

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 9th May 2017

Present

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

57.17 Election of Chairman

Cllr E Warham asked for nominations for the office of Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr A Finch proposed that Cllr E Warham be elected as Chairman, seconded Cllr M Briggs – all in favour. As there were no other nominations, Cllr E Warham was duly elected.

58.17 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr E Warham signed her Acceptance of Office form, countersigned by Mrs A J Buggs Clerk.

59.17 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr E Warham asked for nominations for the office of Vice Chairman. Cllr A Finch proposed Cllr E Lawrence seconded Cllr A Day – all in favour.

60.17 Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

61.17 Declaration of interest

Cllr M Briggs declared an interest in any matters relating to finance due to her working for the external auditors (BDO). **Action: Clerk**

62.17 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th April 2017 were approved as being a true record.

63.17 Matters arising from the minutes

All matters arising will be discussed as part of the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

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

The changes that began in 2015 are continuing; changes that are bringing about more effective and efficient services and an overall understanding of the future possibilities for local government. Assessment of the future is essential, in particular, in relation to our continuing need to make savings.

The council has made savings in excess of £200ml since 2011 and is required to make further savings of £120ml up to 2020. (After 2020 there will be no grant to local councils, they will be expected to finance their services through business rate retention). The council decided to implement the 3% Nation Adult Social Care Levy and this enables the council to strengthen the care sector. SCC is committed to running a low-tax county and this we have done by freezing Council tax since in 2010. Fortunately partnership working, which I have long supported, is starting to have an effect. This is particularly noticeable with the police and fire service and with the joint working of social care and mental health. However, I must admit to an impatience for greater involvement and recognise that, perhaps, the main reluctance to partnership is the loss of prestige/power. Organisations are unwilling to forego their prominence. But it has to happen in order for services to continue to provide.

Maintaining Suffolk's roads is a priority and SCC has invested £10ml in a programme of surface dressing that has enabled 300 miles of road to be renewed. Pot holes are disappearing!

On the subject of highways, I continue to re-iterate my concern to SCC, The Highways Agency, police and local MPs of the need for an emergency action plan for dealing with the traffic chaos that arises when the Orwell Bridge is closed and vehicles diverted through Ipswich. It is relatively straightforward if the bridge is closed due to high winds, altho' this was not the case last November, as there should be plenty of warning. If an accident happens then there is no warning and hours of delay ensue. I recently attended a meeting with the Highways Agency and SCC Highways Management at SCC and raised the issue of allowing low sided vehicles crossing the Orwell Bridge in wind conditions that would be too strong for high sided. This is being considered.

I am pleased to report improvement in Suffolk schools. Figures published by The Department of Education confirm that Suffolk's GCSE progress has, for the first time, risen above the national average. Suffolk is now ranked in the top half of all authorities at 55th out of 151.

I chair the Police & Crime Panel that both challenges and supports the Police Commissioner. The Panel's last meeting in March focused on: partnership working, something of which the Commissioner is very concerned; protecting vulnerable people, those affected by domestic abuse, exploitation and drug use. I have one to one meetings with the Commissioner every quarter to receive an update on issues and convey any special concerns.

I have spent all my locality grant, £12,000 on such projects as: speed control sign, new playground equipment, replacement church windows, notice boards, barrier for recreation ground, posts for war memorial and much more.

I have schemes on-going within my local highways budget.

Lastly, I would like to say that despite the disruption that is invariably caused by changes, SCC is a good organisation with dedicated staff and members.

CLlr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written report

I spent most of April organizing the County Council Conservative candidates for Suffolk Coastal division and spent all of Friday at the Police Headquarters in Martlesham where the Conservatives retained all but one seat in this area.

I was looking forward to normality returning but since the Prime Minister has announced the General Election for June 8 I will be back on the campaign trail as deputy agent for Dr Therese Coffey.

This last month I have attended a couple of meetings at SCDC including a one to one with Ben Woolnough on Adastral Park which was very informative and I believe that there is another meeting arranged for all Parish Councils to discuss the Planning Application again.

