

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 13th September 2017

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman
Cllr G Watts
Cllr A Day
Cllr A Wells
Cllr E Lawrence
Cllr A Finch
Cllr B Newell
Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council
Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk
1 member of the public

116.17 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from. Cllr M Briggs and Cllr P O'brien – Suffolk County Council.

117.17 Declaration of interest

None

118.17 Minutes

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

119.17 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

Most of what I write will relate to the summer months.

At Full Council on 20th July SCC adopted its new Strategic Priorities document. This outlines SCCs priorities for the next four years building on the Conservative manifesto from the recent CC elections in May. At its core are three principles – inclusive growth, health care and wellbeing, efficient and effective public services.

Every four years any council is required to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to look at and report on the Allowance Scheme for Councillors. SCC voted to accept the proposals made by the Independent Remunerations Panel, to increase allowances for the Cabinet, Deputy Leader and Leader. The Panel recommended no change to the level of basic allowance for county councillors.

The increase for Leader, Deputy and Cabinet has been met by savings and will have no overall effect upon the budget.

I was re-elected as Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 21st July. The meeting focused on: road safety, update on Local Policing Review and speed watch schemes. Road safety is a major issue and areas discussed included: enforcement of speeding fines, drug related driving; 20mph speed enforcement; urban community speed-watch schemes. Questions regarding the Local Policing Review centred on: police recruitment, delivery of the Police & Crime Plan objectives, communication, a most vital area; response to 999/101 calls.

There has been improvement in both GCSE O and A level results.

Suffolk CC Highways have been re-structured and as of 4th Sept. a new system has been put in place. To report defects <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk> or phone 0345 606 6171.

Free school travel has been adjusted and only those attending the nearest school will be able to benefit. Those attending a school that is not the nearest will no longer benefit from free travel. Free travel will remain available for those with individual needs and from low income families.

Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council

Since our last meeting I have tried to resolve the problem of the bus shelter but to date I cannot report anything new. I emailed the Golf Club but received no reply and then I have been on holiday and then the gentleman himself went on holiday so I am hoping to have a meeting within the next two weeks with him and then be able to report something more positive.

Foxhall have received the funds for the restoration of their sign which is good news and Brightwell Church are just about to receive their funding for the restoration of some of the windows. I have now spent almost all of my Community Enabling Budget and am just in the process of finding out how much I have left, if any.

Some residents had contacted me about the changes to the beach huts and I along with other District Councillors objected to the proposed changes. There was a consultation period to which owners/tenants could put their point of view across.

This consultation was carried out at the beginning of 2017 and the result is that the Council has modified its recommendations significantly.

The 2017 Beach Hut Review now seeks to provide a way forward for the Council, to cover its costs and provide a commercial return on this non-statutory service, while balancing the wider views of the beach hut owner community.

The key recommendations from the report are:

The 916 existing beach hut sites in Felixstowe and Sizewell are kept on a licence system, with a 3-year licence being issued (covering from 1 April 2018 until 31 March 2021) to existing beach hut site owners

The current system of licence fees is streamlined into a two-tier system, defined as Premium and Standard, based on front row (premium) and non front row (standard), with the fees for 2018/19 being set at £500 (inc VAT) for Premium sites and £400 (inc VAT) for Standard sites

- the fees will be increases by 10% in Years 2 and 3, then reviewed.
- there will be a set administration fee for issuing new licences be charged at £600 (inc VAT) to cover administration costs, with a discounted fee of £120 (inc VAT) available to beach hut owners transferring ownership to an immediate family member.

After having resolved [hopefully] the question of the beach huts I fear that another outcry will be heard and this time is about the proposed changes to dog controls in the district to introduce Public Space Protection Orders.

I am not sure that these proposed changes will affect us in Nacton and Purdis Farm but I think Councillors should be aware just in case we are asked by residents, though I do know that there have been problems with dogs and sheep in the Broke Hall area.

