

BRIGHTWELL FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 7th April 2026 at Trinity Park

Present

Cllr E Warham - Chair

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr B Newell

Cllr G Watts

Cllr K Rout

Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

3 members of the public

43.26 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr E Beach.

44.26 To receive Members' Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

45.26 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th March 2026 were approved as being a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

46.26 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

47.26 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions.

- a. Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council – verbal report

Cllr Mark Packard explained to councillors the format of the May elections and that Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm will now be grouped in a Ward with Rushmere St Andrew and will no longer be part of the Martlesham Ward. Cllr Packard stated that a meeting had been held with Gladman, which is a subsidiary of Barratt Homes, to discuss their proposal to build 2700 homes in the area. The proposal appears to be the same as the proposal submitted in 2019. The proposal is at a very early stage. The results of the Call for Sites will not be known until October 2026. Councillors expressed concern as to whether or not the Ipswich Town Boundary could be extended. Cllr K Rout stated he was also concerned about the land in the local area, which is currently cropped three times a year, would be used for house building.

- b. Verbal Report from Chairman and Treasurer of Kesgrave Football Club

AFC Kesgrave & The Hollies Project – Building Foundations Together

AFC Kesgrave Football Club was formed in 2007 with a clear aim: to provide an inclusive, safe and positive football environment where young people can develop both on and off the pitch. From a single Under-10s side, the club has grown into a thriving grassroots organisation supporting hundreds of local players and families each week.

As the club has expanded, so too has the need for sustainable, long-term facilities. The Hollies project represents our vision to create a well-managed community sports space that will serve local families for many years to come.

Phase One – The Essential Starting Point

The project is currently in its fundraising phase and no development has yet begun.

The first and most critical stage is the construction of a formal car park. At present, there is no designated parking provision at The Hollies. Without this infrastructure, the site cannot safely or practically operate as a youth football venue. Quite simply, the wider project cannot move forward without it.

A properly designed car park will allow us to begin hosting youth matches in a safe, organised and responsible manner. It will provide managed access, improve traffic flow and ensure the site operates in a structured way that respects neighbouring areas.

This is Phase One of a wider long-term vision, with any future phases subject to further fundraising, consultation and careful planning.

A Volunteer-Led Community Effort

As a grassroots club run entirely by volunteers, we are raising funds through community initiatives. Recent events have included:

- A Christmas raffle
- A Race Night
- A Community Fun Run
- A Quiz Night

These events have not only generated vital funds but have also strengthened community spirit. Further fundraising activities are already planned as we work towards making Phase One a reality. Every pound raised is reinvested directly into creating opportunities for local children and families.

Working in Partnership

We are grateful for the positive backing and encouragement received from the local authority to date. As The Hollies sits within the parish area of Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm, we are now seeking the support and partnership of the Parish Council to help bring this important first phase to fruition.

Our commitment is to work collaboratively, communicate openly, and ensure that development is responsible, phased and beneficial to the wider community.

Our aims are simple:

- To create safe and managed access to the site
- To enable structured youth sport provision
- To develop facilities responsibly
- To establish a long-term community asset that local residents can be proud of

Looking Ahead

Grassroots sport plays a vital role in supporting young people's wellbeing, confidence and resilience. The Hollies project is about creating the foundations that allow this to continue and grow. We look forward to working closely with Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm Parish Council and the wider community as we move this project forward together.

The above report will be included in the next Parish Council Newsletter. **Action: Cllr E Beach**

The following comments were noted by the Parish Council.

- The pitches would be used by children and youth teams.
- The vision of the club is that the club house could be used as a community centre for the villages.
- A car park will be completed first at an estimated cost of £85,000. The work has been sent out to tender and it has been requested that tenders are submitted by the end of April 2026.
- The club is currently fund raising and so far £18,000 has been raised.
- The club is seeking grant funding for the car park. Brightwell Foxhall & Purdis Farm PC, Kesgrave Town Council and East Suffolk District Council have all been approached to support the project with CIL funds. The Lottery Fund has also been approached to provide funding for the car park.
- Initially the site will have a Portaloo (portable toilet).
- Councillors asked about the visibility splay of the entrance to the site and it was noted that this was part of the tender process and was taken into account in the planning permission.

The representatives from the KFC were given copies of the Parish Council Grant Application Policy and Grant Application Form to complete.

- c. To receive questions from members of the public

A member of the public expressed concern regarding HGV from Valley Farm using Straight Road and he felt the traffic in Straight Road is increasing. They also expressed concern about the construction of football pitches on the Hollies site and the disturbance this would cause.

The Chairman re-convened the meeting.

48.26 Planning

- a. Planning Report from Lead Councillor for Planning

One new Planning Application was considered at the meeting.

