

BRIGHTWELL, FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Wednesday, 9th November 2022 at Trinity Park

Present

Cllr E Warham - Chair

Cllr B Newell

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr G Watts

Cllr B Short

Cllr S Short

Cllr K Rout (via Video Link)

Cllr E Beach (via Video Link)

Cllr E Thompson – East Suffolk Council

Cllr C Blundell – East Suffolk Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

1 member of the public

163.22 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K Rout, Cllr E Beach and Cllr P Mulcahy Suffolk County Council.

164.22 To receive Members' declaration of interest

Cllrs B and S Short declared an interest in Item 6 Planning of the agenda due to proximity of their property to Planning Application DC/22/2999/FUL The Hollies Straight Road Foxhall.

165.22 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th October 2022 were approved as being a true record.

166.22 Matters arising from the minutes

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

167.22 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions

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

As we approach the end of 2022 and the end of this four-year term of administration, I want to say a big thank you to all those who volunteer to do the many activities that help to make Martlesham together with Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm such a pleasant and rewarding place to live. We have a great many volunteers in this ward that I have had the pleasure to work for and represent as your conservative councillor. With funding granted to councillors from the East Suffolk Council I have been proud to support so many activities that were undertaken by volunteers. Additionally, the funding supplied through the Community Partnership was used by volunteers to help improve the quality of life across the partnership area of Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St Andrew, Brightwell,

Foxhall, Purdis Farm, Carlford and Fynn Valley. It was the volunteers who helped to identify the areas of activity that were most in need of financial help. It was my pleasure to sign off the funds for all those projects as Chair of the local Community Partnership. Again, my sincere thank you for all the work done by all our excellent volunteers.

Ease the Squeeze

I hope that the Road-shows that East Suffolk Council (ESC) implemented at many locations throughout the district were of help and benefit for those who felt the need to visit them. At the time of writing this article, ESC is actively seeking locations in which to create the **'Warm Room'** facility by asking communities if they are able to allocate a large room that can be heated for six hours per day on two days of the week and where groups of 15 to 25 or more residents in need can meet and participate in gentle or quiet activities and where light refreshments are provided. ESC will then fund the heating costs.

East Suffolk Warm Homes Grant Scheme

In April 2022, the Government launched the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support its Levelling Up agenda. The primary object of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. The Warm Rooms programme is planned to be partly funded by money from the UKSPF. For a summary of the fund please see: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/>

The target for each of our Warm Rooms is to provide somewhere safe, warm and welcoming where people who are struggling with the costs of heating their own homes can come to keep warm, socialise and access additional support from local partners – to mitigate other effects of the rising cost of living, where appropriate. Grants of up to £2,860 per application are available.

Refugees

There is currently a consultation taking place between the Government and local authorities on the dispersal of refugees. Nationally there are over 31,000 people in contingency accommodation (hotels/guest houses) with 1,231 in 12 such hotels in the East of England. In the East of England, the accommodation providers are 'Serco' and 'Clearsprings Ready Homes'.

According to the latest Home Office statistics available (June 2022), the East of England already houses 1,872 asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation, which means that a further 3,328 bed spaces will need to be procured by 'Serco' and 'Clearsprings' in our region over the next 18 months. The proposed allocation by local Authority in the East of England, to be achieved by December 2023 means that Suffolk is looking at a proposed allocation adjusted to 484 and in East Suffolk that equates 176 asylum seekers.

Major Funding boost for efforts to end rough sleeping in East Suffolk

East Suffolk Council has welcomed the allocation of £2.5 million in government funding towards additional support for people at risk of sleeping rough. The £2,434,258 funding settlement will be awarded across three years in support of a long term, strategic programme to end rough sleeping. It follows publication of the £2bn cross-government Rough Sleeping Strategy by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to drive forward a manifesto commitment to tackle homelessness.

- b. Cllr Ed Thompson – East Suffolk Councillor – verbal report.
- c. Cllr Patti Mulcahy – Suffolk County Council – written report.

£7.8m redevelopment of Foxhall Recycling Centre to begin

RG Carter Ltd has been appointed by Suffolk County Council as contractor for the £7.8 million project, with work scheduled to start on October 17.

The new design will increase capacity for cars on site, reduce queuing and improve access from Foxhall Road, and provide greater capacity to meet future growth.

The site will have a raised level construction, giving better access to the containers for users without the need for stairs.

Containers can also be emptied without the need to close the site.

The funding includes £794,414 from East Suffolk Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy collected from new housing developments in the East Suffolk area.

Work is scheduled to complete in early 2024 and the site will remain open to the public during construction.

