are still working to reduce our costs. For example, our move into our new headquarters will be funded by the sale of our existing site at Melton Hill and the sale of Cedar House, so there will be no extra burden to the tax payer. Then we will reap the benefits of a smaller, more efficient building, which will lead to a year on year savings in our running costs of up to £500,000 a year.

We are also looking to develop an even closer partnership with our colleagues in Waveney. This innovative partnership has already driven out £10 million efficiency savings since 2008 and we need to build on this success.

We were one of the first Councils in Suffolk – and in the Country – to go down the partnership working route, appointing a joint Chief Executive in 2008. The success of this partnership working has been central to our ability to make £16 million efficiency savings since then.

Now there is a need to know where to go next and a paper called “ Further Transformation in East Suffolk “ is being prepared which could be the start of a complete merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils. This is just a thought at the moment and nothing definite has been agreed and there would be a full consultation process including the public before anything was agreed.

On a lighter note the Government has produced a guide to help communities celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday and it would be wonderful if some of our villages in Nacton and Purdis Farm could get together and arrange some parties on local village greens. To read the full guide visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/streetparty.

I have also been informed that the decision as to where to build a temporary site for travellers has been postponed but this problem will return and at the moment the site at Orwell Truck Pit Stop is still one of those being considered.

The meeting was re-convened.

21.16 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.

Local Council Public Advisory Service

We are very pleased to announce we have a new partner who will be working alongside us.

Elysian Associates are experts in Parish and Town Council VAT issues, including reclaiming, Tax and PAYE. They are also able to help with navigating EU directives and the new Regulations regarding procurement.

They will be able to give you advice through us at no additional cost and they will also offer a follow on service at an affordable rate, if required.

Elysian Associates are very friendly and approachable and have a common-sense attitude to VAT and Tax issues.

We have been aware for some time that the HMRC help guides online often contradict each other and with the cuts in HMRC staffing, getting hold of someone who could help has been becoming more difficult. We are therefore delighted that Elysian Associates have offered to help our councils navigate what is at times, a difficult area of law.

They are joining Marshall Hatchick Solicitors, Picasso HR and Heelis and Lodge in providing all our subscribing councils with access to experts in their field through our office.

22.16 Planning

The Planning Committee Chairman Cllr Watts reported that four planning applications had been received since the last meeting. Two are still in the process of being circulated.

DC/16/0513/FUL Tanglewood Elmham Drive Foxhall – Proposed two cottage style houses with integral garages and parking

Parish Council Comments – No objection.

DC/16/0629/FUL Warren Heath Retail Park Felixstowe Road Purdis Farm – Service yard extension, loading area and canopy for goods on-line operation.

Parish Council Comments – The Parish Council objects to the application on the following grounds:

The loss of twenty six parking spaces will have a serious effect and lead to further congestion both in the car park, adjacent roads and roundabout. There are currently no yellow double lines on adjacent roads to prevent cars being parked on the highway. The Parish Council are also concerned as to where staff will park vehicles.

23.16 Neighbourhood Plan – Kesgrave Town Council / Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council

Following a comprehensive report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party Chairman, Councillors discussed the contents of the presentation. Options considered were whether to include the area indicated on the Kesgrave map or to include the whole of the parish ie Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm. It was agreed to defer the item until the next Parish Council meeting to allow

councillors to think about any other questions which need to be asked. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

24.16 Locality Budget 2015/2016

The Clerk reported that the Locality Budget of £1,900 had been approved by Cllr O'Brien. Cllr Finch reported that he had arranged a site meeting with Malcolm King Manager Suffolk County Council Highways on the 6th April 2016. Cllr Finch reported that he could not come to the meeting on the 13th April 2016 but would send a report to the clerk. **Action: Cllr Finch / Clerk**

25.16 Graffiti

Cllr Finch reported that he had no further information to report and it was agreed that this item should be deferred until the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Finch / Clerk**

26.16 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses February 2016 £275.32

Cllr Watts proposed, seconded Cllr Day that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

Appointment of Internal Auditor

Cllr Warham proposed, seconded Cllr Finch that Heelis and Lodge be appointed as the Parish Council Internal Auditor for a further year – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

27.16 Correspondence

- a. The Clerk reported that an invitation had been received from Christine Bond Trinity Park to join them for lunch at Trinity Park on Thursday, 17th March at 12.30 pm.

28.16 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk

- a. Cllr Watts gave his report on the meeting held on the 24th February 2016 which he had attended at Suffolk Coastal District Council regarding the Planning Application to build 300 dwellings east of Bell Lane. District Councillors resolved not to follow the advice of its officers and were opposed to accepting the application. District Councillors resolved to defer the application, pending further information.

29.16 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr Newell reported that the seat situated close to the Foxhall Village Sign had been damaged. The Clerk reported that it appears to have a rusted bolt. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Richard Smith to inspect the seat and if possible repair. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Wells**

- b. Cllr Newell said she was concerned that the Charity Shop at the Foxhall Tip did not appear to be supporting local people. It is managed by the Benjamin Foundation which is based in Norfolk. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the foundation. **Action: Clerk**

- c. Cllr Warham commented that the bus shelter which had been promised as part of the development adjacent to the golf club had not been placed on site. It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries. **Action: Clerk**

30.16 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 13th April 2016

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.11 pm

Signed Date.....

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