

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 13th June 2018

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman

Cllr A Day

Cllr G Watts

Cllr A Wells

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr B Newell

Cllr R Walters

Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council

Cllr P O'brien – Suffolk County Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

1 member of the public

85.18 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Finch (due to work commitments).

86.18 To receive Members' declaration of interest

None

87.18 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 23rd May 2018 were approved as being a true record.

88.18 Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes. All items included in the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:

Cllr P O'brien – Suffolk County Council

On 24 May, Councillor Mathew Hicks was elected as the new leader of Suffolk County Council. Councillor Hicks has promised a new era of working in partnership and listening. He has pledged to work with district and borough councils, other public-sector partners, businesses and residents to find the best ways of delivering services to the people.

He also confirmed Suffolk County Council's focus on major infrastructure including the Ipswich Northern Relief Road, A12 four village bypass (SEGWAY), Sudbury Relief Road, Beccles Relief Road, A1307, the A140 and A47 schemes plus the Lowestoft Third Crossing and the Upper Orwell Crossings. Councillor Hicks stressed the need for a co-ordinated and strategic approach so there is clarity on how major infrastructure projects can be delivered when funding is so tight.

One of his first duties was to appoint the Cabinet who, with him, will be responsible for almost £500 million of public services each year. Councillor Hicks will take personal responsibility for economic development and major infrastructure projects in addition to his leadership duties.

On 30 May it was announced that 15 smart litter bins are about to be installed in trial locations across Suffolk in order to reduce littering on the county's trunk roads. The customised bins are designed for roadside use with a sign saying 'Litter', a wider than usual aperture to make disposal of rubbish easier, bright orange bodies, reflective white signage and the clear message 'Keep Suffolk Beautiful'. The bins will also be fitted with new remote monitoring devices to help councils coordinate the emptying of these bins more efficiently. More standard bins are also being installed as part of the campaign at other trial layby locations along the A11, A12 and A14 in Suffolk, to see if the increase in number and the type of litter bin provided results in less litter.

On 16 May, it was reported that four Suffolk councils have worked together to try to ensure more children get the free school meals they are entitled to. Changes to the benefit system in the wake of the introduction of Universal Credit mean that some families are missing out. The free school meals team at Suffolk County Council is urging parents and carers to apply for the meals. In addition, each application could bring Pupil Premium Funding to the respective school. The school can decide how to spend this windfall – as much as £1,300 a year over six years for each extra child applying - and could use it to pay for more books, cut the price of school trips and uniforms or bring in more teaching aids

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Suffolk is considering the potential sale of the Police Headquarters site at Martlesham for residential development, in order to help reduce costs and provide better value for money to tax payers without impacting on police services or jobs.

Cllr N Yeo – Suffolk Coastal District Council

The Chairman of the Parish Council congratulated Cllr Yeo on being voted Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

I was voted in on May 24 as Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council, being the last Chairman as the merger with Waveney has been passed by Parliament and the East Suffolk will come into existence May 2019 in time for the District Council Elections.

On that point may I remind you that it is important for Parish Councillors to attend the Electoral Review meeting on June 22 between 5 and 7 pm at East Suffolk House where it will give Councillors a chance to have a look at the proposed boundary changes. Unfortunately, even though I did push to keep this Ward together the Option 6 was sent to the Boundary Commission. The consultation period will begin next month, and I urge Parish Councillors and residents if they so wish to push for what was Option 5 which kept this ward as one with Levington and the Trimleys.

The proposed East Suffolk Council held its first Shadow meeting in Darsham where a Shadow Leader, Deputy Leader and Chairman were elected. Cllr Mark Bee will be Leader for 6 months, Cllr Ray Herring will be Deputy Leader for 6 months and then they will change roles. Cllr Stephen Burroughes was elected Chairman and Cllr Tony Goldson was Vice Chairman – they too will swap roles after 6 months.

For those who are interested the Deben Leisure Centre will re-open towards the end of the month and membership is now available through

www.placesforpeopleleisure.org/centres/deben-leisure-centre/

There is a sales centre which is open weekdays 10 am until 7 pm and at weekends from 9 am until 4 pm.

Open Forum

Cllr Finch had reported that a local resident had cut back the hedgerow. Name withheld due to data protection. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter of thanks to the resident. **Action: Clerk**

A resident who was present at the meeting complained about the traffic in Straight Road and was concerned that Suffolk County Council Highways did not appear to be taking any action. Cllr Day reported on the action which the Parish Council had taken. It was suggested that maybe the resident should also support the Parish Council's action by writing as a local resident.

The meeting was re-convened

89.18 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.

