

## BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes

Of the Parish Council (Zoom) Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Present

Cllr E Warham - Chair

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr G Watts

Cllr K Rout

Cllr B Newell

Cllr B Short

Cllr S Short

Cllr A Day

Cllr Chris Blundell – East Suffolk Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

4 members of the public

#### **35.21 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Patricia O’Brien – Suffolk County Council

#### **36.21 To receive Members’ declaration of interest**

Cllr Adrian Day declared an interest in Item 6a Planning – Orwell Crossing. Cllr Bernard Short declared an interest in Item 11 To discuss the provision of a streetlight on the junction of Bucklesham Road and Straight Road Foxhall.

#### **37.21 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved as being a true record.

#### **38.21 Matters arising from the minutes**

All items from the last meeting were on the agenda.

#### **39.21 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions**

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

**The Pandemic** The light at the end of the tunnel can now be seen. All the hard work by our wonderful National Health Service, the scientists, health workers and all those who have worked tirelessly for all our benefit are due a great vote of thanks which I am pleased to say ‘Thank you’. Communities ‘Bounce Back’ Fund.

The East Suffolk Communities ‘Bounce Back’ Fund, funded through the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board, is a grant totalling £100,000. It offers grants of between £250 and £5,000 to voluntary community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in East Suffolk. The aim of the fund is to enable VCSE organisations to resume their previous activities safely and/or to support them to

transition to new ways of working. All VCSE groups are eligible to apply, as long as the funding requested is for equipment, adaptations or staffing to enable an existing/previous activity to resume safely or to enable a new activity/service to be developed/launched. However, priority will be given to youth organisations/activities, organisations supporting /involving volunteers and community buildings, given the particular impacts of Covid-19 on these groups.

**Please note that this funding is not intended to replace lost income/hardship experienced by VCSE organisations as a result of Covid-19. ESC cannot provide retrospective funding for projects, unless it was something that has had to 'pause' due to Covid-19. Funding is available from October 2020 until end of September 2021.** For more detailed information and access to an application form please apply to: [grants@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:grants@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

### **Hydrogen Technology and Transport**

EDF who are very aware of the impact of their proposals for Sizewell C have now joined with ESC to help with a number of community projects. The company has undertaken to continue to develop Hydrogen power technology at the existing power station for use with vehicles and other energy projects.

They are also taking a strong interest in community transport particularly in those areas that are not on the regular service routes and have allocated a specialist in transport matters to help resolve some of the issues. Currently ESC has a working group looking into ways of how the district council might be able to resolve some of the public transport problems. Coupled with these proposals is the need for road safety measures. In my meeting with their representative, I highlighted a particular hazard at the crossing point from Black Tiles lane to the bus stop and footpath for access to the retail park by walking and cycling which many are able to do. The ESC working group are hoping to deliver some positive outcomes soon.

b. Cllr Patricia O'Brien - Suffolk County Councillor – report.

Not a great deal to report. SCC business goes ahead as usual, but differently. Holding meetings on 'zoom' and unless chaired well, meaning, for me, that members are not allowed to talk for too long!! On February 11, SCC agreed its **budget** for 2021/22.

SCC is increasing its planned spending in 2021/22 to \$597.9m, £41m more than 2020/21. £15.3m will be spent to address its ongoing Covid-19 costs.

In 2021/22 General Council tax will rise by 1.99%, which represents an increase of £26.68 for a Band D property. There is a 2% rise in the Social Care Precept for 2021/22 as the council recognises the rising costs and demand for adult services; thus the overall rise for a Band D property will be £53.55. There are no proposed reductions in council services or personnel in 2021/22.

On January 29<sup>th</sup> SCC announced that it will install Automatic Number Plate Recognition (**ANPR**) cameras at its recycling centres.

The cameras give an accurate count of vehicle numbers and also record the time spent on site. This will allow SCC to maximise site availability and to develop new and existing sites to better meet the needs of an increasing population. This will add to the improvements that were announced on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to expand and improve **Foxhall recycling centre**.