Regarding planning, I have not seen anything yet regarding the proposed 41 m high logistics unit in Felixstowe Road but I have noticed that Orwell Truck Stop have put in various changes to the old fast food building which I personally do not have a problem with.

Cllr Yeo reported that action was being taken to remove the caravan which has been parked and lived in Purdis Avenue. **Action: Cllr Nicky Yeo**

Public Forum

The parishioner who attended the meeting asked the Parish Council why the posts which would accommodate the VAS on Bucklesham Road have been moved and also that the VAS sign had broken down after only 2 weeks. Cllr Finch said that the posts had not been moved and had been placed in the agreed position by Suffolk County Council Highways Department and that he was on holiday at the time the VAS sign was not working and that there had been a lose connection in the sign and that although the light was not working the equipment was still recording the speed of vehicles which he rectified as soon as he returned from holiday. Cllr Finch reported that there are five locations in Bucklesham Road in total some of which are situated on existing posts and some are on new posts.

The parishioner also stated that the local residents are not happy with the issues concerning Straight Road and that they had not been consulted. Cllr Day updated the meeting with the current position with regard to speed control and signs in Straight Road and he emphasised how important it is that everyone wrote their own individual letter nor a copy of a 'stock' one to Suffolk County Council Highways Department.

The meeting was re-convened.

120.17 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.

New Fund Launched to Reduce Litter by Using Innovation

The government has announced a new fund to tackle litter using new technology and innovation. Councillors do have the power to issue fixed penalty notices for dropping litter, graffiti and fly posting. Although very few Councils take up the powers (Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment

Act 2005 and Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003). This is in part that policing this issue is problematic as is the issuing and collecting fines. This is because if you take up these powers the Council must be prepared to take court action if the fines are not forthcoming. There are also the issues around dog fouling which we find is the most common nuisance reported to us. Should there be a reward system for clean communities as an incentive to tackle litter and encourage people to use bins instead of fines for individuals or a mix of both? Should Councils and their communities have a zero tolerance stance and give greater publicity to the issue using posters, websites and newsletters? There is also a link to the governments response to the recent consultation on penalties for environmental offences including littering. Information for applicants to the Litter Innovation Fund can be found on WRAP's website.

Silver Sunday – 1st October

Silver Sunday is a national initiative that is described (on their website) as an opportunity to 'pause and think about older people and celebrate their contribution to society' with the aim of drawing attention to the problem of loneliness amongst older people. You can find out more at <https://silversunday.org.uk>.

"Help Plan the future of the District"

Local Plan Review – Issues and Options Consultation

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Suffolk Coastal District Council is committed to undertaking a review of its Local Plan as outlined in the adopted Core Strategy. The Core Strategy sets the broad scale and distribution of growth across the district up to 2027.

The Council is now undertaking a Local Plan Review which is to begin with the Issues and Options document which is published for public consultation from Friday 18th August until Monday 30th October 2017 (23.45). The consultation document and other supporting information can be found through this link: <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/help-plan-the-future-of-the-district/>.

Public Space Protection Orders - For Consultation

Letter from Suffolk Coastal District Council:

Dear Consultee,

Statutory Consultation Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Controls in the Suffolk Coastal District

I am writing to advise you that the Council is considering amending the various dog controls currently in force across the Suffolk Coastal District.

Currently, there are several by-laws and an order made under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 which are in force and impose requirements on dog owners including prohibiting dogs from certain areas, requiring owners to clean up after their dogs on most open land, and also requiring dogs to be kept on a lead in certain defined areas.

The Council is proposing to introduce “Public Space Protection Orders” to replace these controls as set out in the detailed consultation documents available for download on the Council’s website at <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/animals/dog-control/publicspace-protection-orders/>

There are some significant changes in some areas, and only minor changes proposed in others, and some of the controls remain the same, so please take the time to read these proposals.

If you wish to comment on these proposed new Public Space Protection Orders, please do so in writing either by emailing environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or in writing to: PSPO Consultation, c/o Environmental Protection, Suffolk Coastal District Council, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton Suffolk IP12 1RT, or by visiting the consultation page on our website.