I also went along to Trinity Park to have a look at the plans for the proposed development of the land by Orwell Truck Stop and the Piggeries. Initially I was not opposed to the idea of developing the far end of the site closest to Ransomes but when viewing the plans I was astonished to see that the whole area is to be developed and one building appears to be as high as the BT Tower at Martlesham. This is not acceptable for many reasons which I will explain in more detail at the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday. I will be keeping a close eye on any Planning Applications for this site that are sent to the District Council.

On a lighter note I am pleased to let you know that the country's top road cycling event is returning to the county – with a large part of one stage taking place in Suffolk Coastal. Stage Six of Britain's premier road cycling race, the OVO Energy Tour of Britain, will take place entirely within Suffolk, a first for the county, on Friday, 8 September.

The 183-kilometre stage starts in Newmarket, then heads east across the county, heading east from Newmarket to the finish in the centre of Aldeburgh, on the Suffolk Coast, with the race again sponsored by Suffolk brewer, Adnams.

It will snake round the roads of Suffolk Coastal, visiting towns such as Framlingham, Woodbridge, Saxmundham, Leiston, as well as many of the villages in between, before finishing in Aldeburgh.

During the summer Felixstowe will be hosting an Open Air Cinema with the first day of viewing on Saturday 29 July, a day is being dedicated to films for all the family to enjoy on the seafront – and we are looking for suggestions for which films to show!

The free, one-day event is being supported by the Felixstowe Town Council's Youth Forum which has provided £2,000 funding.

The films need to be suitable to be shown to children in the morning, young people in the afternoon and adults in the evening. All films should be PG and suitable for all ages. Film ideas should be sent to: communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

The meeting was re-convened.

64.17 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.

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017

There have been new regulations relevant to the Equality Act 2010 in relation to gender pay gap reporting.

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 will come into force on 31st March 2017.

The information related to the new provisions will need to be published no later than 30th March 2018.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/353/pdfs/uksi_20170353_en.pdf

Reminder of new rates for minimum and living wage from April 2017

Details are available on DWP website.

The Digital Economy Bill has received Royal Assent 27/04/17

The Act will be of interest everyone as it includes the legal right to a fast broadband connection. We are aware that many of our Councils/Clerks/Councillors and their residents connections are limping along. This is regardless of the millions invested in infrastructure across the region.

I am sure we all welcome regulations that also hold providers to account. With automatic compensation when you are left without a connection and if this is not fixed in a timely way.

Below is an overview of the new provisions and at the end is a link to the Act:

The Act includes provisions which will:

- give every household a legal right to request a fast broadband connection
- give consumers and businesses better information about communication services, easier switching and automatic compensation if things go wrong
- cut the costs for new infrastructure and simplify planning rules
- enable stronger enforcement of direct marketing laws
- create civil penalties for online pornographers who do not verify the age of their customers, and ISP level blocking of non-compliant sites, and;
- help protect consumers from “bill shock” by requiring mobile network operators to offer a bill capping facility

During the passage of the Bill through Parliament, a series of useful provisions have been added, including;

- powers to ensure that the Crown guarantee of BT pensions has the necessary flexibility to allow BT and Openreach to be separated
- powers to tackle the problem of “bots” in the online secondary ticketing market,
- an extension of the public lending right to cover e-books, and;

- provision to ensure that on-demand television is accessible to people with disabilities.

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/digitaleconomy.html>

Bus Shelters – Bucklesham Road

Suffolk County Council Highways are in the process of erecting the bus shelters on Bucklesham Road. It is hoped that the work will be completed by the 18th May. Our thanks go to Nicky Yeo SCDC and Patricia O’Brien for their support in ensuring that the work went ahead.

Re-election of Patricia O’Brien to Suffolk County Council

Patricia O’Brien has been re-elected to Suffolk County Council for our area. I feel sure councillors will wish to congratulate Patricia on her re-election and thank her for the support she has given the Parish Council over the years.

65.17 To discuss fair funding for schools in Suffolk

Cllr Finch said that he had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda as he had received a letter from Kesgrave High School raising awareness of the level of imbalance in funding between Suffolk and other areas of the country. Cllr O’Brien said that she did not know what the current position is as regards funding but stated that it is important to get the message across to try and address the national imbalance on funding.

