

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 14th July 2021

Present

Cllr E Warham - Chair

Cllr G Watts

Cllr K Rout

Cllr B Newell

Cllr B Short

Cllr S Short

Cllr A Day

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr C Blundell East Suffolk District Councillor

Cllr E Thompson East Suffolk District Councillor

Cllr P Mulcahy Suffolk County Councillor

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

3 members of the public

92.21 Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

93.21 To receive Members' declaration of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

94.21 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th May 2021 were approved as being a true record.

95.21 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

96.21 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions

a. Cllr Chris Blundell – East Suffolk District Councillor – verbal report.

b. Cllr Ed Thompson – East Suffolk District Councillor

Monday 2 weeks ago I went to an Audit and Governance committee meeting at Riverside in Lowestoft. This was the first face to face meeting I have been to at the East Suffolk Council since the pandemic began. There were lots of monitors on which council officers appeared remotely via zoom, we councillors were socially distanced and wore masks when not talking

Next Friday I went to a training event near Stone Staffordshire run by the Lib Dem LGA group in association with the ALDC. I actually paid for it a year ago and because of the pandemic it was cancelled. I learned lots.

Monday at 2PM I attended the community partnership meeting

At this meeting we considered three environmental projects in the category's rewilding, environmental advice hub and green communities.

We also considered our next priority which is road transport safety. This has particular relevance to the group parish council. Speed Indicator Devices were discussed. When I was a parish councillor in East Sussex, at a group parish council incidentally, I experience this. That was about 15 years ago. The technology is bound to have improved, in addition they are bound to have become cheaper and been made more robust. At that time, we found them useful.

In order to operate them a concerned group of parishioners is needed. I am sure this does exist. Training and insurance can be provided by the parish council, such equipment as Hi-Vis jackets should also be provided. The parish council ought to make this group a working group of the parish council. If the cost of the SID is too much for the council, then by talking to neighbouring councils you may find that they are willing to buy a SID with you or on a percentage basis

At 4PM I left this meeting because I had to go to a briefing on the help which is provided by the council to people who experience mental health difficulties. Some of this information cannot be shared, I am uncertain what cannot be shared but I have contact information. If the council becomes aware of any problems, they can contact me.

- c. Cllr Patti Mulcahy – Suffolk County Council – verbal report.
- d. To receive questions from members of the public

A member of the public from Purdis Farm who had written a complaint to the Parish Council, highlighted the issues in her email which the Parish Council discussed. Councillors explained that many of the issues were the responsibility of East Suffolk Council or Suffolk County Council. The parishioner thanked for the Parish Council for all the work they carry out for the local area. **Action:**
Clerk

To reconvene the meeting

97.21 Planning

- a. General

Cllr G Watts said that there were 4 planning applications which remain outstanding to which the Parish Council raised objections.

DC/20/5085/FUL Foxhall Hall, Hall Road, Foxhall – Orthodontal Practice and Café

Suffolk County Council Highways have objected as this is an unsustainable site as Hall Road is unsuitable for the amount of traffic the scheme will generate.

DC/21/0903/FUL Foxhall Pitches, The Hollies

Suffolk County Council Highways have objected stating that Straight Road is unsuitable for the amount of traffic expected.

DC/21/2391/FUL Brightwell Caravan Park, Ipswich Road

Waldringfield Parish Council, Martlesham Town Council and ourselves have objected on a variety of grounds. These includes economic need, damage to an area of natural beauty and dealing with sewage.

b. Proposed development of Orwell Crossing Logistics Park

DC/21/1575/ARM Orwell Crossing Logistics Park

A revised scheme has been submitted with the principal changes being three warehouses instead of four, but they are higher. The access through Ransomes Europark has been secured but concerns remain over the access via the footpath to Felixstowe Road. It is unclear whether these plans will be sent out for further consultation. More importantly, Highways England have put a further holding objection in, asking that the matter should not be decided before 24th September 2021. This is because they are continuing to look at the plans for the junction with the A14.

98.21 Internal Audit Report 2020/2021

The Clerk had previously circulated the Internal Audit Report 2020/2021 to all councillors. The Internal Auditor Trevor Brown had highlighted three recommendations as follows:

Recommendation 1

The Council is encouraged to bring the salary of the Clerk/RFO into line with the official National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) agreed pay scales for Local Government Officers at a rate commensurate with the role and responsibilities of the post. As part of this process, a formal annual review and appraisal should be undertaken in order to (a) ensure that the salary is maintained at an appropriate level in accordance with NJC Agreements and (b) that any training and development needs of the Clerk/RFO are considered on an annual basis and can be addressed.

