

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

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

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman
Cllr B Newell
Cllr A Wells
Cllr A Day
Cllr G Watts
Cllr E Lawrence
Cllr A Finch
Cllr M Briggs
Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council
Cllr P O'brien – Suffolk County Council
Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

132.16 Apologies for absence

None

133.16 Declaration of interest

None

134.16 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th October 2016 were approved as being a true record.

135.16 Matters arising from the minutes

None

The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

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

Suffolk County Council, despite budget pressures, has decided to continue providing Local Highways Budget next year. It is intended that this will be at a similar level to the present financial year.

Two important links for highways:

To report a fault - highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk

To view all the activity in your area – www.roadworks.org

When urgent telephone: 0345 606 6171.

There has been an increase in Suffolk Children achieving a Good Level of Development in their Early Years Foundation Stage. 70.2% of children achieved a result that was slightly above the rest of

England in key areas such as: communication, language, physical , personal, social and emotional development.

Primary school children are to receive free safety reflectors as part of a new road safety campaign. The reflectors can be worn on coats or backpacks and ensure that children can be seen by vehicles, as the beam is reflected, in darker conditions.

£9,550 was invested by SCC Road safety Team to deliver to over 60 primary schools.

Policing Issues

The PCC had asked the Constabulary for an overview report on community safety, including details of joint working with Suffolk County Council.

The Community Safety department is led and managed by a Chief Inspector, a Partnership Manager and the Safer Communities Manager. Performance is monitored through a monthly update on performance relating to antisocial behaviour (ASB). Currently, all ASB incidents are down by 37%. The department works with partners to reduce demand, and provide advice and support to the Constabulary/stakeholders.

A joint “single route in” to Community Safety services, and advice for internal customers, is being developed. Future options being considered include opportunities such as joint management of staff and developing a joint Suffolk Community Safety branding for Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.

Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written report

This last month has been a bit erratic in that Suffolk Coastal District Councillors were all geared up to attend an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Monday 31 October to consider the draft Devolution Order and then this was to be followed by a Special Cabinet Meeting. This did not happen as the Devolution timetable has slipped.

We have now been given a new date which is Monday 14 November for a briefing and then followed on Monday 21 November with a full Council meeting where we will debate the final version of the Devolution Order and if approved will then be sent to the Secretary of State.

The proposed merger of Waveney District with Suffolk Coastal is ongoing and over 1,000 residents of both Authorities have been contacted by ComRes during October to ask whether they were in favour of the merger. 78% of those interviewed were of the opinion that a merger would be of benefit to residents.

As a result of this survey all residents in both Districts are being asked for their opinions until Monday 12 December by emailing merger@eastssuffolk.gov.uk.

I have also found out that The Better Broadband scheme have now extended its offer to people who currently get less than 2Mbps in their property and have no other means of getting higher speeds can receive a voucher to help with the connection cost of an interim wireless broadband service from an Approved Supplier.

For further information contact www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com

During the course of October I attended briefing meetings on the Merger and a Licensing Committee meeting.

This coming Friday I am going to a training morning so that I can act as Chairman for any future Licensing Panel which I am quite excited about.

Police – No report

The meeting was re-convened.

136.16 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.

Government Announces New Measures to Speed Up Building

This will be of interest to Parish and Town Councils who are looking for ways to provide new homes to meet local need. This may open up opportunities to work with developers or to set up a delivery body such as a Community Interest Company or Community Self Build options. If you would like any further advice regarding this issue or options that may allow you to take up this opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact us (ceo@lcpas.co.uk)

The Chancellor Philip Hammond and Communities Secretary Sajid Javid, have announced new measures to build more houses, more quickly, in the places people want to live.

As part of the government's action to tackle the housing deficit and ensure everyone has a secure place to live, the Communities Secretary and the Chancellor made it clear that they are determined to take action and get more homes built.

Measures see the launch of a massive £3 billion [Home Building Fund](#). This will help to build more than 25,000 new homes this Parliament and up to 200,000 in the longer term. The fund will provide loans for small and medium enterprise builders, custom builders, offsite construction and essential infrastructure, creating thousands of new jobs in the process.

Sajid Javid said:

This government is getting on with the job of building a country that works for everyone. We've made great progress fixing the broken housing market we inherited but now is the time to go further.

We want to ensure everyone has a safe and secure place to live and that means we've got to build more homes.

It is only by building more houses that we will alleviate the financial burden on those who are struggling to manage.