The new design will provide queuing capacity within the site and better access from the highway. The raised level construction will improve the route to containers by removing the need for stairs. Construction will begin summer 2021 and be operational by autumn 2022. SCC intends to keep a service running, as much as possible, whilst construction takes place.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> SCCs Cabinet confirmed its support for the creation of a new **Freeport** (Freeport East). The Freeport would cover both the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich as part of the Government's aim to create a number of Freeports across the country in order to hasten job creation, investment and international trade, post Brexit.

A Freeport includes secure customs zones and tax sites, business to be carried out inside a country's land border, different tax and customs rules apply.

Freeport East has several unique aspects that makes its bid for Freeport status particularly strong. This includes global and regional connectivity (36% of all UK container traffic passes through Felixstowe), unrivalled international connections, particularly with Asia, strong connectivity to the Midlands and the North. The bid supports other national objectives such as development of new technology and the drive for clean energy. The Port of Felixstowe has strong research and development links with Cambridge and Essex Universities plus strong connections with the energy sector. Felixstowe Port recently won funding to trial a pilot 5G network.

c. Open Forum

Two members of the public addressed the Parish Council regarding their concern about the Murrills Park situated behind Meadow Crescent. The residents expressed concern about the upkeep of the wildflower meadow and the trees. They stated that trees and shrubs had been heavily cut back by East Suffolk Council which had left the residents with very little privacy. They also expressed concern about the noise at night when older teenagers use the park to play basketball. They said that they had called the police on numerous occasions because of noise etc but no action has been taken. Residents are asking that Murrills Park should be restored to the promise they were given when purchasing their home. Cllr Chris Blundell said that he would take the matter up with East Suffolk Council regarding the anti-social behaviour.

Two members of the public addressed the Parish Council regarding their concern about the proposed extension to the bike park in Brightwell which they have been informed about by the owner of the site. They expressed concerns about the damage the extension would do to the environment and the wildlife in the area. It was noted that, as yet, no formal Planning Application has been submitted. As Councillor for Brightwell Cllr Brenda Newell, agreed to meet with both members of the public at the proposed site so she could see first hand their worries and report back to the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr Brenda Newell**

**To reconvene the meeting**

**40.21 Planning**

a. Proposed development of Orwell Crossing Logistics Park

Cllr Graeme Watts stated that the Parish Council had received an email from the developers BECG stating that they would like a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss their proposals for the development of the Orwell Crossing Logistics Park. Outline planning permission has already been granted for the development of the site. It appears to be a simplified plan and there is no indication

that the development will be carried out in phases. In addition, it no longer covers the area of the piggeries or Orwell Truck Stop and is only covering the greenfield sites. The only access to the site is off the A14 through the existing entrance to the Orwell Truck Stop. There is no access through Ransomes or across the level crossing from the A1156. Cllr Adrian Day said that he has grave concerns about the development as the proposed building immediately behind the A1156 is colossal, but it does not show any building heights on the indicative plan. It only needs to be a few metres high and it would obliterate any view from the houses. The development would have a huge impact on the people living in the properties on the Felixstowe Road due to the 24-hour operation, lighting, noise, and vehicles reversing.

Following debate, it was agreed that the Clerk should set up a Zoom meeting with BECG and write to Network Railway asking whether it is their intention to close the railway crossing and also the public footpath which goes between two of the houses. **Action: Clerk**

b. General

**DC/21/0604/FUL Hawthorns Felixstowe Road Foxhall – Single storey rear extension replacing existing conservatory**

PC Comments: No objection.

**DC/21/0116/FUL Sheep Drift Cottage Waldringfield Road Brightwell – Erection of new boundary wall to front garden as replacement for existing hedge.**

PC Comments: The Parish Council objects to this application. In the opinion of the Group Parish Council the replacement of a hedge with a solid brick wall over 2 metres high in this location is a significant detrimental change to the street scene in what is a rural location. As a result, the Parish Council objects to this application. The Arboriculturist has objected to the change from a hedge to a solid brick wall as he is of the opinion that it changes the landscape character.

**DC/20/5085/FUL Foxhall Hall Hall Road Foxhall – Change of use and partial rebuilding of some of the former agricultural buildings to a new orthodontics surgery, café and associated facilities**

PC Comments: The Group Parish Council has carefully considered this application and discussed it at its recent meeting. Whilst we do not object to the development of this site, we have serious concerns about the access to the site along Hall Road.

