

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Wednesday, 20th April 2022

Present

Cllr E Warham - Chair

Cllr K Rout

Cllr E Beach

Cllr B Newell

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr B Short

Cllr S Short

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

Cllr Chris Blundell – East Suffolk Council

54.22 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Watts.

55.22 To receive Members' declaration of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

56.22 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th March 2022 were approved as being a true record.

57.22 Matters arising from the minutes

All items arising from the minutes formed part of the agenda.

58.22 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions

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

East Suffolk Strategic Plan

The ambition of the council is to deliver the best possible quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in and visits East Suffolk. This Plan consists of five key themes which shows the direction being taken:

- Growing our economy.
- Delivering digital transformation.
- Caring for our environment.
- Enabling our communities.
- Remaining financially sustainable.

Enabling our Communities

For some years prior to 2013, many district councillors had complained that they were not allowed resources to help with activities within their wards. In September 2013 that changed and all councillors in Suffolk Coastal DC were granted an Enabling Communities Budget (ECB) to enable them to assist with projects that were specific to their wards. At the present time each District Councillor has an annual budget of £7,500 to spend on community enhancing projects within their wards. This has resulted in many activities being able to continue in operation and new ones come to life. The funding is drawn from an allocation of funds from Government under the heading of 'New Homes Bonus' rather than be a burden on the community charge. Over the course of this term, ECB allocated will amount to £1.65m for our East Suffolk communities.

I used some of my ECB money to fund the purchase of new boilers for the Martlesham Heath Parish Council and Runway Café that was set up as a non-profit enterprise to give residents somewhere to meet. Request for funding for any new project from any local organisation can be made to the District Council Ward Member and provided there is a clear benefit to the community the project can be supported. I also supported the purchase of two defibrillators for use in the parish.

Section 106 Agreements (S106) and Murrills Park

Previously whenever new residents are built within a parish or town then the developer was required to make a payment towards the enhancement of local facilities especially those directed towards such items as children's play areas or recreational facilities.

Prior to my becoming your local Conservative District Councillor, the parish council of Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm had attracted a substantial amount of over £100,000 (S106 monies) because of the new building that had occurred in the Purdis Farm area. If that money is not used then after a certain period of time the developer may request the return of the money.

The area known as Murrills Park in Murrills Road is owned by East Suffolk Council. The decision was made that the local community would benefit by improving the play, sport and recreation area at that location. A local consultation across the Parish was conducted with a favourable result and the refurbishment of Murrills Park has been earmarked to take place by the summer. I shall be looking forward to the completion of the project.

The Community Partnerships

This is an important part of the East Suffolk Council's work. In addition to fulfilling the legal duties placed upon the council such as Planning, Licencing and Waste Collection, East Suffolk Council has introduced a Community Partnership scheme (CP) to cover the whole East Suffolk District. The district is divided into eight partnership areas. The partnership for this area (of which I am the current Chairman) is: Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St Andrew Carlford & Fynn Valley and Purdis Farm (including Brightwell and Foxhall). Each CP has a budget of £25,000 per annum. Members of the towns and parishes within the local CP meet periodically to decide on the priorities and actions for the area that will help to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the community.

So far, this Community Partnership has focussed its attention on the following priorities:

- Social isolation and loneliness.
- Environmental Care.
- Road and Traffic Safety

Partners can bid for funds to spend on projects that will enable them to improve and enhance their community.

Loneliness and Isolation were recognised at an early stage of the partnership as being one of the most important issues to address. The local CP was instrumental in supplying:

- ‘Talking Benches’ ie the supply of outdoor benches for people to be able to sit and chat with friends in the open air.
- Loneliness and Isolation through the “Meet up Mondays” scheme, meeting in communal spaces over tea or coffee.
- Spot Wellbeing – healthy exercise scheme for the over 60s run by professionals.
- ‘Chinwag’ social and entertaining groups in Kesgrave, with around 100 attendees each month.
- Mental Health First Aid Training for key individuals and organisations to support and signpost those in greatest need.

Environmental Care was also high on the list of projects worth undertaking since that could and would engage persons both young and old in the development and subsequent appearance of any community.

Eleven grants, amongst other funding allocations, were awarded to organisations and schools to develop new, self-sufficient scheme or provision that engages local people with the environment. One successful project is the Westerfield Station Wildlife Garden Project.