Homes and Communities Agency CEO Mark Hodgkinson said:

We're determined to speed up delivery and promote new approaches to housebuilding. The new Home Building Fund offers the industry flexible development and infrastructure finance and we're open for business right away.

From today, builders and investors just need to give us a call to start discussing funding for new homes. Our dedicated team will also provide expert ongoing support to new entrants to the sector and those companies proposing innovative solutions to speed up house building.

Further information

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525467/An_introduction_to_the_Home_Building_Fund.pdf

Housebuilding previously fell to levels not seen since the 1920s. Between June 2008 and June 2009 only 75,000 new homes were started, the lowest level of housebuilding in peacetime since the 1920s. (DCLG , House Building: [September quarter 2013 England](#), 21 November 2013).

Since 2010 the government has been turning that around. By reforming the planning system and increasing investment in housing we have turned around the housing market with over 700,000 net additional homes delivered between April 2010 and March 2015 (DCLG , [Net Supply of Housing](#), 12 November 2015).

But there's much more to do. In the 20 years from 1969 to 1989 over 4.5 million homes were built in England. Between 1992 and 2012, fewer than 2.9 million were completed. There is a longstanding gap between housing supply and demand which has led to worsening affordability. In over 40% of local authorities, median house prices are over 10 times median incomes.

That's why we're taking further action ahead of a Housing White Paper later this year. The launch of a £3 billion Home Building Fund will:

- provide £1 billion of short term loan funding - this will be used for small builders, custom builders, and innovators, delivering 25,000 homes in the short term
- it will also provide £2 billion of long term funding for infrastructure - this will be used to unlock a pipe line of up to 200,000 homes over the longer term – with the emphasis on developments on brownfield land.

Government Consultation on the Evaluation of Business Rates

The Government are consulting on the evaluation of Business Rates. Although some businesses will find that they will be lifted out of having to pay the rates, others will find that theirs may rise.

Business Rates impact on the viability of businesses both in towns and rural locations, so your council may wish to respond to the consultation and/or make local businesses aware of it.

Please see below the comments from Communities and Local Government and a link to the consultation document.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/business-rates-revaluation-2017>

The government is set to announce a revaluation of business rates which will ensure fairer bills for businesses up and down the country as part of creating an economy that works for everyone.

Local Government Minister Marcus Jones will today (27 September 2016) publish a [consultation](#) on the revaluation of business rates which will ensure bills accurately reflect changes in the property market.

New figures published as part of the consultation show that the majority of businesses across the country will be unaffected or better off by the changes, with many looking forward to their bills falling as the system is made fairer across the whole of England.

This is on top of measures which mean that from next April, businesses will benefit from the biggest ever cut in business rates in England – worth £6.7 billion over the next 5 years. As a result, 600,000 businesses across the country will pay no business rates at all.

For the small minority of businesses who face an increase in the bills, any rise will be capped at 5% in the first year for small properties, with a dedicated system of transitional relief worth £3.4 billion to help business owners adjust to the new bills.

Adjustments to the business rate multiplier will mean that overall, receipts from business rates will remain constant in real terms following the revaluation.

For further details visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-promises-fairer-bills-for-business-across-the-country>

137.16 Parish Council Meeting Dates 2017

The Parish Council agreed the dates of the meetings for 2017 as follows. The Clerk stated she would forward the dates to Trinity Park and thank them for their continued support.

11th January 2017

8th February 2017

8th March 2017

12th April 2017

10th May 2017 (Annual Parish Council Meeting / Annual Parish Meeting)

14th June 2017

12th July 2017

13th September 2017

11th October 2017

8th November 2017

13th December 2017

Dates of meetings to be placed on the Parish Council website. **Action: Clerk**

138.16 Budget 2017/2018

The Clerk presented the budget to the Parish Council and it was agreed that the following amendments should be made.

Mileage Allowance – increase by £50.00 to £350.00

Village Maintenance – increase by £500.00 to £2,500.00

Following discussion Cllr Watts proposed, seconded Cllr Warham that the precept remains the same as 2016/2017 at £7,500.00 – all in favour.