Recommendation 2

To comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 the Council should formally consider its Internal Control arrangements, including its Risk Management arrangements, and Minute the review accordingly, during the 2021/2022 year.

Recommendation 3

The Council should continue to monitor the level of cash balances held during the year and increase the level of the Employee/Councillor Dishonesty (Fidelity Guarantee) insurance cover should sums continue to exceed the current £25,000 level of insurance cover.

The Parish Council unanimously accepted the auditor's report and agreed that appropriate action should be taken. **Action: Clerk**

99.21 Review of Clerk's Salary

In line with the Internal Auditor's report Cllr G Watts reported that he had considered the matter of the Clerk's salary. Cllr G Watts proposed that a salary of £12.95 per hour (Point 18 on the LGS Pay Scale). He stated that this amount recognises the fact that the Clerk is home based. The salary should be further reviewed in the coming year as part of the Clerk's performance review as recommended by the Internal Audit Report. Cllr G Watts proposed that the Clerk's salary be increased to £12.95 per hour from the 1st July 2021, seconded Cllr B Short – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

100.21 VAS Sign

Cllr E Lawrence reported that the VAS sign is now working and there are three posts on Bucklesham Road where it can be located. David Penn has agreed to move the VAS sign every two months to enable the Parish Council to check the speed of traffic. Cllr E Lawrence stated that he would be analysing the data in readiness for the Parish Council Meeting on the 8th September 2021. Cllr E Lawrence reported that he was waiting for a licence to be granted from Suffolk County Council Highways for the positioning of two further posts in Brightwell. **Action: Cllr E Lawrence**

101.21 CIL Receipts

The Clerk reported that CIL receipts amounting to £7,434.33 had been received and that she had, prior to the meeting, sent a leaflet to all councillors detailing how the money could be spent.

Cllr A Day suggested that the Parish Council should consider improved signage for a number of roads in Foxhall and that Suffolk County Council should undertake a survey of the area.

102.21 To discuss on-going maintenance, new bus shelter and extra dog/litter/grit bins for Purdis Farm

Cllr E Lawrence reported that he had completed a list of sites for a bus shelter, dog bins and litter bins in Purdis Farm. Cllr E Lawrence agreed to send the list to the Clerk which would be presented for approval at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

103.21 Straight Road Improvements

Cllr A Day reported that it had been suggested by David Chenery Suffolk County Council Highways that a meeting with himself and the County Councillor be delayed until after the elections to elect a new County Councillor. He reported that the new County Councillor Patti Mulcahy has now been elected and he had held a meeting with Patti to address the issues. Patti has asked Cllr A Day to email to her a timeline of events relating to the Straight Road issues over the last few years. **Action: Cllr A Day / Clerk**

104.21 To discuss the Group Parish Council providing a Community Hall in Purdis Farm?

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

105.21 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.

Complaint 1

I received the following email from a member of the public complaining about various issues in Purdis Farm.

Do you have anything to report back following the mtg held in May pls? I am hoping I haven't missed the July mtg. and would like the below to be raised, if not discussed.

I am at my wits end regarding reporting of flying tipping in Foxglove crescent, Opposite Woodrush Road, off Murrills Road, IP3- it's still there and the vegetation has grown around it.

I am past reporting the overhanging shrubs and trees and unclear pathway also along Foxglove Crescent. After 2 yrs I've been told it's up to the residents to cut it back – well who is going to ask/tell them to do so – that's not my responsibility?

The lack of grass cutting and kerb sweeping, that was kept to a strict rota when we fell under the Suffolk Coastal Council and this area looked so beautiful and it was a pleasure to walk around the streets and dog walk. Goodness only knows what has happened now – it looks such a sad and sorry run down area that is neither a pleasure to walk around and/or drive through.

The small section of the Main Road from the Roundabout at Sainsbury up to the Showground Roundabout seems to be treated as a race track at certain time of week/night sadly.

The grass is left to grow so long I was expecting a farmer to come along with a hay bailer after the council finally cut it – it looked such an eyesore with all the long grass just blowing everywhere. I understand there have been budget cuts, but surely reduce the grass cutting in the winter, not the spring/summer when it's 'growing season'.

The hedges and trees in certain areas have been cut back sooooo much it was shocking and the areas of concern are still untouched – unbelievable – I'm shaking my head here.