RG Carter will work alongside **Concertus Design and Property Consultants** on the scheme.

The project will be conducted in phases to keep the centre operational throughout the build, but at certain times this may result in fewer booking slots being available to the public.

The Re-use shop will change location in the new layout and will need to be closed for a period early next year to allow this to take place.

The project will also see the installation of a feeder lane from Foxhall Road, making access into the site safer.

Of the 11 recycling centres around the county Foxhall accounts for 19% of recycling and waste, collecting more than 12,500 tonnes a year.

Cost of living to impact council's budget

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities, as it decides its budget for next year.

This year, the council has around £625m to spend on everything that they do. That's from financing the fire and rescue service, to maintaining roads and providing school transport. Although there is freedom to choose where some of that money is spent, the council is legally required to spend certain amounts, such as on schools.

Of that pot the largest amount, around £6 in every £10, comes from council tax. The remainder is made up from the council's share of business rates, and the money received each year from the Government (known as the 'settlement').

The current budget was a real challenge to manage, not least due to uncertainties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Yet SCC was still able to maintain all services and invest in some areas. Unfortunately, this year is much more of a challenge.

Councils across the country are subject to many of the financial pressures that we all face at home, such as rising energy costs. The high rates of inflation mean that the council's day-to-day costs are going up, the goods and services that are needed to buy today are markedly more expensive than this time last year.

On top of this, there is the national wage increase and more demand for council services, particularly care services for adults and children.

Many councils are facing a situation where they will encounter a considerable budget gap – which is the shortfall between what needs to be spent, and money that's available. At the time of writing, SCC's estimated budget gap could be as much as £56m.

We launched a public survey two weeks ago, to ask you which services are important to you. There are just three questions to answer and it should only take a few minutes to complete. You can share your thoughts at www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget

A summary of your responses will be included in the report considered by the council when agreeing the budget in February 2023.

Being prepared for winter matters to Suffolk County Council

As the days get shorter and temperatures continue to drop, it certainly feels like winter is on the way, so SCC has created a Winter Matters campaign, a campaign packed full of tips and advice to help you and your loved ones look after your money, health, wellbeing and safety during the colder months.

The council has partnered with organisations and services from across the county who are already providing support for people in Suffolk, such as the Rural Coffee Caravan and Community Action Suffolk, to ensure they can help those who need it most.

Every year Suffolk County Council helps families and communities with essential services, whether it be by gritting icy roads, commissioning social care support, or attending fires, but this year especially they are asking that people make their own preparations to enable them to have a happy and healthy winter. It would take too long to list all the various parts of this campaign, but I wanted to highlight just a few.

Winter marks the start of the flu season, and of course the shadow of COVID hasn't gone away. Protect yourself and those you care about by getting the flu and covid vaccines as soon as you are eligible.

Vaccination is still the best defence against these serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses, and I am delighted that more than 173,000 people in Suffolk have already had their autumn COVID booster vaccine.

Don't forget, when notified you can book your COVID vaccination appointment or find a walk-in clinic near you by visiting [SNEE NHS Covid-19 Vaccination webpage](#).

As well as looking after our health, it's important for us to prioritise wellbeing this winter, with ongoing increases to the Cost of Living being a source of stress for many.

This is especially true when it comes to energy bills. Whilst Government has stepped in to help cap the average cost of energy, additional help is at hand from Warm Homes Suffolk, which provides support on making homes more energy efficient and cheaper to heat.

The service can offer assistance with fuel payments, discuss energy efficiency improvements, help you access grants to pay for insulation, and assess your eligibility for contributions towards the cost of repairs or replacements if your boiler or heater stops working.

If high energy bills are preventing you from putting the heating on, or you know anyone who may need extra help heating their home, please contact Warm Homes Suffolk on **03456 037 686**.

Further guidance on national and local support with household costs, including food and essentials, is available on our website. Visit the [Cost of Living](#) page to find out what help you could be entitled to, as well as tips and advice for saving money.

Although rising prices may prompt many of us to look for a good deal this winter, this should not be at the expense of safety.

Online auction sites or social media marketplaces can be rife with counterfeit goods or products that don't meet the UK's stringent safety laws. These often haven't been properly tested and could pose a serious risk of fire, serious injury or even death.

Buying from reputable retailers will help to keep you safe and remember, if a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.

You can also reduce the chances of a fire in your home this winter by taking a few simple steps such as regularly cleaning your chimney before use, never leaving candles or open fires unattended and switching off electrical appliances before bed, including fairy lights on Christmas trees.