139.16 VAS Signs

The Clerk stated that Cllr Finch had unfortunately left the meeting due to a family emergency. However the Clerk reported that Cllr Finch had received an email from Malcolm King Highways Manager Suffolk County Council stating that the works are now ordered and the Parish Council will be advised when they are to be installed. Malcolm King has said that the Parish Council would be invoiced once the works are completed. **Action: Cllr Finch / Clerk**

140.16 To discuss the speed of Broadband in the area

Cllr Day reported that the Broadband survey had been completed. The final percentage response rates were 25%-26%. He stated that the next step would be to write a letter to BT. Cllr Day stated that he would compose a letter and send to all councillors for comment before sending to the Chairman of BT with a copy to the Local MP and the Local Broadband Group. **Action: Cllr Day / All Councillors**

141.16 Renovation of Foxhall Village Sign

Cllr Wells presented an estimate which had been received from Richard Berry for the work to be carried out on the sign. The Parish Council discussed the estimate and agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Berry accepting the following. Proposed Cllr Briggs, seconded Cllr Watts – all in favour.

To take down sign, make up new frame in 4" x 3" and refix to top of post in Iroko £550.00

To clean up sign, treat rust, apply two coats hamerite smooth and refix to frame £260.00

To fix 4 galvaniron plates and 8 bolts; to reinforce and correct to plumb £180.00

Supply and fix stainless steel spikes to top £40.00

Total Cost: £1,200

142.16 To discuss the Finance Settlement Consultation – Introduction of automatic precept referendums

Cllr Watts reported that he had completed the survey on behalf of the Parish Council but in his opinion he believed it was unlikely that precept referendums would be imposed on smaller Parish Councils.

143.16 Planning

The Planning Committee Chairman Cllr Watts reported on the following planning matters.

DC/16/3471/FUL – Tanglewood Elmham Drive Foxhall – Proposed demolition of existing bungalow (Tanglewood) and construction of three new detached 4/5 bedroom dwellings.

SCDC Comments: Refused

DC/16/3954/FUL – 148 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm – Proposed segregation of land and erection of new dwelling and associated garage.

SCDC Comments: Pending

Various Tree Work Applications – Beechwood Drive

Parish Council Comments: Councillors commented that not enough consideration was given to the position of the trees when Planning Permission was granted and also commented that the SCDC Tree person should be involved.

DC/16/3830/FUL – Three Rivers Business Centre Felixstowe Road Foxhall – 3 No one and a half storey business units, retention of centre pavilion, additional parking and bike/refuse facilities.

SCDC Comments: Pending

DC/16/4524/FUL – 58 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm – Single storey rear extension, enlargement of dormer window and alteration to front elevation.

Parish Council comments: No objection

DC/16/4648/EIA – Land at Orwell Crossing A14 – 200,00 sq ft BB storage and distribution building. Cllr Watts reported that this was an application for an EIA Assessment therefore there is nothing for the Parish Council to comment on.

DC/16/2848/AND – Part Land Adjacent to A12 Roundabout North Side of Foxhall Road Foxhall – Non illuminated advertisement consent (wedding signs). Cllr Watts reported that although this application has been turned down by SCDC there is a procedure to go through before the local council can remove the signs.

Consultation – Foxhall Household Waste Recycling Centre – Cllr Watts stated that a consultation letter had been received for an extension of use to accept 'Trade Waste'. Change of permitted hours of operation. Cllr Watts to review the on-line documents.

144.16 Finance

Income

Locality Budget 2016/2017 £1,900.00

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses October 2016	£299.43
Cllr Adrian Day – Broadband Survey	£23.99
Local Council Public Advisory Service Subscription	£100.00

Cllr Wells proposed, seconded Cllr Warham that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour.

Action: Clerk

145.16 Correspondence

- a. The Clerk reported that an invitation had been received to attend the yearly Suffolk Coastal District Council Finance Presentation in December.

146.16 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk

None

147.16 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr Day reported that the East Anglian Daily Times had reported that six crossings are to close on the Felixstowe – Ipswich track to allow more rail freight on the line.
- b. Cllr Newell reported that cheques had been received by one of her neighbours addressed to Foxhall Parish Council which unfortunately had been received a year previously. The cheques were Redemption Cheques for 2 ½ Consolidated Stock which appeared to have been owned by Foxhall Parish Council. The Clerk was requested to write to HM Treasury requesting a new cheque be sent to Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council as Foxhall Parish Council no longer exists. The Clerk and councillors had no knowledge of the Consolidated Stock being held. **Action: Clerk**
- c. Cllr Warham reported that some of the hedges on Purdis Farm had been cut back.

148.16 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 14th December 2016. The Chairman reminded councillors that the Parish Council would commence at 6.45 pm and a presentation on Highways would be given by Jayne Cole LCPAS at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.28 pm.

Signed Date.....

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