

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 8th February 2017

Present

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

14.17 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Day and Cllr M Briggs (illness).

15.17 Declaration of interest

None

16.17 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th January 2017 were approved as being a true record.

17.17 Matters arising from the minutes

Page 7 Item 10.17 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Graham at Trinity Park who had stated that the reason for the concrete bollards and the extra boundary fencing at entrances was to avoid travellers accessing the site. He said that when travellers gain access to the site the costs are high to evict them from the site and also clearing up any mess left behind when they leave. Graham has offered to attend the Annual Parish Meeting with the new Chief Executive of Trinity Park to give a presentation on Trinity Park.

Page 7 Item 10.19 Members Question to the Chairman

The Clerk reported that she had written to Suffolk County Council Highways concerning the flooding in the service road on the Felixstowe Road. It was reported that the flooding issue had now been dealt with.

The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

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

I think we are all wondering what this new year, 2017, will bring. No one can accuse 2016 of being dull, but I would have preferred rather less excitement - Brexit, Mr Trump and the warmest year for eons! However, we carry on and, despite austerity, Suffolk County Council is doing the best it can to safeguard services. But, I have to admit, it is difficult. Efficiencies are made, staff reduced or redeployed and new ways of working introduced. I believe that the way forward must be through partnership working. This is talked of again and again and it is up to the organisations to come together for the greater good. It is beginning to happen. I witness it in the Police Force, as Suffolk & Norfolk Cybercrime Unit work together in this new and growing area of 'hidden crime'.

I have to admit that it has been a slow start to the year but, as always, issues are coming to the fore. Although I am no longer a district councillor I do have a deep interest in new housing and new developments, such as the continuing saga of Adastral Park and the logistics facility at Innocence Farm. - Parishes will have received my latest letters to Suffolk Coastal, all focusing on the area of increase in traffic and its effect on the environment and villages.

My main focus has been the Police & Crime Panel and I will be chairing the committee on 31st January. Topics under discussion relate to the Police Crime Commissioner's Proposed Precept; Cybercrime and Police & Crime Panel's Annual Report.

Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council – written report

January was an exhausting month in SCDC with so many meetings to discuss the proposed merger with Waveney District Council. In the end at the full Council meeting on Thursday 26 January the motion was passed with 33 for, 4 against and 1 abstention. The letter to the Secretary of State has now been sent and the Officers and Cabinet members of SCDC and WDC are now preparing the next stage. The current number of councillors for both District Councils is 90 and the aim is to reduce this to approximately 65/70. I hope that, for all our sakes, the boundaries do not become too big for one person to cover and I am keeping a close eye on these discussions. There will be working parties for each stage and I will be putting my name forward.

A key decision to make on whether the Council should take over responsibility for parking enforcement. Suffolk is one of the few counties in England where district councils do not have this responsibility, and parking enforcement is still carried out by the police.

The reality is that parking enforcement is not a priority for Suffolk Police. The lack of enforcement action is seen in communities across the district, with mounting discontent over 'unpoliced' illegal parking – in particular at pinch points around schools. There are significant safety issues associated with this and, under current arrangements, District Councils are powerless to enforce a solution. CPE would provide those powers.

The law permits the responsibility for parking enforcement to be transferred from the police to local authorities and income from tickets stays with the authority, potentially enabling self-funding. The deficit for East Suffolk is potentially £240,695 annually. If we agree to support this proposal, there are decisions to be made on how best to achieve this to break even. This proposal includes a range of options such as on-street pay and display or the development of new car parking facilities, and putting in place a very streamlined enforcement operation, fully integrated with our current off street parking enforcement service.

Beach Hut Consultation – The consultation asking the public to consider how beach hut services are run in the district continues until Friday 17 February.

The consultation follows December's Cabinet meeting which considered the review of the beach hut service. This review was set out to identify any service efficiencies and to consider further income generation opportunities, including the recommendations to convert all the current beach hut site licences into longer term leases and the proposed charges.

Following the results of the consultation, a revised report will be brought to Cabinet to consider later in the year.

Lastly, and I feel quite importantly for our community is the Scoping Paper regarding Innocence Farm which has been sent to SCDC Planning Department. You may feel that this application will not affect this ward but I can assure you that 3,000 extra lorries and 600 extra cars every day will. The air, noise and environmental pollution on all those that live in this area will have a detrimental effect on the young and old. Seven Hills Roundabout will be clogged up with traffic not just at rush hour but for 24 hours a day if the proposed application goes ahead. If and when a planning application is put to the Council I intend, with Cllrs Harvey, Harding and O'Brien, to oppose this vehemently.

Police – No report

Presentation by Jack O'Sullivan regarding monies available for Rural Housing

Jack gave a very informative talk on monies available for rural housing and advised the Parish Council that there was £350,000 available to help fund housing in Purdis Farm. The Parish Council discussed possible sites in the area which Jack stated he would investigate. The Parish Council also asked Jack to identify whether because the Parish Council was a Group whether the monies available could be used in either Brightwell or Foxhall. **Action: Clerk**

The meeting was re-convened.