Hall Road is a narrow country lane subject to the national speed limit. In places it is effectively a single-track road where vehicles cannot pass on the carriageway. It is prone to flooding and is often impassable in icy weather. There are dangerous junctions at both ends of the road. In particular the Dobbs Lane crossroads where traffic will emerge onto the very busy Foxhall Road.

The applicant mentioned that they expected 60 vehicle movements a day as a result of the move of the Orthodontics Surgery, but they do not mention any estimates of the number of vehicles expected to attend the Café or Conference Room, which are likely to arrive from both ends of Hall Road. Councillors also expressed concerns about the mixture of cyclists, walkers and vehicles using Hall Road and this may be dangerous along such a narrow road.

The Design and Access Statement states that part of the proposal is the widening of the existing vehicular access from Hall Road. There appear to be no further details provided. There is also no

evidence that the Highways Authority have considered whether this access is suitable for the amount of traffic which will use it, should this application be approved.

Following a vote, the Group Parish Council has decided to object to this application on the grounds of Highway safety. We do not believe that sufficient work has been done to assess the suitability of Hall Road (and its junctions) as the access for this development which will operate throughout the year not just for the duration of the Suffolk Show.

**DC/20/5102/FUL Land off Ipswich Road Brightwell – Change of use of land for siting of 35 No static units, 20 No Touring Caravan Pitches and 10 No Yurts. Erection of Office Building and amenity block**

PC Comments: The Parish Council objected to this application however the Planning Application has now been withdrawn by the applicant.

**DC/20/3438/FUL - DC/20/4597/FUL - DC/21/0898/VOC 148 Bucklesham Road Purdis**

Cllr Graeme Watts stated that there are two applications and a variation current for these premises both of which have been objected to by both neighbours. Both applications are for large extensions. The Parish Council objected previously to both these applications so I shall write to ESC and reconfirm our original objections. **Action: Cllr Graeme Watts**

c. Brightwell Lakes

Cllr Brenda Newell reported that Ben Woolnough ESC has reported to the Brightwell Lakes Forum that the land is now either bought or leased by Taylor Wimpey. Three members of the forum raised concerns about Taylor Wimpey however Ben has stated that he feels they will be more secure as they are a bigger organisation and are self-financing. Taylor Wimpey are Bury St Edmunds based and have an interest in the local area.

**41.21 To approve the updated Grants Policy**

The Parish Council discussed the grants policy and agreed that the existing grants policy should be amended to read “The Group Parish Council will only consider applications for funds at its discretion for projects entirely within the parish boundary. The project must provide a benefit to the parish and fulfil the criteria of more than one of the following:” ...

It was agreed that the Grants Policy must also have attached to it a form to complete. **Action: Clerk**

**42.21 To discuss the date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting / Annual Parish Meeting**

The Clerk reported that the Government had still not decided whether Parish Councils could continue holding virtual meetings (Zoom) after the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting / Annual Parish Meeting should be held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021. **Action: Clerk / All Councillors**

**43.21 To approve Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Asset Register**

Cllr Graeme Watts proposed that the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and the Asset Register which had previously been circulated to councillors should be approved, seconded Cllr Liz Warham – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

#### **44.21 To discuss the on-going maintenance, appointment of a maintenance person and extra dog/litter/grit bins for Purdis Farm**

Cllr Eddie Lawrence suggested employing a lengths man to carry out tasks within the parishes such as trimming hedges, picking up litter. Councillors were not in favour of employing a person due to the financial implications to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should try to obtain information from East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council Highways regarding the number of grass cuts per year, gully cleaning, etc. Cllr Eddie Lawrence said he received an email from a resident asking for additional dog bins and that he would research various locations. Councillors discussed the possibility of providing litter and fly tipping signs. The Parish Council has three CCTV cameras and notices which Ray Walters manages. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain photographs of cameras and costs involved. **Action: Cllr Eddie Lawrence / Clerk**

#### **45.21 To discuss the provision of a streetlight on the junction of Bucklesham Road / Straight Road / Straight Road Improvements**

Cllr Bernard Short reported on the results of the survey which had been undertaken in Foxhall concerning placing a streetlight on the corner of Straight Road/Bucklesham Road/Woodhouse Lane. He said that they had received nineteen replies and of those replies six were vehemently against the erecting of a streetlight. For this reason, it was felt that the Parish Council should not go ahead now.