There is a wealth of information on this and other ways in which you can prepare on [the Winter Matters page](#). There will also be sharing advice on social media and distributing leaflets via the Rural Coffee Caravan and Suffolk Libraries to support everyone in Suffolk.

More Suffolk residents to benefit from digital services and thrive online

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has approved a suite of digital inclusion recommendations aimed at helping people get online.

Following a Policy Development Panel (PDP) review of what more could be done to remove barriers to accessing services online, and increase levels of digital inclusion in the county, the following recommendations were approved to go ahead:

- Creation of a Digital Inclusion Fund, aimed at funding community projects that support increased digital inclusion
- Adoption of the Digital Health and Care Guiding Principles developed by Healthwatch Suffolk, in co-production with service users, to underpin the Council's own development of online services
- Commitment of up to £77k to the community 'Digital Champions' initiative and training offer, enabling its expansion across the county and extending the initiative until October 2023
- Further development of the council's pioneering approach to digital health and care through its Cassius service.

These approved recommendations will provide the blueprint for a Digital Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan which will span the next three years; setting out to have a positive impact on those who are missing out on the benefits of being online, in areas such as job prospects, finances, learning opportunities, health, and wellbeing. Helping people to become digitally included will, in turn, bring wider social benefits.

The County Council and its partners want Suffolk to be a place where residents understand the benefits of being online, are aware of opportunities, feel safe and confident online and are supported to develop their skills and thrive in an increasingly digital world.

- d. To receive questions from members of the public

One member of the public was present, but he did not wish to ask any questions.

To reconvene the meeting

168.22 Planning

a. Proposed development of Orwell Crossing Logistics Park

This planning application is still pending.

b. General

DC/22/4059/FUL Greenbank Purdis Avenue - Erection of detached garage.

PC Comments: No objection

ESC Comments: Pending

DC/22/3652/FUL Valley Farm Bucklesham Road - Foxhall Change of use to B8 storage of distribution & class E (G) 1 offices to carry out any operational or administration functions. Erection of 2.4m high perimeter security fence, construction of storage bays for materials associated with telecommunications infrastructure construction. Erection of 2 storey porter cabin offices for operational and admin staff.

PC Comments: No objection

ESC Comments: Pending

DC/21/3512/FUL Molen Bucklesham Road – Retrospective planning application for wall and gates.

PC Comments: The Parish Council objects to this application as we consider that the gates are out of character with the rural area and decremental to the local street scene. We are also disappointed that this is another retrospective application in the local area.

ESC Comments: Approved

DC/22/2437/FUL Pinetrees Purdis Farm Lane Purdis Farm – Demolition of existing bungalow, construction of 4 new dwellings and associated carports, parking, access and landscaping.

PC Comments: The Parish Council objects to this application as we believe that this development does not fit in with the character of the existing properties, both in Purdis Farm Lane and Beechwood Drive and will result in a major change to the existing street scene. In addition, the limited parking provision is likely to result in vehicles being parked in the surrounding roads causing obstruction to the highway.

ESC Comments: Pending

DC/22/3591/FUL Three Rivers Business Centre Felixstowe Road Foxhall - Erection of 3 no. office units with a Class E (g)(i) use class. that development achieves a high-quality design, which is responsive and sympathetic to its surroundings. The existing units on site adopt a traditional agricultural barn vernacular utilising red brick and weatherboarded elevations with pantile roof. The proposed units would be of a similar form, scale and appearance of the existing units, specifically the units to the

south of the site, but the proposed units would incorporate rooflights to enable floor space to be accommodated within the roof. The proposed units would utilise an area of vacant maintained land, adjoining the existing business units. The of site is of a significant size to accommodate the proposed building and associated parking without it appearing cramped or contrived. By way of location and form, the proposed development would not detrimentally affect the wider landscape.

PC Comments: The Parish Council objects to this application as we consider it to be an overdevelopment of the site which will cause continued noise and light disturbance to local residents and further increase the danger to highway safety. The site already has around 150 vehicles using it each day and in addition has recently seen a number of delivery vans and lorries being parked within the site on spare ground not allocated for car parking. All the traffic entering and leaving the site has to cross an existing bridleway before joining the A1156. As the bridleway is used by a variety of vehicles including farm vehicles, motorhomes and cars towing caravans, near misses are a regular occurrence. An increase in vehicles using the site will only make this situation worse. As explained in their letter to the Planning Officer local residents continue to suffer from noise and light pollution from the site and the activities undertaken. Some of which occur outside the agreed operating hours of the business park. For the reasons stated above the Parish Council objects to this application.

ESC Comments: Pending

DC/22/3285/FUL Brightwell Wood Land Adjacent Lower House Bucklesham Hall Drive Brightwell - Use of land for extension to existing cross country cycle track; Use of storage containers for reception and sales area; Change of design to ancillary structures.