66.17 To discuss the Speed of Broadband in the area

Cllr Day reported that at the last meeting he had drafted a response to the Chairman of BT and Better Broadband Suffolk. He said that the Parish Council had received a response from Better Broadband Suffolk who had asked for telephone numbers. Cllr Day stated that the Parish Council could not release telephone numbers due to data protection but had once again sent a list of all the postcodes where properties are affected. Cllr Day stated that the Digital Economy Bill had received Royal Assent which states that “... The Act includes provisions which will: give every household a legal right to request a fast broadband connection...” however to achieve this fibre networks are required. **Action: Clerk**

67.17 Locality Budget 2017/2018

Cllr O’Brien stated that at the moment the level of Local Budget funding for 2017/2018 had not been agreed. It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

68.17 VAS Signs

Cllr Finch reported that the poles are now installed ready for the VAS Sign to be used. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Finch**

69.17 To discuss the accidents at the crossroads Bell Lane / Foxhall Road

The Clerk reported that she has asked councillors to approve this item to be placed on the agenda due to the fact that another accident had occurred at the crossroads junction of Bell Lane / Foxhall Road and in this instance children had received minor injuries. Ben Woolnough Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Officer stated that plans were in the pipeline for traffic lights to be placed at

this junction however if the Adastral Park development went ahead it is envisaged that a roundabout would be installed at the junction. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Kesgrave Parish Council to agree a joint application to Highways to address the issues at this junction. **Action: Clerk**

70.17 Planning

The Planning Committee Chairman reported on the following planning matters.

a. General

Cllr Watts stated that a number of Planning Applications were still awaiting a decision.

b. Adastral Park

Ben Woolnough Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Officer was in attendance to answer questions from the Parish Council and the public with regard to the application. Ben stated he was offering to attend a number of Parish Council Meetings which will be affected by the development to answer any questions councillors and local residents may have. Detailed discussions took place and Ben answered questions on the number of entrances to the site, the bridleway crossing the A14 and also the envisaged timescale for the development. Ben said that development would be in three phases. The first phase starting in 2018 with 70 homes, school, open space with approximately 150 homes being erected each year following. Ben said that it is envisaged that the development will take until 2031/2032 to complete.

Ben said that a meeting is being arranged toward the end of May / beginning of June 2017 to discuss further.

Cllr Watts stated that the Parish Council had met and formulated a reply which would be sent out on the 10th May 2017 to Suffolk Coastal District Council. **Action: Cllr Watts / Clerk**

c. Orwell Truck Stop

The Parish Council and local residents present at the meeting discussed the documents and meetings held regarding the development of the Orwell Truck Stop site. Parishioners present at the meeting and also the Parish Council were extremely concerned with regard to the height of the building which appeared to be approximately 41 metres high. No Planning Application has been received by Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department but it was agreed that when/if the application is received by the Group Parish Council residents in the area would be made aware of its existence to enable them to lodge objections and comments. **Action: Cllr Watts / Clerk**

71.17 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses April 2017

£306.29

SALC Invoice

Discussions took place over the invoice which had been received for continued subscription to Suffolk Association of Local Councils of £738.35. The Parish Council requested that the Clerk write to SALC asking them for a breakdown of the benefits of remaining with SALC and why the cost for the subscription is so high. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Warham proposed, seconded Cllr Finch that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour.
Action: Clerk

72.17 To receive the accounts for the year 2016/2017

The Clerk had previously distributed a copy of the year-end accounts to each councillor and presented the accounts for 2016/2017 to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Warham seconded Cllr Finch that the year-end accounts 2016/2017 and the Local Councils in England Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman – agreed by the council.
Action: Clerk

73.17 Correspondence

- a. Cllr Nicky Yeo Suffolk Coastal District Council proposed that she fund the maintenance of Foxhall Village Sign out of her Enabling Budget and would send a form of the Clerk. **Action: Cllr N Yeo / Clerk**
- b. The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a lady who lives in Purdis Farm complaining that she had requested a councillor to arrange cleaning of the road signs and to place dog bins in the area. The Clerk had written back saying that she would report the road signs to Suffolk County Council Highways and that if the lady let her have a list of where she thought the number of dog bins was lacking the Clerk would put a proposal to the next Parish Council Meeting. **Action: Clerk**

74.17 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk

None

75.17 Members questions to the Chairman

None

76.17 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 14th June 2017 7.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Signed Date.....

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