

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 12th July 2017

Present

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

97.17 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Newell.

98.17 Declaration of interest

None

99.17 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th June 2017 were approved as being a true record.

100.17 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

The result of the county elections gave the conservatives a considerable majority; 52 conservative councillors out of a total of 75. For the past few weeks training and refresher courses have been taking place together with placement in committees and outside bodies. I remain on the Police and Crime Panel.

A new Highways Senior Leadership Team was established, from March, with appointments made to all Head of Service roles under the New Highways Transformation programme. Heads of Service have assisted in the new organisational structure for Suffolk Highways.

The Raising the Bar awards for 2017 took place at Trinity Park on 26th June which recognises the extra efforts of children and young people in their educational achievements.

The Suffolk's Better Broadband Programme continues across the county. Alas I must comment on the poor service I have received, and continue to do so. Two weeks ago, after the storm, my phones, plus broadband connection, failed. Open Reach tested my home line and found it working. I needed new phones. Broadband, however required a new hub. BT was contacted and a hub ordered. It failed to arrive on 26th I phoned again and was told it hadn't been ordered!! My frustration was considerable. Hub re-ordered but, again, didn't arrive. Finally, engineer came but problem not within home system, outside!! Now must wait until a cable is replaced. — I am writing this at SCC HQ. as I go there to access and answer emails. Apologies if pcs have emailed me and not received a response.

Deborah Cadman, SCC's Chief Executive is to take up a new role as Chief Executive of the West Midlands Combined Authority. She has played a substantial role in educational improvement and staff morale.

The locality budget has been reduced to £8k. Cllr O'brien stated that the Locality Budget for the Parish Council would be £1,000.

Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council

I am now back from my holiday and was feeling refreshed until I returned to work and then had a Task Force Development Group meeting the same day.

I am pleased to say that the application for the repair of the Foxhall sign is going through and perhaps you may have heard more than I have as to when the money will be forthcoming.

During my holiday I was in touch with Trevor Barber and have agreed to give him £2,000 towards the costs of the work for Brightwell Church and will send him the ECB application form in due course.

Regarding the Council once again, I can report a very positive financial performance for 2016/2017 in respect of the General Fund, Reserves, the Capital Programme and the Collection Fund.

Through careful and effective budget management the Council delivered savings and achieved additional income, which helped to meet spending pressures and reduction in Government Grant. The Council increased its General Fund balance by £74k, to £4.194m, maintaining a prudent level of around 3%-5% of gross expenditure. The Council was able to increase its Earmarked Reserves by £8.571m. £6.676m of this was to the Business Rate Equalisation Reserve. This was due to rates income above the Governments' baseline and a one-off transfer of a surplus from a prior year reduction in the appeals provision. The Capital Programme expenditure for 2016/2017 was £4.096m, funded from external grants and contributions, capital receipts and capital reserve. The Council did not enter into any borrowing in 2016/2017 to finance its capital expenditure and consequently remains debt free.

The final outturn position is subject to the audit of the Statement of Accounts. The audit Statement of Accounts will be submitted for approval to full Council in September 2017.

Sadly I was away during the Armed forces weekend which was hosted by Suffolk Coastal District Council but I have heard from my fellow District Councillors that it was well attended and it was well worth all the hard work and effort that was put in to it by the organisers. Especially worth watching

was the re-enactment of the Battle of Landguard Fort which I understand the English were victorious once again.

I have also been informed that tickets are now available for the Suffolk Coast Forum Conference 2017.

The event at Trinity Park Ipswich on Friday, 6th October is the 6th annual community conference being staged by the Suffolk Coast Forum.

This year's conference focuses on valuing our coast. It aims to bring together the reasons why the coast is so important to our communities, our businesses, our economy, culture and heritage as well as our environment.

The speakers and workshops will put forward the compelling case for building the future of our coast through planning, investment and management – outlining the many innovative ways in which this can and is being done here and elsewhere.

The conference is free of charge. However, we would recommend booking your place early at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/suffolk-coast-and-estuaries-community-conference-2017tickets-26964786402.

Before I went away on holiday I attended my first engagement in my role as Vice Chairman of the Council which was to visit Sutton who were holding a Flower Show. My daughter, Saskia, was my plus one and we had a lovely time looking at the beautiful displays.

The next full Council is on Thursday, 27th July and I am sure that I will be able to report some more information when next we meet in September.

Enabling Budget

Cllr Yeo reported that she had provided finance from the Enabling Budget to Brightwell PCC of £2,000 and the Foxhall Sign of £1,200. **Action: Clerk**

Bus Shelter

Cllr Yeo reported that she had tried to contact Neil Ellis at Ipswich Golf Club regarding the siting of the bus shelter. Cllr Yeo agreed that she would contact him again and arrange a site visit to show Neil where it is envisaged the bus shelter would be sited. **Action: Cllr Nicky Yeo**

The meeting was re-convened.

