

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council (Zoom) Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 10th September 2020

Present

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr E Warham - Chair

Cllr G Watts

Cllr A Day

Cllr K Rout

Cllr B Newell

Cllr P Edmunds

Cllr B Short

Cllr S Short

Cllr Patricia O'Brien – Suffolk County Council

Cllr Ed Thompson – East Suffolk Council

Cllr Chris Blundell – East Suffolk Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

3 members of the public

74.20 Apologies for absence

None

75.20 To receive Members' declaration of interest

None

76.20 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th July 2020 were approved as being a true record.

77.20 Matters arising from the minutes

65.20 To consider funding new fencing and plants around the Foxhall Village Sign

The Clerk reported that the new fencing had been erected around the Foxhall Village Sign and pansies had been planted. Those councillors who had seen the area said it was looking very clean and tidy.

78.20 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions:

- a. Cllr Ed Thompson - verbal report
- b. Cllr Chris Blundell – verbal report
- c. Cllr Patricia O'Brien – verbal report

- d. To receive questions from members of the public

Ruth Johnson stated she was representing Bucklesham & Foxhall Village Hall Committee. She stated that the Village Hall needed urgent help with funding as they had lost all their income for this year and had needed to purchase a new boiler and oil tank. Bucklesham Parish Council have given funding of £1,000 and the Village Hall Committee are asking Brightwell Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council to consider a request for some emergency funding. District Councillors and the County Councillor have provided financial support. Cllr A Day asked Ruth Johnson whether the Village Hall Committee had accessed the grant which was available due to Covid-19 and Ruth Johnson stated they have received £10,000.

To reconvene the meeting

79.20 To consider the co-option of two new councillors

Cllr E Warham stated that councillors had received details of the two prospective Parish Council candidates: Bernard and Sheila Short. Cllr A Day proposed that Bernard and Sheila Short be elected as members of the Parish Council, seconded Cllr P Edmunds – all in favour. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the paperwork to be sent to Bernard and Sheila for signature. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact the Suffolk Association of Local Councils regarding new councillor training. **Action: Clerk**

80.20 To discuss proposed presentation to Cllr Alan Wells

The Clerk reported that Cllr Newell had approached Alan's wife regarding a suitable gift who had said that Alan would like a clock. A suitable clock had been identified at a cost of £33.33. The Clerk would need to purchase the clock on behalf of the Parish Council and claim on expenses. Following discussion Cllr P Edmunds proposed that the Clerk be authorised to purchase the clock and card at an approximate cost of £33.33, seconded Cllr G Watts – all in favour. It was agreed that Cllr B Newell would make the presentation to Alan and that a card would be passed around councillors for signature. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Brenda Newell**

81.20 To discuss the request from Bucklesham & Foxhall Village Hall for funding support

Ruth Johnson had represented the Bucklesham & Foxhall Village Hall Committee during Item 5g of the agenda when she had requested financial support for the Village Hall due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Ruth Johnson had said that the Village Hall Committee needed urgent funding to support the Village Hall. When questioned Ruth Johnson had stated that the Village Hall Committee had accessed a grant of £10,000, £1,000 from Bucklesham Parish Council and £500.00 from Cllr Patricia O'Brien. Earlier in the meeting the District Councillors and the County Councillor had agreed to provide more funding.

Cllr B Newell stated that Bucklesham & Foxhall Village Hall Committee had already accessed a substantial amount of funding and as a result according to Ruth Johnson had taken the opportunity to upgrade their facilities.

Cllr E Warham reported she had been advised to request financial information about how much the shortfall is however although she had requested this information it was not given. It was also noted that the Parish Council were required to adhere to their Grants Policy.

Following discussion, Cllr A Day proposed that this item be deferred until sufficient evidence is available so that the Parish Council can make a fair and balanced decision and that the Parish Council should be following their Grants Policy document, seconded Cllr K Rout – all in favour.

It was agreed that the Clerk should formally request financial information to support the Parish Council's Grants Policy, a copy of last year's income and expenditure accounts and projected income and outgoings for this year. It was agreed that the item should be placed on the next agenda for further discussion. **Action: Clerk**

82.20 To discuss the overgrown grass verges in the parishes

Cllr Rout stated that he had noticed that the verges are very overgrown in the parishes. Cllr Day reported that A and B roads are cut twice a year and C and U roads are cut once a year.

Cllr Watts stated that in Purdis Farm the verges are being cut as normal as in other years.

It was agreed that Cllr Lawrence would carry out a survey of the roads to enable the Clerk to approach Suffolk County Council Highways to report any areas where the verges needed to be cut. **Action Clerk**

83.20 Planning

DC/20/3442/FUL Molen Bucklesham Road – Application for a leisure building in the garden

Parish Council comments: No objection.

DC/20/3262/FUL Bucklesham Care Home – 5 bed extension with extra parking spaces

Cllr G Watts reported that this Planning Application had been objected to by a local resident stating in his objection the number of cars parked on Bucklesham Road. Cllr G Watts recommended that the Parish Council recommend to the Planning Officer that parking is a problem, and this should be raised with Suffolk County Council Highways

DC/20/2805/FUL 123 Bucklesham Road – Erection of 2 detached dwellings with garages following demolition of existing bungalow.

Parish Council comments: No objection.

Sizewell C Consultation

Cllr G Watts stated that the consultation period ends on the 30th September 2020. It was agreed that the Parish Council should register an interest and submit comments regarding the traffic at the Seven Hills Roundabout.

84.20 To discuss the VAS equipment

The Clerk reported that a Foxhall resident Mr David Penn had offered to manage the VAS equipment. Unfortunately, Alex Finch had been unable to support David with the handover. The Clerk had been sent instruction manuals from the makers of the equipment which she had passed to David with a copy of the location of each pole. Cllr Eddie Lawrence has also offered to help David setting up the equipment and downloading the data. **Action: Cllr E Lawrence / Clerk**

85.20 Straight Road Improvements

Cllr A Day reported that as discussed at the last meeting the cost of the Professional Services Survey to be conducted by Suffolk County Council Highways is £3,646.44 plus 18% making a total of £4,302.79 plus VAT (£5,163.34 including VAT). Following discussion, Cllr A Day proposed that the Parish Council go ahead with commissioning the survey to take place, seconded Cllr B Newell – 8 in favour, 1 abstained. The Clerk to contact the Suffolk County Council Highways Manager to request the work to be carried out. **Action: Clerk**

86.20 To discuss professional advice Trevor Brown

Cllr E Warham said that Trevor Brown had given professional advice regarding the Parish Council financial grants and had been asked to make the Parish Council aware of any changes which may occur regarding the giving of donations to churches. **Action: Clerk**

87.20 Traffic speeds A1156

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a Purdis Farm resident regarding the speed of traffic and the anti-social behaviour which had occurred on the A1156. The resident had demanded that the Parish Council take immediate action. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Police regarding the anti-social behaviour and request that the Police manage the situation. It was also recommended that the resident continues to contact the Police each time there is an incident. **Action: Clerk**

88.20 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses July 2020	£240.00
A J Buggs Salary and Expenses August 2020	£309.53
Insurance Policy (3 year commitment)	£260.68

Insurance Policy

The Clerk reported that the renewal of the Parish Council policy had been received which offered a single year at a cost of £274.40 or a 3 year commitment at £250.68 per year. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should accept the 3 year commitment. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr E Warham proposed, seconded Cllr A Day that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

89.20 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

None

90.20 Members questions to the Chairman

None

91.20 Date of next meeting

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday, 14th October 2020 at 7.30 pm (Zoom Meeting)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.45.

Signed..... Date

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