DC/26/1213/TPO – Land at Beachwood Drive, Bucklesham Road and Purdis Farm Lane

Work on various trees in communal areas to reduce their size and shape.

After a brief discussion the Parish Council decided not to object to this application and was pleased to note that it covered several trees in communal areas with no householders having ownership.

OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATIONS STILL TO BE DECIDED

DC/23/4699/OUT - Land Opposite Seven Hills Roundabout Felixstowe Road Nacton.

The Parish Council has objected to this application. Considering it to be an overdevelopment of land near an AONB which will cause traffic problems along the A14 & A1156 – Both SCC Highways and National Highways have lodged holding objections to enable them to examine and verify the information provided by the applicant. SCC Highways are concerned about non-vehicular access including pedestrian and cycle access. National Highways have asked for a decision to be delayed until at least **24th April 2026** as they would like further time to assess the impact on the Strategic Road Network. SCC Highways have asked for more information about walking and cycling access to the site and the siting of the traffic lights along the A1156.

BLOOR HOMES DEVELOPMENT AT FOXHALL ROAD

A planning application is now expected to be submitted in April 2026. An Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion was submitted last year. DC/25/4003/SCO refers.

East Suffolk Planning has now made their decision about this opinion and published their recommendations to the applicant. These include expanding the travel area to cover the roads in Foxhall which will be affected by this application.

LOCAL PLAN – CALL FOR SITES – INITIAL RESULTS PUBLISHED

East Suffolk Planning have now published the initial results of their call for sites for development. No decisions will be made for several months as to which sites will be taken forward and included in the Local Plan. Locally there are two sites for potential housing along Purdis Farm Lane. One appears to be Purdis House and surrounding area the other the area known as Backlands where permission was previously refused for the development of one dwelling. As expected, there are several sites along the Foxhall Road including the Bloor's development and the Gladman's site between Purdis Road, Straight Road, Woodhouse Lane and the A12 bisected by Bucklesham Road.

CROSS PARISH GROUP (ORWELL & VILLAGES WARD and NEIGHBOURING PARISHES)

Cllr Watts recently attended the latest meeting of this group of 11 Parish Councils which was originally set up to oppose the Innocence Lane proposal near Kirton. It has been revived by Kirton & Falkenham Parish Council because of the increasing concern about proposed development between Ipswich and Felixstowe and that villages such as Kirton and Levington will lose their identity. Its purpose is to discuss this concern and exchange ideas and good practice about how to oppose unwanted development. It also acts as a united voice and has written both to Ben Woolnough and the local MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter about the potential over development of the area stressing its rural nature. Kirton & Falkenham and Trimley St Martin Parish Councils have allocated large amounts of money in their accounts for opposing applications by employing planning consultants and barristers. When this was discussed at the meeting both Waldringfield and Levington & Stratton Hall Parish Councils said they had no such fund and would be very unlikely to create one. Councillor Watts agreed with the latter view. Further meetings of this group are expected to be held once the Bloor application is received and further details of the Local Plan become available.

b. Report re Gladman Orwell Green

Cllr Watts and the Parish Clerk recently attended a meeting with Gladman Development Ltd. Cllr Packard and representatives from Waldringfield and Martlesham Parish Council were also in attendance. Gladman have taken the opportunity of the new Local Plan and the "Call for Sites" to resubmit their "Orwell Green" site for consideration for development.

It is clear that things are at a very early stage and although none of the Gladman representatives were involved in the original scheme they are aware of the difficulties with the site particularly with access. They have already engaged a Transport consultant, and initial ideas include access from the A12 but not a roundabout and Straight Road becoming a quiet lane! This is clearly impossible due to the amount and type of traffic currently using it including many HGVs.

Unlike like last time they have not decided on a “masterplan” for the site and it may include employment opportunities. Within the overall site there is a field owned by the Foxhall Poors Land or Fuel Allotment Charity and Gladman admitted that they had yet to consider what to do about it and had not spoken to the charity.

It is good that Gladman have approached the local community and East Suffolk Planning at an early stage and are keen to understand what the community want within the project. However, access is to key issue. Unlike last time this new team appears to be more realistic about what can be achieved and the obstacles they face. A further meeting is planned before the summer break.

49.26 Clerk’s Report April 2026

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.

Ipswich Croquet Club Bucklesham Road

Request for funding received from the Ipswich Croquet Club. The Club has been requested to provide evidence of what the funding would contribute towards. To date I haven’t receive any information.

It was agreed to send the Parish Council’s Grant Policy and Application Form to Ipswich Croquet Club. **Action Clerk**

Highway Work Straight Road Foxhall

Drainage gully cleansing should have taken placed in Straight Road on Thursday, 2nd April 2026. Hopefully this will alleviate some of the flooding problems the road is having.

