

## **BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes**

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Trinity Park, Felixstowe Road at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Present

Cllr E Warham – Chairman

Cllr A Day

Cllr G Watts

Cllr A Wells

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr R Walters

Cllr B Newell

Cllr P Edmunds

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

Cllr Edward Thompson – East Suffolk Council

Cllr Patricia O'brien – Suffolk County Council

#### **133.19 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Finch.

#### **134.19 To receive Members' declaration of interest**

None

#### **135.19 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were approved as being a true record.

#### **136.19 Matters arising from the minutes**

Page 3 – Question 1

Cllr Walters reported that he had no further information as to when the bus shelter would be installed but would contact Suffolk County Council. **Action: Cllr R Walters**

Page 6 – 131.19 Members questions to the Chairman – Repairs to Brightwell Sign

Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr A Wells would ask Richard Berry for a quotation for the repairs to Brightwell Village Sign. **Action: Cllr A Wells**

#### **137.19 To consider the co-option of an additional councillor Purdis Farm**

The Clerk reported that she had received an application from Annette Petty to join the Parish Council as a councillor for Purdis Farm Parish which had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Watts proposed that Annette Petty be appointed as a councillor however the motion was not seconded

therefore the proposal was dismissed. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Annette Petty informing her of the Parish Council's decision. **Action: Clerk**

**The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:**

Cllr P O'brien – Suffolk County Council - written report received.

Major issues have been to the fore this past few months; Ipswich Northern Bypass, Sizewell, First Buses, Sizewell and boundary changes.

I wrote firm words to Suffolk Leaders and I had a meeting with Dan Poulter MP to discuss further means to challenge the Ipswich Northern Bypass. Relief to Ipswich town centre and the Orwell Bridge can be found. Building barriers on the bridge is a feasible solution. We all know that if the Northern bypass were to go ahead it would have a detrimental effect on Martlesham, surrounding villages, Kesgrave, Woodbridge and beyond. Pressure is being kept at every level and I am hopeful that reason will prevail.

The axing of several First Buses services came as a tremendous shock on Sept. 1st. I had no knowledge whatsoever and immediately phoned Leeds, where First is based, and vigorously complained about the cuts and particularly that of route 66. The service has been partially restored on Eagle Way. Both First and SCC have had meetings and it is reassuring to know that both are determined to work together to bring about improvement.

Responses to the limited Sizewell C Stage 4 consultation proposals have deplored the use of road as the means of providing Sizewell with the plant needed for the construction. Unlike in the Sizewell C Stage 3 proposal, rail and marine transportation is not suggested. It is ignored. All responders prefer a rail or water strategy and point out the disruption and huge increase in traffic if road chosen. Some 1500 vehicles would be used and construction would take 10 years!! Goodbye gentle Suffolk!

It appears that the proposed building of 2,700 houses, between Bucklesham & Purdis, has been dropped. Let us hope for good!

A ten-week consultation has commenced on proposals for new council divisions and division boundaries for Suffolk County Council. The consultation will close on December 2nd and draft recommendations will be published in March 2020. Final recommendations are expected in August 2020. New electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in 2021.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England are recommending 70 councillors for Suffolk. This is a reduction of 5 councillors. The Commission are keen that there is balance and that each councillor should have roughly the same number of electors across the county. If you wish to become involved this can be done through the interactive consultation portal.

On 4th October I chaired the Police & Crime Panel that provided an update on the financial position, how the precepts are used; The Annual Report that set out a review of activities undertaken in 2018-19; Objective 2 "Caring about victims" -steps to improve victim satisfaction; Roads policing – initiatives to improve road safety; Rules of Procedure relating to a draft of panel arrangements.

Cllr O'brien said that the Locality Budget for 2019/2020 is £1,000. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr E Thompson – East Suffolk Council – report received.

I am contributing £750 from the Community Enabling Budget assigned to me by East Suffolk Council towards the cost of buying football goalposts for Foxhall.

On the 2nd 3rd and 4th of October I attended a Business Planning event or HotHouse at pBT Adastral Park. The idea was to grow the plan from the council. It was a competition where groups of officers and councillors of East Suffolk Council drew up plans and presented them to a panel for judging awards.

I was in Group no. 6, we won two awards for our plan the Best Overall Plan and the Digital Transformation.

They then took every piece of paper away from the three days and are in the process of integrating all the information gathered into a council business plan. The whole process will probably finish in the new year.

