

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 12th October 2016

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman
Cllr B Newell
Cllr A Wells
Cllr A Day
Cllr G Watts
Cllr E Lawrence
Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

117.16 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Finch, Cllr Briggs, Cllr Yeo and Cllr Patricia O'brien. Sadly Cllr O'brien's father had passed away recently.

118.16 Declaration of interest

None

119.16 Minutes

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

120.16 Matters arising from the minutes

Page 1 – Speed Control Equipment

The Clerk reported that Cllr Yeo had emailed Inspector Roger Salmon asking why Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm and Nacton Parish Councils have not been contacted with regard to the speedwatch initiative.

Page 7 107.16 Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported that the Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan had been approved by Suffolk Coastal District Council but the revised plan only includes the Kesgrave Town Boundary.

Page 7 108.16 Parish Council Website

The Clerk reported that Wil Gibson was working to get the out of date site removed. Cllr Day connected to the internet during the meeting and reported that it appeared the site had been removed.

Page 7 Purdis Farm Play Area

The Clerk reported that she was awaiting a response from Norse regarding the renovation of the goal mouth.

Page 7 112.16 Insurance

The Clerk reported that she had obtained a quotation from Came & Co as requested however there was only a slight price difference therefore the Parish Council would be staying with their present insurance provider.

Page 8 115.16 Members questions to the Chairman

The Clerk reported that all the highway issues identified had been reported to Highways Suffolk County Council.

The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

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

Devolution

The outcome of the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution consultation was considered by council leaders on Wednesday 7 September.

More than 10,000 responses were received via a range of channels. The majority of responses, 6080, were received via a telephone survey. The survey gained views from a cross section of people, reflecting the population of the two counties.

- 53% supported the principle of devolution
- There was strong support for more decisions to be taken locally across a range of issues with decisions relating road maintenance funding coming out on top
- There was 52% support for a Mayor and 58% support for councils to come together as a Combined Authority. 29% Opposed election of a Mayor and 25% opposed establishing a Combined Authority
- Job creation and young people either earning or learning came out as top priorities for the Combined Authority to invest in

250 businesses of various sizes across the two counties were also surveyed by Mori:

54% supported the principle of devolution

- Strong support for more decisions to be taken locally across a arrange of issues with decisions relating road maintenance funding coming out on top
- 59% supported councils joining together as a Combined Authority and 47% supportive of a mayor, with 27% opposed
- Young people earning or learning was businesses top priority for the Combined Authority to invest in

A summary of all responses will be reported to the Secretary of State once it has been considered signed and off by Leaders.

Broadband

Currently, we are at around 87% fibre coverage in Suffolk, and we aim to reach 90% by the end of the year. BT is currently re-modelling the rollout plan for the second contract, which will run to 2019. This is a result of a Suffolk County Council move to introduce the “clawed back” funding into the contract, pushing coverage higher, beyond the 97% by 2019 target.

Any queries and issues, and can be contacted at broadband@suffolk.gov.uk.

Blue Light Property Sharing

Plans for blue light property sharing based around Felixstowe and Saxmundham fire stations have now been agreed. Building work, subject to planning consent, should start in September and October 2016 respectively, to accommodate local Police teams at the fire stations. The facilities will also be available, where desired, as ‘drop-in’ bases for ambulance crews. A feasibility study is now well underway to establish the best location, in the centre of Ipswich, for a blue light response base for Fire, Police and Ambulance. Options include redeveloping the current Princes Street fire station site or, instead, constructing a new building at an alternative location close to the town centre. We expect recommendations to be developed for discussion in the autumn and for building works, where approved, to start in 2017. The above works are substantially funded by the £4.93m DCLG transformation grant, received by the Council in 2014-15, and Home Office funding provided to Suffolk Constabulary.

CLlr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written report

After last month’s meeting on behalf of the Parish Council I contacted Inspector Roger Salmon to find out why we have not been included in the Speedwatch campaign especially as I had spent a considerable amount of my Communities Enabling Project for last year on this.

I forwarded Angie the email and I am sure you have all been forwarded a copy. Since then a Policeman has left a message on my answerphone to say that he would like to have a meeting with me to discuss this Parish Council and also Nacton Parish Council’s intended involvement. This was last week and he was meant to have contacted me on Friday either by telephone or email – but so far nothing.

I will wait until the end of the week and then contact Inspector Salmon again to see how we can move this forward.

On another matter I emailed Norse and again had a very helpful email in response. I hope that you have all had sight of this. Norse intends to cut back all hedges etc in this part of Suffolk in November. I suggest we wait and see what they do and if necessary I can let them know where they need to revisit.