101.17 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.

Email from LCPAS

Email sent to all councillors regarding Crowded Places Guide and Cyber Bullying Briefing Paper

Code of Conduct for Planning Inspectorates

The Government has published a Code of Conduct that will cover the functions and behaviour expected from Planning Inspectorate.

This may be of interest if Council wishes to challenge a planning matter or are undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan.

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/617149/code-of-conduct.pdf

Housing – Update from LCPAS

The Government have today announced a significant housing infrastructure fund of 2.4 billion pounds to bring developments forward at a faster pace.

The new investment through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) aims to solve this problem and today opens for bids for local authorities across England to come forward with proposals to help get homes built faster.

Funding will also be available to help build new schools, healthcare centres and digital infrastructure to accommodate growing communities and alleviate pressure on public services.

Once proposals have been approved, it is expected that local authorities would begin building the necessary infrastructure immediately and for the homes to follow quickly afterwards.

HIF is part of the government's wider £23 billion National Productivity Investment Fund, which targets spending on areas critical to boosting productivity, including on housing, transport and digital communications.

Planning Authorities will be able to bid on the funding and an important part of the criteria is community support.

The Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill – Update from LCPAS

Homes and businesses across England are set to benefit from better broadband thanks to new laws introduced by the government today (4 July 2017).

The Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill is paving the way for a gold standard of full-fibre broadband and future 5G communications. By enabling 100% business rates relief for operators who install new fibre on their networks, the Bill will incentivise operators to invest in the broadband network.

By seeking to improve the speed, service quality, security and reliability of broadband services, the Bill has the potential to transform the way in which modern businesses work together, reach their consumers and target their export markets.

The benefits of better broadband will be felt wider than businesses. It will also increase internet speeds for households and enable households with multiple devices and users to download and upload huge amounts of data. For example, simultaneously streaming high definition TV and films, playing online games, and working from home quicker and more reliably than ever before.

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0003/18003.pdf>

A14 Upgrade Progress Report – Update from LCPAS

The project team delivering the biggest road upgrade under construction in the UK have been sharing an update about ongoing work on site, within the surrounding environment and with local communities.

New aerial photographs have been published today revealing how the new road is emerging. Alongside this progress, foundations and bridge columns for some of the project's 34 new bridges have been installed.

Work on building the £1.5bn upgrade to the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon started in November last year. The project includes widening a total of seven miles of the A14 in each direction (across two sections), a major new bypass south of Huntingdon, widening a three-mile section of the A1 and demolition of a viaduct at Huntingdon, which will support improvements in the town.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a14-cambridge-to-huntington-upgrade-takes-shape>

Bat Habitats Regulation Bill – Update from LCPAS

The Bat Habitats Bill had its first reading on the 3rd July 17 and seeks to enhance the protection of Bats in regard to new developments. The Bill also conversely seeks to remove protection for Bats that roost in places of worship if it is considered that their presence adversely affects the building.

Further details will be provided in a statutory instrument should the Bill successfully become an Act.

The text of the Bill is below and can also be viewed from <https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0024/18024.pdf>

Make provision to enhance the protection available for bat habitats in the vicinity of a building site and to limit the protection for bat habitats in buildings used for public worship.

Surveys of bat habitats in the vicinity of a building site

(1) No new building shall be constructed on a previously undeveloped site unless prior to its construction a local bat survey has been conducted and it has been established whether or not a bat habitat is located in the vicinity of the proposed building.

(2) Where a survey under subsection (1) concludes that a bat habitat is located in the vicinity of the site of a proposed building, the building shall not be occupied unless or until the developer of that building has provided a bat box or artificial roost for each species of bat located in the vicinity.

(3) In this section, the meaning of “building” includes “wind turbine”, such that no wind turbine for which planning permission is required shall be constructed unless prior to its construction a local bat survey has been conducted and it has been established that no bat habitat is located in the vicinity of the proposed wind turbine.

(4) Limiting the protection for bat habitats in buildings used for public worship Notwithstanding the European Communities Act 1972, the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 shall not apply to bats or bat roosts located inside a building used for

public worship unless it has been established that the presence of such bats or bat roosts has no significant adverse impact upon the users of the building.

102.17 To discuss the Speed of Broadband in the area

Cllr Day reported that an email had been sent to Foxhall parishioners advising them of the planned improvements to be made to Broadband speeds. It was agreed that this item should be taken off the agenda as no further action is necessary. **Action: Clerk**

103.17 Locality Budget 2017/2018

As previously reported by Cllr O'Brien the Parish Council Locality Budget for the year 2017/2018 is £1,000. It was agreed to discuss possible options for using the £1,000 at the next meeting. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

104.17 VAS Signs

Cllr Finch reported that he still had not been notified of when the VAS equipment would be delivered.