The new Community Partnership meeting is taking place on the 28th of October. One councillor from each Parish gets to attend the meeting. Since the grouped parish council contains three parishes, I am uncertain whether you can send three representatives.

Cllr C Blundell – East Suffolk Council – no report received

The meeting was re-convened

### **138.19 Planning**

Cllr G Watts reported on the following planning applications.

DC/10/3424/AGO Woodhouse Foxhall – Prior notification – new agricultural storage/workshop building – Pending.

DC/19/2914/FUL 99 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm – Replacement dwelling – Refused – The Parish Council did not object to the application.

a. Sizewell 'C'

Nothing to report.

b. Brightwell Lakes

Nothing to report.

### **139.19 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.

#### Technical Consultation on Local Government Finance

The government is not proposing to extend council tax referendum principles to local councils in 2020/2021.

## Policing Meeting in Ipswich 7 pm 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

A meeting is being held at the Ipswich Community Church Wilberforce Street Ipswich hosted by the PCC and the Chief Constable.

The meeting will cover policing issues in the South command area which includes Ipswich, Woodbridge, Kesgrave, Felixstowe, Hadleigh and surrounding towns and villages. This is your opportunity to make your views known.

### East Suffolk Community Partnerships

East Suffolk Council wants to bring your ideas to life; to give those who know most about where they live and work a fantastic opportunity to improve people's lives and deliver real outcomes.

Eight East Suffolk Community Partnerships are being created with YOU in mind and we want you to join us at one or more of our workshops which begin next month – to decide what priorities each partnership should focus on over the next 12 months.

To take part and make sure that YOUR voice is heard, please email [communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) and confirm which workshop you would like to attend. Places are limited to two per organisation per workshop, due to space limitations at the venues, but if you think there are other local organisations that we should invite, then please let us know!

All eight workshop dates and locations are included in the attached documents, which also provide an overview of the Community Partnership approach.

### **Why is this happening?**

During the consultation on forming the new East Suffolk Council (ESC), concerns were expressed about the 55 Councillors covering larger geographical areas, more Town and Parish Councils and more people, and becoming disconnected from local people.

With this in mind, eight Community Partnerships (CPs), based on natural groupings of communities (shown on the attached map), will provide a sharper focus on smaller areas and - with a solution-focussed workshop style, rather than a formal board or committee - seek to make a real difference.

This, however, is not just an East Suffolk Council scheme! Key partners will be Town and Parish Councils, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police, Great Yarmouth & Waveney and Ipswich & East Suffolk CCGs, businesses, voluntary organisations, community groups and youth representatives.

Your role is crucial.

### **What are the workshops for?**

The CPs will ultimately decide how funding is allocated against local priorities. The very first formal meetings will take place from January 2020 and each CP will have a £10,000 budget in 2019/20 before receiving £25,000 per year for the next three years to be spent on one or more agreed priority. There will also be a Strategic budget of £150,000 in 2019/20 and £300,000 a year for the next three years, overseen by a Community Partnership Board that includes the chairs of all eight CPs, that CPs can bid into.

Before then, however, we want to start the conversation by speaking with you about what the priorities are for your local area – not just through your own invaluable insight and knowledge but also by using data, facts and figures provided by the Suffolk Office of Data Analytics (SODA).

### **Council Tax Support Consultation**

Letter from East Suffolk Council:

As a local stakeholder I would like to invite you to take part in a consultation on a proposed change to East Suffolk Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The plans aim to provide greater certainty to people claiming Universal Credit.

Our current scheme means working-age people who access support because of a low income can claim up to 91.5% off their Council Tax, depending on their individual circumstances. However, as people claiming Universal Credit have an income that can rise and fall each month based on their latest earnings from employment, under the existing scheme the amount of Council Tax people are expected to pay can also regularly rise and fall.

To provide people with more certainty over their Council Tax bills, we are proposing that people claiming Universal Credit will not see a change in their Council Tax unless their weekly income changes by more than £15, or £65 in a month.

The proposed change would not apply to people who have reached state pension age or are not on Universal Credit as other provisions achieve similar outcomes.

The new approach would mean that small changes in income would not trigger a reassessment of Council Tax support, nor a revised Council Tax bill, so Universal Credit claimants know how much their Council Tax will be and can more easily manage their finances.

While the change is expected to help the vast majority of claimants, the proposals also make provision for people who may be disadvantaged by a single change by giving East Suffolk Council the flexibility to not apply the new £15 tolerance rule on a case-by-case basis.