Your comments should reach us by no later than midnight on Friday 22nd September 2017.

All consultation responses will be given due consideration before any orders are made. The final decision will rest with Suffolk Coastal District Council and will be scheduled for consideration by Cabinet at a meeting after the consultation has closed.

Transport

Bus passengers fall to lowest in a decade.

The number of people using buses in England has fallen to its lowest level in a decade at 4.45 billion passenger journeys in 2016/17.

The Local Government Association (LGA) warned that the decline in bus passenger journeys could lead to increased congestion and poorer air quality in local communities as well as leaving those who rely on the bus network unsupported.

The Department for Transport figures show that overall there were more than 75 million fewer journeys across the country in the year to the end of March 2017 in comparison with the previous year – a decrease of 1.7 per cent.

Buses in England, outside of London, had 1.1 per cent fewer journeys – a fall of almost 49 million – in the same period. Metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas saw a similar drop, with 1.1 per cent and 1.2 per cent fewer journeys respectively.

121.17 Locality Budget 2017/2018

Councillors discussed the repairs required to Brightwell Village sign and also the broken glass in the Purdis Farm Notice Board on Murrills Road the latter of which it is believed had been caused by vandals. Cllr Wells reported that he had spoken to Richard regarding both repairs. Cllr Warham proposed, seconded Cllr Day that, due to the urgency, that Richard should be asked to go ahead and repair the notice board as soon as possible and that the Clerk should write to Cllr Patricia O’Brien asking whether the Locality Budget could be used towards repairing the Brightwell Village sign.

Action: Clerk / Cllr Wells

122.17 To discuss the co-option of councillor

Councillors had previously been sent a copy of an email from Ray Walters supporting his application to become a councillor on the Group Parish Council. Following discussion of the application Cllr Wells proposed, seconded Cllr Watts that Ray Walters be co-opted as a Parish Councillor – 6 in favour, 1 abstention. It was therefore unanimously agreed that Ray Walters should be appointed.

Action: Clerk

123.17 VAS Signs

Cllr Finch reported that the VAS equipment had been placed in position on Bucklesham Road and had been monitoring the speed of traffic. Cllr Finch presented a table of data which he had downloaded. A copy of the data report is appended in the minute book. An accident had occurred at 4.15 pm on 11th September and the equipment had recorded a car travelling at 65 miles an hour at the time and unfortunately the car had hit a tree. He pointed out that children are dropped off from school at approximately the same time. Cllr Finch asked Cllr Nicky Yeo who to send the data to so that action can be taken. Cllr Nicky Yeo suggested sending the data to Tim Passmore Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. Following discussion, it was agreed that in the first instance Cllr Finch should contact the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Sgt Peter Street. Cllr Finch reported that he was investigating the possibility of placing the equipment on Brightwell Hill. Cllr Finch agreed to again contact Suffolk County Council Highways Department to discuss the problem of where to locate the posts.

The Chairman Cllr Warham thanked Cllr Finch for all his hard work on this project.

Action: Clerk / Cllr Finch

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

Cllr Newell reported on the meeting she had attended held by the Kesgrave Transport Working Party (Kesgrave Town Council). Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to David Chenery Suffolk County Council Highways Manager (copy of Kesgrave Town Council) requesting that consideration be given to the following proposals.

- a. Installation of rumble strips.
- b. Decrease in speed limit to 40 mph on Foxhall Road where it is currently 60 mph ie the national speed limit.
- c. New signs to be placed along Foxhall Road highlighting the danger of joining traffic.
- d. Reclassifying/redressing the road from rural to urban.
- e. Stop fly posting which could distract drivers.
- f. Increase frequency of when undergrowth is cut back.

Action: Clerk / Cllr Newell

125.17 To discuss the installation of additional waste bins

Cllr Lawrence reported that he had received a request to install a new waste bin in Murrills Road. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded Cllr Warham that the Clerk purchase a new waste bin to be installed – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

126.17 Straight Road Classification

The Clerk reported Cllr Patricia O'Brien had been in contact David Chenery Suffolk County Council Highways Manager who has stated the following.