18.17 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.

Affordable Housing

The Government has announced a £7 billion boost to affordable homes. The first wave of money has been allocated with millions going to Housing Associations in the East of England.

Prime Minister Theresa May and Communities Secretary Sajid Javid have announced a £50 million funding boost for new homelessness prevention schemes across the country, including targeted support for those at risk of rough sleeping. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-areas-to-benefit-from-50m-fund-to-tackle-homelessness>

The Homelessness Prevention Bill has reached Committee Stage: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/homelessnessreduction.html>

The Government are consulting on creating a single body to offer the public financial guidance and replace The Money Advice Service, The Pension Advisory Service and Pension Wise. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/public-financial-guidance-review-consultation-on-a-single-body>

Coastal Town in Norfolk, Suffolk & Essex Receive Funding

Coastal Communities Minister Andrew Percy on the 20th January 2017 gave seaside areas a cash boost and urged an army of activists to help revitalise our Great British coast.

Mr Percy announced that a further 28 new 'Coastal Community Teams' will be set up across the country and tasked with producing radical economic plans which create jobs along the shore.

Each team – made up of local volunteers, councils and local businesses – will receive an initial £10,000 each to develop a blueprint for economic growth and be offered support from a network geared towards regenerating our much-loved seaside areas.

They will now join 118 existing teams who in less than 2 years have helped the seaside regain its position as the most popular overnight holiday destination for Brits – with a massive 13.6 million visits in 2015.

Merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils

Letter from Stephen Baker Chief Executive:

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have been working in partnership for a number of years now and last week they made a significant decision regarding the future of that partnership.

At a Simultaneous Cabinet meeting, followed by meetings of both Full Councils, the decision was taken to make a formal request to the Secretary of State to dissolve the two existing District Councils and create a new, single, District Council for the combined area. This decision was predicted on a range of reasons and arguments, but at the heart of the decision was the shared aim and ambition to provide a stronger voice for our East Suffolk communities.

The process will take quite a while, and there is much work to do, but we expect to be electing to the new District Council in May 2019. There has been some rumour and speculation surrounding this proposal, but please be assured that the impact on Town and Parish Councils is expected to be minimal. For instance, the new District Council will continue to occupy the existing premises in Riverside Lowestoft and East Suffolk House Melton. However, it is expected that the number of councillors serving on the new council will reduce and meetings and processes will be streamlined considerably.

18.17 To discuss the letter drafted by Cllr Day regarding the speed of Broadband in the area

In Cllr Day's absence the Clerk reported that she had received an email in reply to her letter to British Telecom stating they were investigating the issues raised by the Parish Council regarding Broadband in the area. **Action: Cllr Day / Clerk**

19.17 VAS Signs

Nothing to report. Deferred until next meeting.

20.17 To discuss Ipswich Transport Plans – Warren Heath

It was reported that as part of the proposed Northern By-pass there may be a train station at Warren Heath. Discussions took place regarding the practicalities of a train station.

21.17 Planning

The Planning Committee Chairman reported on the following planning matters.

a. General

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 an appeal had been lodged by the applicant.

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.

Cllr Watts reported that the above application had been referred to committee on the 22nd February 2017. Cllr Watts stated that Kevin Rout and Liz Beech could express their views at the meeting.

b. Adastral Park

Cllr Watts stated that he had looked at the details on the website and that the site has four entrances, health care facilities, shops, schools and green space and that it was proposed that the development would start with the school and 30 dwellings around the school.

Cllr Newell gave a report on Adastral Park Meetings she had attended.

22.17 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses January 2017

£305.40

Cllr Watts proposed, seconded Cllr Finch that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour.

Action: Clerk

23.17 Correspondence

- a. The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Chris Hemmingsley Area Planning Manager Brett Group as follows. "I am relatively new to Brett Group, one of the interested parties at Foxhall Landfill site, and understand that there is a regular liaison meeting in regard to the site held with local interested parties? Normally these are attended by the County but on this occasion Anita was not aware of the meeting. Can you confirm if the parish is aware/involved? If so Brett and one of the other operators on site would be keen to participate, as is the case in relation to a number of our sites."

Cllr Newell queried whether Mr Hemmingsley was talking about the quarry or the land fill tip. The quarry has 6 monthly meetings which Cllr Newell attends and Bretts holds the meetings at their offices in Foxhall. The date of the next meeting of the quarry is 24th July 2017 at 4.00 pm at the quarry.

Cllr Newell reported that at the recent meeting at the Quarry it was stated that Bretts will be putting in application next month to extend the time scale for operation at the quarry.

24.17 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk

- a. As discussed above Cllr Newell reported that she had attended the recent Quarry Meeting on the 7th February 2017.

25.17 Members questions to the Chairman

None

26.17 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 8th March 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.29 pm.

Signed Date.....

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