

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Wednesday, 8th June 2022 at Trinity Park

Present

Cllr E Warham - Chair

Cllr K Rout

Cllr E Beach

Cllr B Newell

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr B Short

Cllr S Short

Cllr G Watts

Cllr E Thompson – East Suffolk Council

Cllr C Blundell – East Suffolk Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

94.22 Apologies for absence

None

95.22 To receive Members' declaration of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

96.22 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th May 2022 were approved as being a true record with the following minor amendments.

87.22 Road Safety Forum

Second sentence to be amended to read. Cllr E Lawrence reported that he would be attending the next Community Partnership Meeting. **Action: Clerk**

92.22 Members questions to the Chairman Item 1

Substitute Monument Farm Lane for Bell Lane. **Action: Clerk**

97.22 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising. All items formed part of the agenda.

98.22 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions

a. Cllr Chris Blundell – East Suffolk Councillor

A Hardship Fund

East Suffolk Council (ESC) is a conservative run council. On the initiative of one of our conservative members, the proposal and accepted by the conservative members, was put that each Councillor should donate a thousand pounds from their Locality Budget into a central hardship fund. The Labour group were happy to join with us in that respect. However, the leader of the LGI group initially prevaricated. At the Full council on 25th May 2022 the motion was agreed, although it is up to individual councillors to make that donation. The Community Partnership Board then announced that it would also Donate £100K from its funds for the current financial year. How to access the fund has not yet (at the time of writing 8th June) been determined nor advertised. I will advise when known.

Leaflets and Street Traders

Many traders are delivering leaflets through letter boxes looking for work to do such as: gutter cleaning, garden maintenance and over hanging tree branch management. I recently had a meeting with a Trading Standards Officer who informed me that householders should not agree to any work being given to these kinds of traders without knowing your rights. In particular, you should not part with any money unless a formal invoice has been presented after the work is done. Also, you should not invite work to be done on property on land that you do not own. A typical problem occurs with the management of overhanging tree branches. The trees are always owned by the land-owner on whose land the trees are grown and therefore branch reduction should only be done with the agreement of the owner and that the owner should be responsible for any subsequent fees. Another point is that when a request is made to a trader for work to be done, there has to be a period of time made available for cancellation and the trader is supposed to inform the contractor of this fact. More information can be obtained from: www.nationaltradingstandards.uk

Appointment of an Environmental Officer

ESC has stepped up its commitment to delivering on environmental ambitions by appointing a dedicated lead officer to help shape policy in the fight against climate change. The new officer will be responsible for advising the Council on environmental strategies, policies and initiatives, and their contribution to national, regional and local goals. The Council has confirmed the appointment of Mr. Paul Mackie, bringing with him more than 15 years of experience in the environment sector to this important new role. Paul spent seven years working with East Suffolk as part of Coastal Partnership East, raising over £75million of investment for projects to help make our coastal communities more resilient to climate change. Paul will work closely with Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor James Mallinder.

New Café

The eagerly anticipated opening of an acclaimed new café has been met with celebration in Felixstowe, as part of the continued wider redevelopment of the town's South Seafront area. The strikingly designed contemporary venue opened its doors to customers at the entrance to Martello Park – after the building's architects, 'Plaice Design Company', were 'Highly Commended' at the RIBA Suffolk Design awards 2022. The £1.5 million landmark project was funded by ESC, with grant funding of £950,000 from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund and a further £30,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund. The café is run by Cameron and Clair Marshall, owners of 'The Kitchen @ Group', which was forged from the original Dedham Boathouse.

Working alongside ESC, Plaice Design @ Group on delivering the project were Barnes Construction, Superstructures and Gill Associates.

Street Parties

I was asked by a number of street representatives for funds from the Communities Enabling Budget to help with their street party projects. Unfortunately, money cannot be paid to individuals, only bona fide organisations such as charities. I would love to have been able to help.

b. Cllr Ed Thompson – East Suffolk Councillor – no report.

c. Cllr Patti Mulcahy – Suffolk County Council – no report.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Patti Mulcahy had telephoned her to discuss concerns regarding the proposed Solar Farm in Bucklesham. Patti wanted to know the Parish Council's position regarding Solar Farms. Following discussion, the Parish Council decided on the following statement: "the Parish Council are in favour of Solar Farms; however, they are not in favour of them being sited on good agricultural land". **Action: Clerk**

During the conversation Cllr Mulcahy had also offered to contribute £3,000 to the survey work for Foxhall.

d. To receive questions from members of the public

No members of the public were present.