This month, we’re making a key decision on the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which sets out our forecast of income and expenditure, providing the framework on how the Council’s overall spending plan will be developed.

We are now entering a great period of change within Local Government and the reality is that our funding from central Government will continue to reduce for the foreseeable future, with more emphasis on Councils raising their own income and becoming financially self-reliant. Through this report, we’ll set out how these changes, like the possibility that Local Authorities will retain all locally raised business rates can be used as an opportunity.

This report sets out the assumptions made in identifying resources for the MTFS period, and has been developed in advance of the conclusion of Devolution negotiations with Central Government, and the emergence of detail regarding the Government's proposals on business rates.

The Final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2016/17 gives the opportunity for local authorities to sign up to 4-year settlements covering the period 2016/17 – 2019/20. Indicative figures for the elements covered by this offer - Revenue Support Grant, Transitional Grant, and Rural Services Delivery Grant – were published for this period. These figures were used in the 2016/17 Budget and revised MTFS approved by Full Council in February 2016.

To take advantage of the Secretary of State's four-year finance settlement, the Council must submit an Efficiency Plan with approval by Cabinet by 14 October.

Regarding Devolution this is still on-going and I think there is to be a briefing for Councillors sometime early in November and as soon as this has happened I will, of course, report back to you.

Police – No report

The meeting was re-convened.

121.16 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 on-going 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525467/An_introduction_to_the_Home_Building_Fund.pdf)

House building 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 house building 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 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>

Email from Peter Kerridge Environmental Health Contractor

I have received the following email regarding a caravan parked on Purdis Heath which I have passed to Cllr Newell to see if she can throw any light on the subject. I have also sent an email to Lee Smith who is probably the closest to the encampment.

“I’ve received a complaint about a caravan parked on Purdis Heath, just off of Purdis Farm Lane.

Do you know who the owners of that part of the heath are and if any steps are in hand to remove him.”

Christine Bond Trinity Park Events

I have received an email from Christine Bond letting us know that she will be leaving Trinity Park shortly. Cllr Day has replied wishing her all the best for the future.

LCPAS Courses

Planning Course

Material Considerations, Local Plans, National Planning Policies, S106 and CIL, Permitted development and Enforcement Action. It will also include any updates and will help the council add weight to their responses.

Highways Course

Highway Classifications, Speed Management, Signage, Traffic Management Measures, Highways maintenance Funding, Potholes, Local Authority Highways responsibilities, Changing a Road Classification, HGV Routes, County Council Transport Obligations, Street Naming and Postcodes.

122.16 VAS Signs

The Clerk reported that Cllr Finch has delayed ordering the VAS equipment until the posts are in place. The Clerk reported that Cllr O'Brien had agreed that the £1,900.00 Locality Budget for 2016/2017 could be used towards the cost of the VAS signs. **Action: Cllr Finch / Clerk**

123.16 To discuss the speed of Broadband in the area

Cllr Day reported that he had checked the survey site and out of 143 documents distributed around the district 34 responses had been received however he stated that there were a number of empty properties. This is a 25% return. Cllr Newell stated that some residents had mistaken the document for junk mail due to the high quality of the notices. Cllr Day reported that the survey site would be closing on the 23rd October.

124.16 Renovation of Foxhall Village Sign

The Clerk reported that although the person who she had contacted regarding the renovation is currently away the estimated cost of the work would be £2,000. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Wells would approach Richard Berry for a quotation and that the Clerk should get in touch with business at Tower Units Springbank Farm for a quotation. **Action: Cllr Wells / Clerk**

125.16 Courses

The Clerk reported that information had been sent by Jayne Cole Local Council Advisory Service for two courses as follows:

Planning Course

Material Considerations, Local Plans, National Planning Policies, S106 and CIL, Permitted development and Enforcement Action. It will also include any updates and will help the council add weight to their responses.

Highways Course

Highway Classifications, Speed Management, Signage, Traffic Management Measures, Highways maintenance Funding, Potholes, Local Authority Highways responsibilities, Changing a Road Classification, HGV Routes, County Council Transport Obligations, Street Naming and Postcodes.

Following discussion it was agreed that councillors would prefer to attend the Highways Course before Christmas and arrange the Planning Course in the New Year. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach Jayne Cole to see whether she could provide a course on the 14th December which

is the date of the next Parish Council Meeting. It was agreed to bring the time of the Parish Council meeting forward and start the training at 7.30 pm. **Action: Clerk**

126.16 Planning

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

DC/16/3343/FUL – 140 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm – Proposed single storey extension to existing garage.