PC Comments: The Parish Council objects to this application as we consider it to be an over development of the existing site into an environmentally sensitive area. We are concerned by the lack of access to the site particularly for emergency vehicles. This sport is inherently dangerous and should be subject to strict regulation. The existing access is along a narrow track which can become congested during busy times at the park particularly during special events. It is unclear whether the alternative route across several fields is suitable for emergency vehicles and how this will work in practice. The Planning Authority should consult with the emergency services to confirm that they are satisfied with the access to the site and that they are able to quickly and effectively deal with the casualties caused by this popular but dangerous sport. The expansion of the park will lead to an increased number of visitors particularly during special events which will lead to increased disturbance to local residents and on occasion to the wider Brightwell Parish where the increasing amount of traffic continues to be a concern. For the reasons stated above the Parish Council objects to this proposal.

Discussion: A letter has been sent to East Suffolk Planning by James Perks where he states he has addressed the concerns which have been raised.

DC/22/2999/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. Creation of new vehicular access/parking and associated facilities

PC Comments: The Parish Council strongly objects to this application. We are surprised that a new application has been submitted for this site with only a few changes to the previous application which generated numerous objections from local residents, the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council Highways. It is clear that Straight Road and adjoining roads such as Monument Farm Lane are inadequate to cope with the additional traffic such a development will bring particularly over the

short time frame the pitches would be in use. This will no doubt lead to traffic chaos in and around Straight Road and will therefore be very detrimental to Highway Safety. The new application states that a suitable visibility splay will be maintained but how this is to be achieved is disputed by several objectors. We are concerned that the proposed entrance remains adjacent to dwellings in The Hollies and within the 60mph speed limit. Highways are concerned by the dangers caused by coaches turning off Straight Road which is narrow single-track road but the applicant has boldly stated that no coaches will use the site and only the occasional minibus! How is this going to be enforced? Suffolk County Council the Lead Local Flood Authority have already expressed their concerns about the Surface Water Flood Risk and the Pollution Hazard of siting a 150-site car park on a field. Whilst local residents have also expressed their concerns about the treatment of sewage generated by this development. An area that has been sadly absent from this application. Should this application be allowed to go ahead it will have a considerable detrimental effect on the local residents and Highway Safety in Straight Road and the adjacent area. It will also lead to the loss of wildlife habitat which has recently seen the arrival of Skylarks which are a protected species. For these reasons we join with local residents and other statutory consultees in objecting to this application.

ESC Comments: Pending

Discussion: It does not appear that any of our concerns have been addressed. There is no mention of the disturbance to Skylarks. One of the major objections was that the traffic to the site would be using Straight Road. There will be no traffic management for vehicles using the football pitches.

Bucklesham Solar Farm

Although we have been advised that this application has been lodged with East Suffolk Council it has not been validated therefore the Parish Council has not received it for comment.

169.22 To discuss VAS sign reports

Cllr E Lawrence reported that when motorists drive from Ipswich along the Bucklesham Road to Bucklesham and then towards Brightwell there will be VAS signs to detect speeds the whole distance. There is a problem with the maps due to the size of files 5mb. When motorists come from Martlesham and down Brightwell Hill the average speed is 32 miles an hour although Post 1 is of concern.

Cllr B Short reported that a hedge obscures Post 1. Cllr E Lawrence said he needs to contact someone living on Brightwell Hill to ask whether they would agree to the Parish Council cutting the hedge back. **Action: Cllr E Lawrence**

Cllr E Lawrence said that if the signs are operational all the time, they are not affective.

170.22 To discuss and agree the meeting dates for 2023

The dates of the Parish Council Meetings for 2023 had been circulated to all councillors. The following dates were approved, and the Clerk was requested to send them to Trinity Park. It was noted that 6th May is the District and Parish Councils elections, and the Annual Parish Council Meeting must be held within 2 weeks of the elections.

Wednesday, 11th January 2023

Wednesday, 8th February 2023

Wednesday, 8th March 2023
Wednesday, 12th April 2023
Wednesday, 10th May 2023 (Annual Parish Council Meeting / Annual Parish Meeting)
Wednesday, 14th June 2023
Wednesday, 12th July 2023
Wednesday, 13th September 2023
Wednesday, 11th October 2023
Wednesday, 8th November 2023
Wednesday, 13th December 2023

Action: Clerk

171.22 To discuss the parish newsletter

It was reported that the first newsletter had been well received by residents. The deadline for submitting editorial for the second edition is the 1st December 2022. Graham Thurston Trinity Park has agreed to submit a two-page editorial for the centre pages. The Clerk was asked to write to Graham letting him know the deadline. **Action: Clerk**

172.22 To discuss latest from Community Partnership

Cllr E Lawrence reported that no meetings had been held since the last Parish Council meeting.