External Auditors Update

The Councils external auditor will have advised you of a date by which they expect to receive either an approved and signed Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) or (if your council is eligible to certify as exempt from external audit and does so) a signed Certificate of Exemption. For councils audited by **PKF Littlejohn that date is Monday 11 June. The date is not statutory but if the external auditor does not hear from you by then they may send a 'chasing' letter for which they will charge the council £40.** So, councils which are not able to meet the deadline, for example because their internal audit is not yet completed or because their approval meeting is held in late June, should advise the external auditor of this before the specified date.

Every council, whether or not exempt from external audit and regardless of the date it sends information to the external auditor, must have Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR completed, approved (Section 1 before Section 2) and signed at a full council meeting held before Monday 2 July and must publish Sections 1 and 2 on a freely accessible website along with various other information including notice providing for the exercise of public rights. Note that external auditors and the National Audit Office consider that the published version must be a scanned copy incorporating hard-copy ('wet') signatures.

Planning News

The Raynsford Review of Planning has been set up to identify how the government can reform the English planning system to make it fairer, better resourced and capable of producing quality outcomes, while still encouraging the production of new homes.

The report has recommended that third party should have the right of appeal on planning decisions under special conditions.

This is not the first time this has been explored. There was an amendment to the Housing and Planning Bill that would of permitted appeal by third parties to the Secretary of State under certain circumstances. This amendment did not make it into the final Act but we were hopeful that it could return to be considered at another point in time. We recommend that Councils lobby their MPs to support this recommendation and we will be writing to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/raynsford-review>

LGA warns of risk to Local Plans

Lord Porter, chairman of the Local Government Association, has warned that impending changes to the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) could see more than 160,000 new homes bypassing councils' Local Plans. The *Yorkshire Post* highlights a recent Town and Country Planning Association report suggesting that just 2% of England's local authorities feel new development in their area met policy requirements for affordable housing. Meanwhile, Jessie Hewitson in the *Times* looks at affordable housing, highlighting how NPPF reform is intended to "leave developers with less wiggle room" in negotiations. Elsewhere, **Hambleton DC** councillors have warned that government policies allowing no affordable housing in smaller developments have "destroyed the provision of affordable housing in villages."

Kier partnership to build 4,500 homes

Construction firm Kier is partnering with Homes England and Cross Key Homes to deliver up to 5,400 new homes in England over the next ten years. The West Midlands was identified as having a lack of housing supply and Kier said a minimum of 50% of workers will be employed from local project areas. Homes England is taking a 26% equity stake in the project and will provide up to £27m in funding from its £3bn Home Building Fund.

Radical reform' of building regulatory system needed

The Chair of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety has found that fundamental reform is needed to improve building safety and to rebuild trust among residents of high-rise buildings. At the heart of the new system will be a requirement for the construction industry to take responsibility for the delivery of safe buildings, rather than looking to others to tell them what is or is not acceptable. Dame Judith Hackitt was appointed by the government to lead the review in light of the system failures revealed by testing carried out in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. The findings are published here:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system>

Tree Health Resilience Strategy 2018

This strategy sets out plans to reduce the risk of pest and disease threats. It also sets out how we will strengthen the resilience of our trees to withstand threats.

This strategy includes a National Action Plan. The plan sets out what we're already doing and what we and others will need to do to protect our trees and the important services they provide. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-resilience-strategy-2018>

Review of National Parks and AONBs

Environment Secretary Michael Gove has today committed to conserve and enhance England's most cherished landscapes as a new review launches into the nation's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

Nearly 70 years after the country's National Parks were first established, opening up the countryside and allowing more people to connect with nature, an independent panel will look at how these iconic landscapes meet our needs in the 21st century – including whether there is scope for the current network of 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks to expand. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-parks-review-launched>

Bat Habitat Bill

A Bill to 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. <https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/bathabitatsregulation.html>

Smart Meters Bill 2017-19 receives Royal Assent and becomes Smart Meters Act 2018

On 23 May 2018, the Smart Meters Bill 2017-19 received Royal Assent, becoming the Smart Meters Act 2018. The Act relates to the government's plans to offer smart meters to all households and small businesses by the end of 2020. It introduces:

- An extension of existing powers that the Secretary of State has to develop, amend and oversee regulations relating to smart metering, in particular, from 1 November 2018 to 1 November 2023.
- A special administration regime for the national data and communications provider, the Data and Communications Company (DCC) (or its successor), to ensure the service continues to be provided in the unlikely event of its insolvency.
- Powers for Ofgem to modify industry codes and documents for the purposes of delivering market-wide half-hourly settlement that uses smart metering data.

The Act applies to England, Scotland and Wales, and comes into force piecemeal.