Freedom of Information Act

I received a Freedom of Information request from a member of the public relating to Patti’s attendance at our Parish Council Meetings. I replied to the gentleman explaining that the information he was requesting is readily available in the public domain ie our website. I wrote back to him stating where the information could be obtained. I haven’t received a reply to my email. Interestingly he had also written to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council.

50.25 Request for Grant Funding

a. Kesgrave Football Club

Councillors agreed that further discussions about the grant request will take place once the completed application forms are received. **Action: Clerk**

b. Ipswich Croquet Club

Councillors agreed that further discussions about the grant request will take place once the completed application forms are received. **Action: Clerk**

51.26 Local Council Reorganisation

Councillor Watts advised the meeting that.

The Government is working on a draft structural order which they anticipate will be shared with the councils in June 2026. The final version will be laid before the House in the Autumn.

Matters that Ministers have Decided

The new unitary councils are to be named:

- Western Suffolk,
- Eastern and Central Suffolk,
- Ipswich and Southern Suffolk.

There will be joint committees set up for each council to supervise the transition to the new unitary councils. In the case of Ipswich and Southern Suffolk this will consist of two councillors from Ipswich, one each from East Suffolk, Babergh, and Central Suffolk plus five councillors from the county council.

Elections

The Order will replace any scheduled local elections in May 2027 with all out elections to the new councils. Councillors will be elected for a first term of five years with the subsequent election in 2032, after which the standard four-year term will apply. New councillors will be serving most of their first year on the 'shadow' council.

Parish Council elections will follow the same pattern as the unitary elections.

Warding Arrangements

The Secretary of State has decided to implement the proposal as submitted, including proposed councillor numbers of 60 for each of Western Suffolk, Eastern and Central Suffolk, and Ipswich and Southern Suffolk.

Suggested interim warding arrangements for each of the new councils should be submitted by 29th May 2026 for inclusion in the Order. These **can** be based on existing wards, divisions, and parish boundaries. Ideally, the proposed warding would be collectively agreed by the councils in the area of each new council. The final decision remains for Ministers on what is included in the Order.

Written Ministerial Statement – 25th March – Quote

In Ipswich, for example, the boundaries have remained largely unchanged since the middle of the 19th century, even as population has grown. These outdated and misaligned structures slow down decisions, stifle housing growth. and fragment public service delivery.

Therefore, councillors should be aware that there is growing pressure to include Purdis Farm within the boundary of the new Ipswich Town Council. The Group Parish Council should strongly object to any such decision.

52.26 Preparation for the Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting would take place on Wednesday, 13th May 2026. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the councillors

representing each of parishes asking them to present a report on the previous year's activities. The Annual Parish Meeting will start at 7.00 pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm.

7.00 pm Brightwell (Cllr Brenda Newell)

7.10 pm Foxhall (Cllr Kevin Rout and Liz Beach)

7.20 pm Purdis Farm (Cllr Liz Warham)

Action: Clerk / Cllrs B Newell, K Rout, E Beach, Liz Warham

53.26 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

Clerk's Salary and Expenses March 2026 (including 16.5 hours holiday pay)	£639.13
HMRC – NI/Tax	£377.83

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

Bank Account Balances

Current Account on 28 th February 2026	£63,453.59
Deposit Account on 28 th February 2026	£8,623.18

The Clerk reported that she had successfully managed to transfer £40,000 from the Current to the Deposit account and this change should be displayed on the March 2026 statement.

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 28th February 2026 for both the Current Account and the Deposit Account.

Audit 2025/2026

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit is progressing well, and it was likely that the Parish Council would be required to have a full audit by the External Auditors as the income is likely to be over £25,000. Audit documentation has now been received from the External Auditors PKLittlejohn and their fee for 2025/2026 is likely to be in the region of £400. **Action: Clerk**

54.26 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk

Reported under Minute 48.26 Planning. **Noted**

55.26 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr B Newell reported that she had completed the Biodiversity Policy. The Clerk agreed to format the document and distribute to councillors for approval at the May meeting. The Green Forum is preparing a leaflet to distribute to residents. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15th April 2026. **Action: Cllr B Newell / Clerk**

- b. Cllr G Watts stated that the community garden in Foxglove Crescent needs tidying. **Action: Cllr E Lawrence**

- c. Cllr K Rout expressed concern about the ivy growing on the Oak trees in Straight Road. The Clerk agreed to discuss with East Suffolk Council. **Action: Clerk**

56.26 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 13th May 2026 at Trinity Park – Annual Parish Council Meeting / Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.21 pm.

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

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