Cllr Finch reported that he had been trying to contact Malcolm King Suffolk County Council Highways Manager to apply to position poles in Brightwell. Malcolm King has now left Suffolk County Council and as a result the Parish Council have to look at options for positioning the poles and report back to SCC for consideration. **Action: Cllr Finch / Clerk**

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

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Kesgrave Town Council expressing their concerns about the accident rate at the crossroads. Christine Marsh Service Development Co-ordinator for Kesgrave Town Council stated that they have a Traffic and Pedestrian Working Party that discusses this sort of issue and their next meeting is on Monday, 31st July at 7.15 pm and invited councillors from the Parish Council to attend. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr A Wells would attend. **Action: Cllr Wells / Clerk**

106.17 To discuss the installation of additional waste bins

Due to the uncertainty regarding where the additional bin(s) are required it was agreed to defer this matter until the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Lawrence / Clerk**

107.17 Straight Road Classification

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Jayne Cole LCPAS regarding the classification of Straight Road and had received a reply as follows.

"The Parish Council could approach this matter in two ways:

1. Request that the Highways Authority reclassify the road. This would involve a consultation process and before this they would have to agree that the road has the characteristics to match a higher classification. Details are in Chapter three of this document: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315783/road-classification-guidance.pdf

or

2. Request that the speed limit is changed because of the level of traffic and/or proximity to dwellings and schools. In both cases it would really help having the support of your County Councillor and access to their locality budget/highways budget (used to be called quality of life grant). A parish council recently managed to get a change of speed on a road approaching their village but the County Councillor had to agree to £10,000 coming out of his highways budget. The cost was questioned and SCC stated that the process and the production of signs is expensive (as this is an internal process it's hard to see why?!). I would recommend having a chat with Highways and your County Councillor. It would also help if you could demonstrate community support for one or both options.

Cllr Day reported that an accident had occurred at the junction Felixstowe Road / Straight Road and he believed this was due to insufficient signage at the junction.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Suffolk County Council Highways Department

1. Requesting a speed limit of 30 mph on Straight Road and improve the signage and
2. Improving the signage on the Felixstowe Road / Straight Road junction and
3. Request a copy of the police report. **Action: Clerk**

108.17 To discuss the application received for the co-option on to the Parish Council (Foxhall)

Parish Councillors debated the request from a Foxhall parishioner to be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Cllr Lawrence proposed, seconded Cllr Wells that the application be rejected 5 in favour, 2 abstentions. **Action: Clerk**

109.17 Bus Shelters Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm

As previously reported Cllr Yeo will contact Neil Ellis at Ipswich Golf Club to arrange a site visit to discuss the siting of the bus shelter on Bucklesham Road. **Action: Cllr Nicky Yeo**

110.17 Planning

The Planning Committee Chairman reported on the following planning matters.

DC/17/2660/OUT Land to the north of Purdis Farm Lane **Purdis Farm** 8 dwellings with associated infrastructure parking and landscaping

Eight residents from the local area were present at the meeting to enable them to put their opinions forward to the Parish Council. Cllr Watts stated that the Parish Council had requested extra time from the Planning Department (until 17th July 2017) to enable them to formulate a reply and to give councillors the opportunity to listen to local resident concerns. Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairman of the Planning Committee Cllr Watts should formulate a reply objecting to the application taking into consideration the views of the local residents. Cllr Watts stated that the objections of the Parish Council would be based on the Local Plan. **Action: Cllr Watts / Clerk**

111.17 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses June 2017	£289.02
HMRC Tax April, May, June 2017	£184.00
Donation to Brightwell Church	£250.00

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

Action: Clerk

112.17 Correspondence

- a. Copy of an email including photographs received from a parishioner to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust concerning the cutting back and eventually felling of a protected tree on land on the corner of Purdis Farm Lane and Purdis Avenue IP3 8UF.

113.17 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk

None

114.17 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr Briggs reported that the resident from the house at the entrance to Woodrush Road was driving over the kerb in vehicles which is disturbing the roots of the tree. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Newell**
- b. Cllr Day reported that a traffic survey had been undertaken on the A1156 near to the crematorium. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Suffolk County Council Highways to request a copy of the results. Cllr Warham also reported that she believed that a traffic survey had also been undertaken in Bucklesham Road and requested a copy of the results. **Action: Clerk**
- c. Cllr Day reported that he had contacted the Environmental Health complaining that potatoes had been left to rot in a field close to the Felixstowe Road which was causing problems with flies in the area.

115.17 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 13th September 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Signed Date.....

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