90.18 Bus Shelter – Bucklesham Road

Cllr Walters reported that a meeting was being held at the Golf Club next week when the installation of the bus shelter will be put before the committee. **Action: Cllr Walters**

91.18 VAS Equipment

In Cllr Finch's absence the Clerk reported that the VAS equipment had been moved to a new location. It was also noted that recently Suffolk Police have been in the area with laser equipment. **Action: Cllr Finch**

92.18 To discuss the CIL receipts allocated to Foxhall because of the Straight Road development / To discuss Locality Budget 2018/2019

The Clerk reported that the CIL receipt money amounts to £2076.51 and the Locality Budget for 2018/2019 is £1,000.

Cllr Day reported that information including photographs had been submitted to David Chenery Suffolk County Council Highways Manager explaining that the Parish Council were prepared to use the CIL money to finance new road signs for the Straight Road turning on Felixstowe Road. David Chenery is putting together details of costs etc and it is hoped this will be available for the next Parish Council. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Day.**

Cllr Newell stated that she would be in favour of the Locality Budget being used to fund adult outdoor gym equipment to be placed on the land adjacent to the notice board on Murrills Road.

Cllr Warham stated that the goal posts had still not been moved although Paul Tynham Suffolk Coastal District Council had agreed to do the work at no cost. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Paul Tynham again offering to pay for the work to be completed. **Action: Clerk**

It was agreed that this item should be discussed further at the next Parish Council Meeting. **Action: Clerk**

93.18 Planning

Cllr Watts reported that several planning applications had been considered by the Planning Committee since the last meeting.

DC/18/1967/OUT – 123 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm – Erection of two storey dwelling and garage following demolition of existing bungalow. PC Comments: No objection.

DC/18/1374/FUL – Woodside Purdis Avenue Purdis Farm – Erection of one and a half storey extension to create larger entrance hall, garden room and master bedroom. PC Comments: No objection.

DC/18/2179/FUL – Foxhall Place Purdis Road Foxhall – Works to existing detached games room. PC Comments: No objection.

Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department considerations.

DC/18/1367/FUL – Monument Farm Foxhall – Extensions to existing residence, farm office and new living accommodation. SCDC Comments: Approved.

DC/18/1339/FUL – Site at Orwell Crossing Service Area Nacton – Proposed take away/restaurant. SCDC Comments: Pending.

Although the Parish Council did not object to this application Nacton Parish Council have objected due to lighting issues and additional traffic on the A14. The Parish Council has been asked whether they would like this application to go to committee and the Clerk has requested that this should happen.

DC/18/1261/TPO – 25 Beechwood Drive Purdis Farm – T1 – Pine to fell to ground level, T2 – Pine to fell to ground level. SCDC Comments: Approved.

DC/18/1042/FUL – Sheep Drive Cottage Brightwell – Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling. Extensions and alterations to existing outbuilding to form annex. Erection of new cart lodge garage. – Approved.

Cllr Watts stated that the Parish Council had received a complaint from a local resident who stated that a lady who works for Suffolk Coastal District Council and her husband also works for the Planning Department has been campaigning via social media to encourage people to object planning applications within the area in which she lives. Cllr Watts gave details of the incident and reminded all councillors about the Code of Conduct which councillors agree to when taking on the role of a councillor. Although councillors as individuals can object to a planning application on a personal basis they must declare an interest at the meeting during which an application is discussed and also not bring the council into disrepute.

94.18 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses May 2018	£308.86
Trevor Brown Internal Audit 2017/2018	£100.00

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

95.18 Completion of Internal Audit 2017/2018

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor Trevor Brown has now completed the Internal Audit 2017/2018 and had not identified any issues with the management of the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

96.18 Correspondence

- a. The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Trevor Barber Brightwell PCC asking for a donation to the PCC funds for upkeep of the churchyard. Unfortunately, this had been missed off the agenda therefore it would need to go to the July 2018 meeting for discussion. **Action: Clerk**

97.18 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk

None

98.18 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. It was reported that the road has been reinstated in Murrills Road (at the end of White Thorn Road) however unfortunately the road has not been correctly re-established and this results in vibration to houses caused by traffic going over the reinstatement. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Cllr Newell reported that three lots of rubbish has been fly tipped in Woodhouse Lane, Straight Road and Kennels Road.
- c. Cllr Walters reported that vehicles are using Kennels Road as a short cut. Kennels Road has a notice stating permit holders only. Cllr Walters is concerned that an accident could occur. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Sgt Street Felixstowe Suffolk Constabulary. **Action: Clerk**

d. Cllr Newell stated that she had been in discussion with a Foxhall resident who would like to see a Village Hall established in Foxhall. It is possible that land could be made available for this purpose. **Action: Cllr Newell**

99.18 Date of next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 7.30 pm Wednesday, 11th July 2018

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47 pm

Signed Date.....

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