To reconvene the meeting

99.22 Planning

a. Proposed development of Orwell Crossing Logistics Park

Cllr G Watts reported that there were still outstanding planning applications for this area. Additional correspondence has been uploaded to the East Suffolk Planning website over the last two weeks. The owners are stating there is no need for the Truck Stop. The Parish Council commented as to why it has taken so long to make a decision.

b. General

DC/21/3512/FUL Molen Bucklesham Road Foxhall – Retrospective application – front garden walls...

Cllr G Watts reported that there has been no updated since the last meeting.

DC/21/2391/FUL Land off Ipswich Road Brightwell – Change of use of land for siting of 31 static units and 12 touring pitches and ancillary facilities – resubmission.

Cllr G Watts reported that there has been no update since the last meeting.

Proposed Solar Farm Bucklesham

Cllr G Watts reported that an application for this development had not been submitted. Although the solar farm is in Bucklesham the land is on the boundary with Brightwell. The piece of land identified for development is between Twisted Oaks and Bucklesham Hall. It states on the developer's website no traffic will go through Bucklesham or Newbourne and the access will be via

the A12/A14. The developers (Novus) have arranged an event in Newbourne Village Hall on Tuesday, 21st June 2022 between 3-7 pm.

The Parish Council agreed that they support solar farms however not on good agricultural land.

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Katherine Riddell Bucklesham Hall concerning this matter. It was agreed that Cllr B Newell would contact Katherine to discuss. **Action: Cllr B Newell**

100.22 To discuss VAS sign reports

Cllr B Short reported that the VAS sign reports are being submitted to the Road Safety Forum. Cllr B Short commented that some of the figures from the VAS signs showed speeds between 50 and 60 mph. Cllr B Short also mentioned the poor visibility at the junction of Bell Lane and Foxhall Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Suffolk County Council Highways asking them to remove the vegetation and replace with a concrete pad. It was also agreed to write to Suffolk County Council Highway asking them to remove the vegetation at Monument Farm Lane and the bottom of Hall Road, Monument Farm Lane crossing with Foxhall Road and Hall Road West side of the junction and replace with concrete pads. The next Road Safety Forum is on the 5th September 2022. **Action: Clerk**

101.22 To discuss and decide on support for Ukrainian Families

Cllr K Rout reported that after further investigation into support for Ukrainian families unfortunately due to the complex process the Parish Council should not pursue this any further.

102.22 Letter from Lacey Crowe East Suffolk Council re Norse

The Clerk reported that a letter from Lacey Crowe had been circulated to all councillors which highlighted the progress. The Council has now created a new trading company – delivering crucial services such as waste and recycling collection, grounds maintenance and street cleaning – has moved a step closer with the appointment of its first Managing Director and confirmation of the organisation's trading name; East Suffolk Services. The establishment of East Suffolk Services will allow the Council to play a more direct and influential role in how important services are delivered in the future. Our aim is to provide the best quality services possible with the resources available; always seeking to deliver improvement and the best possible outcomes for council taxpayers. As part of our exit negotiations with Norse, where companies and other organisations such as yourselves have additional service contracts in place, we have discussed transferring these services to East Suffolk Services. These meetings have been constructive. Our starting point for all of these local agreements is that we would like the arrangements to transfer directly into East Suffolk Services – and that the company will continue to provide services for town and parish councils in the future.

The Parish Council noted the contents of the letter.

103.22 Rewilding Purdis Farm

Cllr E Lawrence reported that he had sent an email to Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council asking whether she would support the Parish Council with funding to provide plants to position in the long grass. Cllr E Lawrence said that he had also written to Suffolk Wildlife Trust asking whether they could provide the Parish Council with advice and consultancy. **Action: Cllr E Lawrence**

104.22 To consider and agree to purchasing 2 replacement benches for Purdis Farm

Prior to the meeting Cllr E Lawrence had circulated pictures of two of the benches in Purdis Farm which needed replacing in the small park area in Meadow Crescent Purdis Farm. The Clerk reported that the cost would be approximately £1,000 for both seats. Cllr G Watts proposed that the Parish Council replace both benches with recycled material benches, seconded Cllr B Newell – all in favour.

Action: Clerk

105.22 To discuss the Community Governance Review

The Clerk reported that she had sent an email to Karen Last East Suffolk Council requesting a reduction in the number of councillors for Purdis Farm. The draft recommendations for the review were agreed at Council on the 25th May 2022.

The details of the proposal are as follows:

The Parish Council requested a reduction in councillor numbers by 1 for Purdis Farm.
Recommendation 5: Purdis Farm

The seats for Purdis Farm on Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council should be reduced from 7 to 6 seats.

Purdis Farm was uncontested in 2015 and 2019.

Purdis Farm currently has 3 councillors out of a possible 7.