Cllr Sheila Short pointed out that there were no warning signs on either the Bucklesham Road, Woodhouse Lane or Straight Road or signs to indicate a junction ahead and 'stop sign' on both Woodhouse Lane and Straight Road. Bucklesham Road has priority at the junction. Cllr Adrian Day stated that he felt that Parish Council should go back to David Chenery Suffolk County Council Highways Manager and have a discussion with him regarding the lack of signs at this junction and ask him what action highways are proposing to take to make this junction safer. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a Zoom meeting with Suffolk County Council Highways. **Action: Clerk**

#### **46.21 To discuss the Group Parish Council providing a Community Hall in Purdis Farm**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had a very productive meeting with Andy Jolliffe. The Clerk stated that she had not received the contact details for organisations who could give the Parish Council help/advice regarding Community Halls from Andy Jolliffe but would email him. It was agreed that the Clerk should circulate a copy of the recording of the meeting. **Action: Clerk**

#### **47.21 Clerk's Report March 2021**

##### Members of the public attending the meeting

We have two members of the public wishing to attend our meeting to put forward their views.

Katherine Riddell – Mill River Valley at Bucklesham (potential change of use and development). Please note we have not received a planning application.

Lynn Anderson-Murray – Purdis Farm Meadow Crescent and Murrills Road. Concerns about the upkeep of green park area behind 15 Meadow Crescent.

##### Meeting with Andy Jolliffe to Discuss the Community Hall

As you are aware, I recorded our meeting with Andy which was very informative. I have a memory stick with recording which I will be passing around to councillors.

#### Co-option of Foxhall Councillor

The period of notice for residents requesting an election has been completed so the Parish Council can now go ahead and co-opt a new councillor for Foxhall.

#### Repairs to Murrills Road Bus Shelter

The repairs to Murrills Road Bus Shelter have now been completed.

#### Return of Face-to-Face Meetings

As discussed at our February meeting the period when local authority meetings can cease to be held remotely finishes before the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Currently no decision has been held by government to extend the holding of remote meetings. I am suggesting therefore that we bring our May meeting forward to Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (Annual Parish Meeting / Annual Parish Council Meeting) to enable the Parish Council to hold the meeting remotely. This will alleviate the uncertainty as to whether Trinity Park will be able to accommodate our meeting.

#### **48.21 To discuss speeding on Bucklesham Road**

The Clerk reported, as per the email copied to councillors, that a resident is complaining about the speed of traffic travelling along Bucklesham Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team and ask for a speed camera to be situated on Bucklesham Road. It was suggested that contact should be made with the Clerk Waldringfield Parish Council to ask whether they would be willing to use their speed watch equipment in Foxhall. **Action: Clerk**

#### **49.21 Finance**

##### **Income**

None

##### **Expenditure**

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses January 2021	£247.20
SALC – Training	£60.00
Information Commission	£40.00
Brightwell Church	£250.00

Cllr Liz Warham, proposed, seconded Cllr Kevin Rout that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

#### **50.21 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk**

- a. Cllr Kevin Rout reported he had been to two SALC training sessions which were very good.

#### **51.21 Members questions to the Chairman**

- a. Cllr Graeme Watts said that two residents had spoken at the meeting about the Murrills Park area but that the Parish Council had not discussed the issues raised. The Clerk reported that Andy Jolliffe is aware. Councillors discussed whether notices should be erected about litter

and vehicles on the grass area. It was agreed to report the residents' concerns to the Safe Neighbourhood Team. Cllr Chris Blundell has agreed to investigate the issues. **Action: Clerk**

b. Cllr Kevin Rout said he was holding a meeting with Chris Roberts and asked whether councillors wanted him to ask any questions about the proposed industrial park. Cllr Adrian Day said he would like to know about their operational hours, the height of the buildings etc. **Action: Cllr Kevin Rout**

c. Cllr Adrian Day said that when the Parish Council have members of the public speaking, we need to remind them that each person has 5 minutes to speak in the Open Forum. **Action: Cllr Liz Warham / Clerk**

**52.21 Date of next meeting**

**Parish Council Meeting Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30 pm (Zoom Meeting)**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.47 pm**

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

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