In this case a group of volunteers encouraged members of their community to meet and help to improve the local environment alongside Westerfield Railway Station. This improvement included rewilding areas as well as planting to make a garden area.

Road and Traffic Safety

Suffolk consists of any villages that are inter-connected by narrow and single-track roads, often in poor condition and for walkers and cyclists are hazardous. Road maintenance, rights of way, walkways and cycle tracks are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council. The District Council has very limited authority with respect to the roads. However, it is possible to focus on the main aspect of road safety for users.

Therefore, the Community Partnership members have focussed their attention on the provision of Speed Indicator Devices (SID) and in the case of children walking and cycling to and from school and other places to make hi-visibility jackets available for primary school children. Signs similar to this are now in use throughout the Community Partnership area. Some of these devices also record the speed of the passing vehicles at various times of the day and at various places around the parishes. This statistical information is then passed to the relevant authorities in order to help them make suitable decisions on improving road safety conditions and enforcement.

A Recycling Story

I received a request for help in the purchase of a set of new comfortable chairs from the local Parish Council of St Michael’s and All Angels in Martlesham.

I then asked for the chairs that were replaced to be made available to the Woodbridge Town Football Club. They were modified and attached to benches that for many years had been the only seats for the spectators to sit upon.

East Suffolk Council has responded to the needs of all our communities by setting up this very practical and effective method of working through District Councillors and Parish Councils. All eight Community Partnerships together with other organisations such as Community Action Suffolk (CAS), the Suffolk Community Foundation, Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and others meet periodically as a Community Partnership Board who deliberate on much wider issues throughout East Suffolk District. The CP Board has allocated to it a further £300k for projects such as those related to schools and health.

- b. Cllr Ed Thompson – East Suffolk Councillor – no report.
- c. Cllr Patti Mulcahy – Suffolk County Council – no report.
- d. To receive questions from members of the public

No members of the public were present.

To reconvene the meeting

59.22 To discuss request for a donation from Foxhall Poors Land and Fuel Allotment Charity to fund a website

Cllr B Newell explained that the Foxhall Poors Land and Fuel Allotment Charity would like to build a website to highlight residents as to what the charity can offer both in terms of funding but also where to go for support. The donation would fund a One Suffolk website for a year and the Clerk/Trustee would build the website to meet the need. Following discussion, Cllr B Newell proposed that the Parish Council provide funding of £42.00 to the charity, seconded Cllr B Short – all in favour.

60.22 Planning

- a. Proposed development of Orwell Crossing Logistics Park

Nothing further to report.

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- b. General

DC/21/0903/FUL The Hollies Straight Road Foxhall – Utilise the existing land formally known as The Hollies Sports Centre and Social Club as home pitch locations for both youth and adult football. Creating of new vehicular access, parking, and associated facilities.

The Parish Council noted that this application has now been withdrawn.

61.22 Straight Road Improvements – To discuss and agree on the estimate received from SCC Highways

The Clerk had previously sent the estimate received from Suffolk County Council Highways for surveying and reporting back to the Parish Council on improvements which could be made to Foxhall roads. Following discussion Cllr B Newell proposed that the estimate of £14,207.87 be accepted, seconded Cllr K Rout – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

62.22 To discuss VAS sign reports

The Clerk reported that she had ordered the two VAS signs proposed at the last meeting and was awaiting delivery. Councillors discussed the results of the VAS reports for Brightwell. It was noted that more vehicles were breaking the law than adhering to it. Cllr B Short said that he would submit the reports to the Road Safety Forum who are collating information from all villages in the forum.

Action: Cllr B Short

63.22 To discuss and decide on support for Ukrainian Families

Cllr K Rout said that he had asked for this item to be put on the agenda for discussion to discuss whether static caravans could be provided at Toad Hall. It was noted that the East Suffolk Planning Department would need to authorise the siting of caravans. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council would be unable to provide funding due to restrictions on the powers of Parish Councils. It was agreed that Cllr K Rout would continue to research this item. **Action: Cllr K Rout**

64.22 To discuss the producing of a parish newsletter

Cllr E Beach reported that she had been investigating different forms of newsletters. She said that a flyer was produced for various areas. It was agreed that Cllr E Beach should approach Mr Bradshaw who is the editor of the flyers and report back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr E Beach**