PC Comment – The Parish Council object to the above planning application unless the Planning Officer is satisfied that the room affected at 142 Bucklesham Road which is currently being used as an utility room and this use is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

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

PC Comment – Councillors consider that the construction of three large dwellings on this plot currently occupied by one bungalow is unacceptable in what is considered to be a countryside location.

Three dwellings on the site will be cramped and not fit with the other dwellings in that location. They are also concerned that although it is proposed to keep the majority of the existing trees and foliage there will be unacceptable pressure to remove large amounts of this foliage once the dwellings are occupied. This will have a detrimental effect on the area which benefits from a number of mature trees adjacent to existing properties.

DC/16/3627/FUL – Annex at Purdis Poppy Farm Purdis Farm – Proposed side extension to existing annex.

PC Comment – The Parish Council believes that the conditions which were applied to the original application should also be applied to this application ie should never be sold as a separate property or be let as a holiday home.

DC/16/3871/FUL – Kent Lodge 152 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm – Demolish lean to metal conservatory and construct single storey rear extension over existing conservatory foot print, etc.

PC Comment – No objection.

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

PC Comment – The Parish Council noted the contents of the email which had been sent to Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department by a near neighbour. The Planning Application is still in the process of being circulated to councillors and when comments are received the Planning Committee Chairman will formulate a reply on behalf of the Parish Council Planning Committee.

Action: All Councillors / Cllr Watts

DC/16/0842/TPO – 5 Beechwood Drive Purdis Far – Points 1 and 2 reduce crown height and spread. Point 3 removal of Corsican Pine

PC Comment - The Parish Council have no objection to proposal 1 and 2 however wish to make the following comments with regard to proposal 3 - Corsican Pine (part of G90) - application to cut down and remove the three.

The house (5 Beechwood Drive) was only built two years ago and the original planning application would have considered whether the retention of the tree was appropriate. The Parish Council are concerned that if this application were to be approved it could lead to further applications therefore the Parish Council are requesting that this application be referred to the Suffolk Coastal District Council Tree Officer to carry out an onsite inspection before a decision is made to fell the tree.

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

The Chairman closed the meeting to enable the neighbours of Three Rivers Business Centre to put their views forward to the Parish Council. The meeting was subsequently reconvened.

PC Comment – The Planning Application is still in the process of circulation however the Parish Council agreed to take into consideration the complaints being made by the neighbours. Cllr Warham said that in addition to any comments made by the Parish Council the neighbours should send an objection to Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department.

127.16 Finance

Income

Precept 2nd Payment £3,750.00

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses September 2016 £279.34

Community Action Suffolk – Insurance £271.71

HMRC Tax £182.00

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

Action: Clerk

External Audit

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 minor issue:

The balance held by the Parish Council appears to be high and has been building up for a number of years. If the Parish Council is not saving for a large purchase the balances carried forward should be reduced to a more appropriate level.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council would be spending a considerable amount of money on VAS signs which would reduce the balance considerably. It was agreed that the balance would be considered when the budgets are considered at the November 2016 meeting.

Cllr Warham proposed, seconded Cllr Wells that the above expenditure is approved and the comments made by the External Auditor have been noted by the Parish Council – all in favour.

Action: Clerk

128.16 Correspondence

- a. The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Jack O’Sullivan newly appointed Housing Enabling Officer at Suffolk Coastal District Council whose primary role is to help parish councils surrounding rural affordable housing. This includes looking at planning applications from developers but also rural exception sites and affordable housing schemes for local people. It was agreed that the Parish Council should invite Jack to attend the February 2017 Parish Council Meeting to explain his roll. **Action: Clerk**
- b. The Clerk reported Jayne Cole had alerted Parish Councils to the fact that a Government Technical Consultation document, The 2017/2018 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation Paper had been published. The relevant clauses and questions were highlighted by Jayne concerning Automatic Referendum Principles.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Watts would log into the website and answer the questions on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr Watts**

129.16 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk

None

130.16 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr Day stated that fly tipping in Straight Road had been reported to SCDC who had not taken action but had emailed again which prompted SCDC to remove the debris. It was reported that in one of the areas of London the council are using CCTV cameras to catch people who are fly tipping.
- b. Cllr Newell reported that the Foxhall Charity Seat had arrived and was being put in situ.
- c. Cllr Newell reported that the ditch behind the Foxhall Notice Board which SCDC used to clear and which in recent years Ron Frost (High House) has been cleaning is now flooding due to debris. Ron is no longer able to maintain the ditch and the water is flooding his property. It was agreed that the Clerk should report this as a matter of urgency. **Action: Clerk**

131.16 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 9th November 2016

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.27.

Signed Date.....

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