Elector/Councillor Ratio – December 2021 – 226.9:1

Predicted Elector/Councillor Ratio (2026) with 6 councillors: 267:1

The Clerk was requested to confirm with Karen Last by the 9th July 2022 deadline for comments, that the Parish Council supports this request. **Action: Clerk**

106.22 Parking on the carriageway adjacent to St Augustine's Church

Councillors discussed the problem of indiscriminate parking on the highways around St Augustine's Church when an event was in progress. It was agreed to contact the church to discuss. **Action: Clerk**

107.22 To discuss producing a parish newsletter

Cllr E Beach reported on the progress she had made regarding producing a parish newsletter. Cllr E Beach said that the number of copies of a newsletter required was considerably less than first thought. Based on these figures the cost of an A5 advert would be approximately £75 for a full page, £40 for a half page and £20 for a quarter page. She said she had spoken to Sarah Jay at Trinity Park Events who said she does not have a budget for advertising, as individuals who use Trinity Park for events do the advertising themselves. However, it is a possibility that an advert for the Suffolk Show and the Christmas events might be put in a local magazine. Cllr E Beach suggested a quarterly magazine, January, April, July, and October. It was also suggested to offer advertising in the first edition free. **Action: Cllr E Beach / Clerk**

108.22 To discuss latest from Community Partnership

The next Community Partnership meeting is on the 10th July 2022.

109.22 Clerk's Report June 2022

Re-wilding areas in Purdis Farm

Email from Cllr E Lawrence to Patti Mulcahy.

"I would like to lead on the re wilding of public open spaces on Purdis Farm. One way would be to provide plants for the open areas as part of re wilding. In consultation with Suffolk wildlife trust and Norse I believe we could make a difference to the current environment.

I would gladly coordinate this but the first bridge to cross would be funding the purchase of plants and labour with some help from the local community.

Would it be possible for you to provide some funding or help with this project?"

Replacement Benches Purdis Farm

Cllr E Lawrence has asked for this item to be placed on the agenda to consider replacing two benches in Puris Farm. Please see pictures emailed separately. The approximate cost of two benches is £1,000 plus VAT.

Community Governance

Email from Karen Last Electoral Services Manager East Suffolk Council.

"The draft recommendations were agreed at Council on 25 May 2022, and can be found here: **East Suffolk Council Community Governance Review – 2021-2022 » East Suffolk Council**

There is a link to an online survey on that webpage and we welcome your submissions. The final recommendations will be taken to Council in September.

The deadline for responses to the draft recommendations is **Friday 8 July 2022.**"

The Parish Council requested a reduction in councillor numbers by 1 for Purdis Farm.
Recommendation 5: Purdis Farm

"The seats for Purdis Farm on Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council should be reduced from 7 to 6 seats.

Purdis Farm was uncontested in 2015 and 2019.

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The draft does not appear to show the request from Martlesham to move their boundary with Brightwell.

Households in the Group Parish

The following is a list of electoral roll numbers and number of households in each of the three parishes.

Electoral Roll Numbers:

Foxhall 242
Brightwell 32
Purdis Farm 1588
Total 1862

Number of Households:

Brightwell 26 properties
Foxhall 118 properties
Purdis Farm 818 properties
Total 962

Increased Subscription for SALC

SALC are proposing to increase their subscription charges from 2023 by 2.54% from £581.30 to £596.06.

To increase the Parish Council's Fidelity Insurance

The Internal Auditor is recommending that in view of cash reserves in excess of the Fidelity Guarantee insurance cover of £25,000 it is felt that the Council should consider an increase in insurance cover to ensure that both financial and reputational risks are mitigated.

110.22 Road Safety Forum

Please refer to Minute 100.22 above.

111.22 To note and agree increased subscription for SALC

The Clerk reported that she had circulated an email from SALC concerning the increase in subscription charges as of 2023. Cllr G Watts proposed that the Parish Council accept the increase of 2.54% from £581.30 to £596.06 per year, seconded Cllr E Warham – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

112.22 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses May 2022	£379.84
CAS – Insurance Increase (Fidelity Guarantee)	£10.21
T Brown – Audit 2021/2022	£170.00

Community Account Balance as at 31 st May 2022	£40,464.54
Business Account Balance as at 31 st May 2022	£8,275.34

Cllr G Watts proposed that the above expenditure be approved, seconded Cllr E Warham – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

113.22 To agree to increase the Parish Council Insurance

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had recommended that the Parish Council increase their Fidelity Guarantee insurance cover from £25,000 to £100,000 to ensure that both financial and reputational risks are mitigated. Cllr B Newell proposed that the Parish Council increase their insurance as recommended, seconded Cllr E Warham – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

114.22 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

None

115.22 Members questions to the Chairman

None

116.22 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 13th July 2022

Cllr B and S Short offered their apologies for the next meeting as they will be away from the area.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.34 pm

Signed..... Date

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