65.22 Report on the Road Safety Forum Meeting

Cllr B Short reported that the next meeting was on the 4th May 2022 but this date has not been confirmed. **Action: Cllr B Short / Cllr S Short**

66.22 To agree on the Re-wilding areas in Purdis Farm

Cllr E Lawrence reported that following the email received from Lacey Crowe at East Suffolk Council concerning the rewilding of area in Purdis Farm he has produced a map detailing which areas would be suitable for rewilding. Cllr E Lawrence particularly highlighted Foxglove Crescent where more and more vehicles are parking on the grass. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Lacey Crowe enclosing the map and requesting that the rewilding to be trialled for a period of time to see whether it makes any difference to the grass verges. **Action: Clerk**

67.22 Annual Parish Council Meetings / Annual Parish Meeting Thursday, 5th May 2022

It was noted that due to holidays and other commitments the Parish Council would not have a quorum on the 5th May 2022. The Clerk noted dates when councillors would be available and would endeavour to find an alternative meeting venue and circulate details to councillors as soon as possible.

The following councillors would prepare reports for the APM. It was noted that an Officer from the Safe Neighbourhood Team would be attending. **Action: Clerk**

Brightwell	Cllr B Newell
Foxhall	Cllr B Short
Purdis Farm	Cllr E Warham

68.22 Clerk's Report March 2022

Annual Parish Meeting 2022

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday, 5th May 2022 at 7.00 pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm. A councillor from each of the three parishes provide a report on the Parish Council's activities for the year to May 2022.

Discuss donation for the Foxhall Pools Land and Fuel Allotment Charity

The charity would like to set up a website to make people aware of what they can offer to local parishioners. People are generally experiencing all kinds of problems with finance due to the rising cost of living. In addition to making donations to individuals the charity has also put together a comprehensive list of organisations which can provide help and support. The cost of setting up and hosting a website is £42.00 including VAT.

Straight Road Survey

The Parish Council has received costings for a survey for Straight Road and adjacent Foxhall Roads. The cost for the survey has been received amounting to £14,207.87. It is estimated that the survey will take 4.7 weeks.

Community Governance Review

The Parish Council has received two emails from ESC relating to the proposal from Martlesham Parish Council as follows.

"As you know, we are currently carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) of East Suffolk.

The initial consultation period has now closed. Thank you for your response – we note that you have suggested a reduction of councillors for Purdis Farm.

We have received response from Martlesham Parish Council requesting a boundary change between Martlesham and Brightwell which would result in the Brightwell Lakes development sitting wholly within Martlesham Parish.

I have attached a map which shows the proposed change to the boundary in green.

This was discussed at our Member Working Group yesterday and the group are keen to hear the views of Brightwell (and Waldringfield) Parish Council.

As the boundary between Martlesham and Brightwell is also the new County division boundary (between Martlesham and Rushmere St Andrew division) we would require consent from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to alter this boundary.

Please could you provide a response from the council to let us know whether Brightwell PC is supportive of this boundary change.

Unfortunately, the timescales are very tight for the CGR and we are due to have another meeting on 25 April before taking the initial recommendations to Council for approval.

If you could respond by 22 April, I would appreciate it."

The Community Governance Review will now go into a second phase of consultation therefore at this stage ESC are only looking for a steer from the Parish Council rather than a formal decision as such.

Following discussion councillors agreed that any parish changes for Brightwell should not be considered now and that Brightwell Lakes residents, when the time is appropriate, be supported to consider any parish or boundary changes. **Action: Clerk**

69.22 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses March 2022	£325.20
HMRC	£233.40
Donation to Brightwell Church	£300.00
One Suffolk on behalf of Powers Charity	£42.00
Community Account Balance as at 31 st March 2022	£34,426.03
Business Account Balance as at 31 st March 2022	£8,275.34

Cllr E Warham proposed that the above expenditure be approved, seconded Cllr B Short – all in favour.

70.22 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

None

71.22 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr B Newell stated that the fly tipping has been removed from Kennels Road.
- b. Cllr K Rout stated that he would produce a map of litter bins in the parishes. **Action: Cllr K Rout**

72.22 Date of next meeting

Thursday, 12th May 2022 at Nacton Village Hall Nacton

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.29 pm

Signed..... Date

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