For example, if a Universal Credit claimant has a single change in the year where their income falls by less than £15 a week, their Council Tax support will remain the same despite their reduction in earnings. In such cases, the person's Council Tax support could be reassessed at the end of the year, based on their actual level of income.

Further, for Universal Credit customers, East Suffolk Council intends to change when it assesses entitlement to Council Tax support from DWP notification that a Universal Credit claim has been made to when DWP notifies the actual award. The effect of this is to avoid correcting awards, whilst ensuring they are correct first time, which is seen as beneficial for customers and does not have any financial impact.

If you'd like to comment on these proposals, please take part in our consultation which runs until 3 November 2019. It is accessible at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/counciltaxreductionscheme](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/counciltaxreductionscheme) or in paper copy at the Marina Centre in Lowestoft and Woodbridge Library.

Results from the consultation will be taken into account before the final proposal is put forward for consideration by Councillors in early 2020. If agreed, the change would come into effect from April next year.

#### **140.19 VAS Sign**

Cllr A Finch was not present at the meeting so no further update. The Clerk reported that the VAS sign is currently working.

#### **141.19 To discuss the communication between the Clerk and the Charities Commission concerning Foxhall Public Purposes Charity – 1010443**

The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call and letter from the Charities Commission which enclosed the original document when the Foxhall Public Purposes Charity was approved and established. Apparently, the Charity Commission will not close the charity until the Parish Council (as Trustees of the charity) have investigated the whereabouts of funds and land as per the document. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Barclays Bank as per the Schedule to try and establish the whereabouts of the Treasury Stock and cash on deposit accounts. The letter should be signed by the current Parish Council cheque signatories. **Action: Clerk/Cllr E Warham/Cllr A Wells/Cllr E Lawrence**

#### **142.19 To discuss the repair of the Parish Council Notice Boards**

The Clerk reported that the Purdis Farm Notice Board in Murrills Road was in urgent need of repair. It was agreed that Cllr E Lawrence should take photographs and send to the Clerk to enable her to write to the manufacturers seeking suggestions as to the best way to repair the notice board. **Action: Clerk/Cllr E Lawrence**

#### **143.19 To discuss the CIL receipts allocated to Foxhall because of the Straight Road development**

The Clerk reported that she had written to David Chenery Suffolk County Council Highways stating that the Parish Council would pay for the monitoring of Straight Road; estimated to be £350.00 but had not received any feedback as to when the monitoring would take place. It was agreed that Cllr A Day would get in touch with Highways. **Action: Cllr A Day**

During the meeting with Suffolk County Council Highways which Cllr A Day attended it had been suggested that Cllr Patricia O'brien may have access to budget to help with the costs. Cllr Patricia O'brien agreed to investigate. **Action: Cllr Patricia O'brien/Clerk**

#### **144.19 Appointment of Community Officer for the parishes**

The Clerk reported that Andrew Joliffe had been appointed as Community Officer for the parishes and had asked to come and give a presentation to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Andrew for further details regarding dates, times etc. The Parish Council also discussed the Community Workshops which are being held. It was agreed that if possible, Cllr E Lawrence, Cllr P Edmunds and Cllr B Newell would like to attend. Clerk to provide councillors with details. **Action: Clerk/Cllr E /Cllr B Newell.**

#### **145.19 To discuss the repairs to Brightwell Village Sign**

Please refer to Minute Item 136.19 Matters arising from the minutes.

#### **146.19 Finance**

**Income**

2<sup>nd</sup> Half Precept £3,750.00

**Expenditure**

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses September 2019 £298.13

HMRC – Tax April, May, June 2019 £180.00

HMRC – Tax July, August, September 2019 £182.00

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

**147.19 Correspondence**

None

**148.19 Meetings attended by councillors / clerk**

1. The Clerk reported that she had received an email from the Suffolk Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner who are looking to increase the number of partners funded Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) within the county. Noted.

**149.19 Members questions to the Chairman**

1. Cllr A Day reported his concern at the state of the footpaths on Nacton Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should report this to Suffolk County Council Highways. **Action: Clerk**
2. Cllr B Newell reported that the Foxhall sign at the Bell Lane crossroads is obscured by vegetation. It was agreed that the Clerk should report this to Suffolk County Council Highways. **Action: Clerk**

**150.19 Date of next meeting**

**Parish Council Meeting Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.07 pm**

Signed..... Date .....

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