I'm fed up having to walk my dog in the road due to not being able to walk on the path for numerous reasons, as well as treading in dog poop that I guess people are not able to see where their dogs have pooped due to the length of the grass. Also when walking early mornings my footwear – trainers – were soaked through at the end of the walk and my cropped trousers were also wet up to the knees due to the length of the grass. To pass on a comment I received "You can tell the Suffolk Show isn't being held this year".

Where is our council tax money being spent – it's certainly not on grass cutting, hedge trimming and ensuring paths and walkways are clear for all, including people in mobility scooters etc, to use. When it was Suffolk Coastal there was hardly ever any issues and if there were, they were resolved in a professional and timely manner.

I feel I am 'banging my head against a brick wall' trying to get action from any of the Councils – Suffolk, Ipswich Borough, yourselves and whoever else I am transferred to – including Norse.

I'm still waiting on a reply to a mail I sent regarding trimming/thinning the two big oak trees at the bottom of my garden that are now blocking my light and I'm having to cook and read with internal lights on during the afternoon – Not good for me, my costs and the environment.

Do we have any news on additional litter bins? Dog Poop Bins? How the business of the E-scooters and mopeds being ridden on the paths around Bucklesham Road, Murrills Road and the small park off Murrills Road is being handled?

Complaint 2

I received the following complaint from a member of the public. Unfortunately, it was received after the issuing of the agenda.

“I have lived on Purdis Farm for 21 years and really enjoy living in such a lovely area. The lockdowns over the past 18 months have expanded my horizons due to enjoying all the local walks and nature which has been very therapeutic along with meeting lots of new residents and dog walkers.

However, there is a dark side to the lockdown in that due to the many walks in the area one also observes an increase in drug drops and associated anti-social behaviour. This is prevalent on Bucklesham Road, Purdis Farm Lane and Murrills Road. I have reported this both on Crime Stoppers and to the local police. Regretfully, the police advise that this is treated as an ASB (anti-social behaviour) incident. Apparently, this activity used to be focused on Ipswich town centre night clubs and pubs, but due to the lockdowns has now moved to the green suburbs. This is known as post code delivery and service.

Would it be possible for the Parish Council to assist by alerting neighbours and/or increasing the old style Neighborhood Watch signs. Also, please relay to Parish Councillor Liz Warham for her police liaison role. Finally an agenda item note for the upcoming parish council meeting would also be appreciated.”

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the local Police Neighbourhood Team to request assistance in dealing with this matter. **Action: Clerk**

Complaint 3

Cllr A Day reported that the Parish Council had also received a complaint from a member of the public who stated that he had not received any communication or information from the Parish Council concerning the proposed Logistics Park development. Cllr A Day had sent an email to the resident highlighting the work he has carried out on behalf of the Parish Council to keep the residents on Felixstowe Road informed of the latest developments. He had copied the email to all councillors. The Parish Council agreed with the contents of the email.

Fly Tipping

I have not received any reports of fly tipping since the last meeting either from councillors or members of the public. If you notice any fly tipping in the parishes can you let me know so they can be reported please.

106.21 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses May 2021	£272.30
A J Buggs Salary and Expenses June 2021	£290.70

HMRC Tax	£180.00
Trevor Brown Audit Fee	£100.00

Account Balances as at 30th June 2021

Community Account Balance	£31,741.33
Business Account Balance	£8,274.71

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

Action: Clerk

107.21 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

- a. Cllr B Newell reported that she had met with Simon Houghton from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and had walked around Purdis Farm and discussed the possibilities for improvement. Simon has since sent a report to Cllr B Newell. It was agreed that this item should be placed on the next agenda. **Action: Clerk / Cllr B Newell**

- b. Cllr B Newell reported that a Zoom meeting had recently been held regarding Brightwell Lakes. It is envisaged that the new development will take 17 years to complete the whole site. Construction work will commence in September 2021. All access roads will be completed before occupation. The actual building work will start in August 2023. It was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk / Cllr B Newell**

- c. Cllr A Day reported that he had met with Cllr Patti Mulcahy on the 8th July 2021 to discuss the Logistics Park and Straight Road. Cllr A Day said that he would send another circular round to local residents who would be affected by the development regarding the changes to the Logistics Park map. **Action: Cllr A Day**

108.21 Members questions to the Chairman

None

109.21 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 8th September 2021 at Trinity Park

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

Signed..... Date

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