173.22 Clerk's Report November 2022

CIL Receipts

The Parish Council has received £13,040.84 in CIL receipts which can be used for any infrastructure projects. I have checked with the ESC CIL team who has told me that the Parish Council could, if councillors approve, use the money for the Foxhall Surveys.

Enabling Communities Budget

As discussed at the last meeting with Cllr Chris Blundell, I have applied for a grant to cover the newsletter publication for a year.

Project Description:

The Parish Council are in the process of setting up a quarterly newsletter to distribute to residents to keep them up to date with current Parish Council activities and activities within the wider community.

Distribute a 12-page newsletter to all residents in Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm quarterly.

The need for a regular newsletter was highlighted by Cllr Chris Blundell and as a result a member of the Parish Council took on the task of liaising with residents, businesses and organisations.

This initiative will benefit the whole population and business businesses.

Strategic priority:

This project meets the Strategic priority and theme of Enabling Communities by reaching out to the diverse community which is supported by Brightwell Foxhall and Purdis Farm Group Parish Council. It will contain relevant and up to date information on the Community Partnership and in particular the Road Safety Forum which our councillors play a major part in supporting. It will also provide up to date information about local events. It will also enable the Parish Council to provide information on their activities.

Costs:

£659 per quarter x 4 quarters = £2,636.

174.22 Road Safety Forum

It was reported that no meetings had been held since the last Parish Council Meeting.

175.22 Report on the Foxhall Road Surveys

The Clerk reported that Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council had spoken to David Chenery Suffolk County Council Highways Manager regarding the Foxhall Road Surveys who had told her that the Parish Council had not settled the invoice for the work. The Clerk spoke to Patti Mulcahy and told her that the invoice had been paid in July 2022 which David Chenery has now confirmed. David Chenery has agreed to commission the study and update the Parish Council in due course. **Action: Clerk**

176.22 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

A J Buggs Salary and Expenses October 2022	£373.80
Community Account Balance on 30 th September 2022	£19,008.47
Business Account Balance on 30 th September 2022	£8,278.51

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

177.22 To discuss CIL Receipts

The Parish Council has received £13,040.84 in CIL receipts which can be used for any infrastructure projects. The Clerk had checked with East Suffolk Council CIL Team regarding using the funding for the Road Surveys in Foxhall. Cllr E Warham proposed, seconded Cllr G Watts that the CIL funding should be used for; Foxhall Road Surveys £11,190.70 and 2 VAS Signs £8,291.88 – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

178.22 To discuss and approve the Half Year Accounts 1st April – 30th September 2022

The Clerk reported that the half year accounts had previously been circulated to all councillors. Cllr B Short proposed, seconded Cllr B Newell that the Parish Council formally adopt the half year accounts – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

179.22 To discuss and approve the Budget for 2023/2024

The Clerk reported that the Budget 2023/2024 had previously been circulated and asked for any comments. Cllr G Watts asked for £75.00 to be put in the budget under the heading Hire of Hall. Cllr B Short proposed, seconded Cllr B Newell that the Parish Council formally adopt the budget for 2023/2024 – all in favour. It was agreed the Clerk should amend the budget and recirculate to all councillors. **Action: Clerk**

180.22 To discuss and approve the Precept for 2023/2024

Following discussion councillors agreed to defer the setting of the Precept 2023/2024 until the December 2022 Parish Council Meeting which is well before the deadline date set for requesting precept of 31st January 2023. **Action: Clerk**

179.22 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

None

180.22 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr B Newell asked that the Clerk report to Suffolk County Council Highways that the diversion signs for road works in Hall Road / Kennel Road be removed. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Cllr B Newell asked that the Clerk report to Suffolk County Council Highways that the road sign at Monument Farm Lane and Purdis Road be repaired or replaced. **Action: Clerk**
- c. Cllr B Newell asked that the Clerk to remind Trinity Park about our suggestion to have a one-way direction on the 2 days of the Suffolk Show; vehicles going Woodhouse Lane Monument Farm Lane one direction and Hall Road in the other direction. **Action: Clerk**
- d. Cllr K Rout asked the Clerk to contact East Suffolk Council to report the fly tipping of bin bags in Straight Road. **Action: Clerk**

181.22 Date of next meeting

7.30 pm Wednesday, 14th December 2022

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm

Signed..... Date

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