"Reclassification of road to a higher status – its currently the U3205, connecting the A1156 at the south and C321 Bucklesham Road crossroads at its north end.

I've not come across reclassifications in the last 40 years in highways unless in connection with a new road or bypass. We have heard that the desire is to go the other way to reduce our maintenance liabilities. The only benefit of it becoming a C road is that there would be a higher frequency of inspection and might attract more maintenance monies. However, it wouldn't affect its status in getting more road safety treatments if any were justified. I think this is a non-starter.

Lower speed limit – we work to published criteria (on the SCC web site). From my knowledge of these this road would not meet the criteria for a lower limit. There is very limited development so drivers would see no need to drive slower and compliance of a lower speed limit would be poor. There is a short section of 30mph at its north end which seems fine for the road layout and number of dwellings.

Happy to hear about any further information about the issues on this road. I have also asked the police and been referred to their Safer Neighbourhood Team which I'll pursue."

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact David Chenery to arrange a site visit with Cllr Day.

Cllr Day reported that he understood that work was being undertaken on Straight Road starting on the 25th September. The Clerk reported that she had not received a notification of the work.

Action: Clerk / Cllr Day

127.17 Bus Shelters Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm

Cllr Nicky Yeo reported that she had endeavoured to contact the Secretary of the Ipswich Golf Club but had been unsuccessful. Nicky said that she would continue to try and make contact. **Action: Cllr Nicky Yeo**

128.17 Planning

The Planning Committee Chairman reported on the following planning matters.

General

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

DC/17/3720/FUL – Part land south of Street Farm Cottage Brightwell – Change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house – Pending.

Cllr Watts reported that the application had been resubmitted but the applicant does not appear to have made any changes to the original application.

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Document

Cllr Watts reported that the hard copy of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Document had been received and would be circulated to all councillors for discussion at the next meeting. Cllr Watts asked that if any councillors had comments once they had studied the document to send them to either himself or the Clerk. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

Adastral Park

Cllr Watts reported that an email had been received from Ben Woolnough Suffolk Coastal District Council concerning the brief updates to the Adastral Park application. The re-consultation is likely to consist of a revised Transport Assessment and it will be accompanied by a covering letter explaining what has changed and why. A copy of the updates should be received week commencing 18th September 2017. **Action: Cllr Watts / Clerk**

129.17 Finance

Income

SCDC – Foxhall Village Sign £1,200.00

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses July 2017 £298.29

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses August 2017 £303.35

BDO Audit Fee £120.00

Business Services at CAS Insurance £276.00

Westcotec – VAS Equipment £3,690.00

External Audit

The Clerk reported that the external audit had been successfully completed and no issues had been highlighted.

Cllr Warham proposed, seconded Cllr Finch that the above expenditure is approved and that the successful completion of the External Audit had been noted by the Parish Council – all in favour.

130.17 Correspondence

None

131.17 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk

- a. Cllr Newell reported on the meeting she had attended a meeting Waldringfield Liaison Committee on the 24th July 2017.

132.17 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr Day although the Clerk had requested information from SCC Highways and also Suffolk Police regarding the recent traffic surveys carried out on Bucklesham Road and Felixstowe Road both had stated that no traffic surveys had been carried out. Cllr Day asked the Clerk to contact Ben Wolnough Suffolk Coastal District Council asking whether the surveys had been carried out as part of the Adastral Park Planning Application. **Action: Clerk**

- b. The Clerk stated that it had been reported in the East Anglian Daily Times that Bucklesham Grange Care Home had received an award for their gardens.
- c. The Clerk asked whether any councillors had noticed whether the wedding signs on the Brightwell roundabout had been removed as she had noticed that some of the wedding signs had been placed against a building in Hall Road.

133.17 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 11th October 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27 pm.

Signed..... Date

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