

# **BRIGHTWELL FOXHALL & PURDIS FARM GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Trinity Park

Present

Cllr E Lawrence - Chair

Cllr G Watts

Cllr E Beach

Cllr K Rout

Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

### **15.26 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Newell (illness), Cllr E Warham (illness) and Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council.

### **16.26 To receive Members' Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **17.26 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were approved as being a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

### **18.26 Matters arising from the Minutes**

13.26 b. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting she had contacted ESC and confirmed that the Parish Council are requesting the waste bin to be located adjacent to the bus stop in Murrils Road and not as previously stated.

13.26 c. The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Suffolk County Council Highways who have stated they will remove the VAS from the existing post and let the Parish Council know when a new VAS can be installed.

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

- a. Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council – no report
- b. Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council – verbal report

Cllr Mark Packard stated that he was pleased to see Cllr G Watts and the Clerk at the recent Town and Parish Forum held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 as there are lots of new planning regulations to consider which will have an impact on Parish Councils. Cllr Mark Packard discussed with the Parish Council the need for additional housing stocks in the East Suffolk Council area. It appears that the outline planning application for the 1300 Bloor Houses will be received by ESC Planning shortly. Cllr G Watts stated that the results of the 'Call for Sites' are still awaited. Cllr Mark Packard reported that the leaves which a resident had complained about on

the footpath which leads from Bucklesham Road to the Murrills Road playground will be collected by ESC in the near future. Cllr Packard confirmed that the graffiti on the property wall which backs on to the same footpath is the wall owner's responsibility to remove. Cllr Watts asked that ESC take steps to ensure that the wall owner is aware of their responsibility and that they take the appropriate action to remove the graffiti. Parish Councillors discussed with Cllr Packard the ownership of Felixstowe Docks. Cllr Mark Packard reported that new refuse bins for residents will be delivered between now and July.

c. To receive questions from members of the public

No members of the public were present.

**The Chairman re-convened the meeting.**

## **20.26 Planning**

The following are updates to the planning schedule and highlights any applications for discussion at the February Parish Council 2026 meeting of the Group Parish Council.

### **UPDATE TO AN ONGOING APPLICATION – AWAITING A DECISION**

#### **DC/25/4755/FUL - 124 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm Ipswich Suffolk IP3 8TY**

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of 8m rear extension and conservatory.

The owners of 126A objected to this application because of the effect on their personal amenity. The Group Parish Council voted narrowly at the January meeting to object to the application on the same grounds. The original plans were changed so the conservatory / play room now has a wall rather than glass on the side facing the neighbours. This change was considered insufficient to change the Parish Council decision to object.

### **NO OBJECTION COMMENTS WERE MADE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS**

**DC/26/0272/TPO – Blackthorn House 5 Beechwood Drive Purdis Farm Ipswich IP3 8UW** 1no. Lime and 1no. Horse Chestnut. Overall crown reduction by up to 2.5 metres and crown thin by up to 15%.

#### **DC/25/4939/FUL – 67 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm Ipswich Suffolk IP3 8TW**

Single storey rear extension, first floor side extension, loft conversion, garage alterations.

These are minor changes to DC/25/2822/FUL which the Parish Council did not object to last year.

### **SUPPORT GIVEN TO A NEW PLANNING APPLICATION**

#### **DC/25/4888/FUL - Land South Of Former Village Hall Brightwell Road Brightwell IP10 0BB**

Retrospective Change of use of land to storage and work report centre to include 3no. containers with canopy.

This is a resubmission of DC/25/2145/FUL which was surprisingly refused because Brightwell is deemed in the countryside for planning purposes and no evidence was provided to prove that other sites, not in the countryside, were unsuitable for this business. This information has now been provided.

The Parish Council did not object to the original application (nor did anybody else). Therefore, the following comment has been submitted to East Suffolk Planning.

“The Parish Council supports this application which will allow a small, locally based business, providing an extensive range of tree services to domestic and commercial clients in Suffolk Norfolk and north Essex to continue to operate.”

There were two new Planning Applications considered at the meeting.

**DC/25/4769/FUL - Heather Lea Elmham Drive Foxhall Ipswich Suffolk IP10 0DG**

Erection of detached building in front garden, to provide garaging and annexe. Associated parking and landscaping also proposed.

This is similar to a number of large garages / annexes which have been approved and built in the area. Elmham Drive is a Private Road so there is less concern about design and location.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to this application.

**DC/26/0481/TPO 145 Bucklesham Road Purdis Farm Ipswich Suffolk IP3 8UB** 1no. Tree of Heaven - Fell Proposed replacement planting of 1no. standard Acacia

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to this application.

**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 March 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.

Cllr Watts advised that the Group Parish Council had been invited to a meeting of ESCEP (East Suffolk Town and Parish Councils Energy Projects) on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6.30pm at Yoxford Village Hall. Cllr Watts was unable to attend. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to send apologies but to ask ESCEP to keep the Group Parish Council on their mailing list. **Action: Clerk**

**21.26 To discuss the ASB issues identified in Purdis Farm and to consider the comments made by the residents, ESC and Police**

Please refer to Minute 24.26 Clerk's Report February 2026.

### **22.26 To discuss and agree the publication of the newsletter and Parish Council computer equipment to enable production of the newsletter**

The Clerk reported that Cllr E Beach had highlighted problems when using the Parish Council laptop to produce the newsletter. Previously Cllr Beach had used her personal I-pad to produce the newsletter however her personal I-pad is no longer fit for purpose. Councillors expressed their thanks to Cllr Beach for the excellent standard of the parish magazine. The Clerk stated that she does not have a dedicated computer to use for Parish Council work and that data is stored on an external device only used for the Parish Council storage. Assertion 10 refers to the use of personal computer equipment. The Clerk stated that it seems an opportune time to address the Parish Council's computer requirements.

Following discussion, Cllr G Watts proposed that Cllr E Beach be authorised to purchase an I-pad up to the value of £500 on behalf of the Parish Council and that the Parish Council laptop be passed to the Clerk for use, seconded Cllr K Rout – all in favour. **Action: Cllr E Beach / Clerk**

### **23.26 To discuss the East Suffolk Council Community Partnerships**

Cllr G Watts stated that he attends the Community Partnership meetings on behalf of the Parish Council. Applications for funding are received from a variety of different organisations. He said that Patricia Ferreira-Whittaker Communities Officer for Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley has now gone on maternity leave and Sam Kenwood has been appointed in the interim period until the new temporary Communities Officer Jessica Solway takes up her post. There are a number of voluntary organisations who take part in the Community Partnerships. The next meeting is on the 17<sup>th</sup> March in the afternoon at Finn Valley Golf Club. Cllr Watts said he would be unable to attend and Cllr E Lawrence volunteered to attend to represent the Parish Council. Cllr Watts said the Community Partnership had been waiting for over a year to be provided with a strategy for recruiting volunteers. Cllr Watts stated that there is a national shortage of volunteers. **Action: Cllr E Lawrence**

### **24.26 Clerk's Report February 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.

#### ASB Purdis Farm

Mark Packard (forwarded to the PC) received an email from a resident concerning a pile of leaves on the footpath and graffiti on a wall on the path which leads from Bucklesham Road to the Murrills Road playground. The resident who reported the issues has no evidence to confirm who was responsible.

Graeme Watts researched whose responsibility it is to deal with the issues.

#### **Leaves**

In the UK, the responsibility for clearing fallen leaves depends entirely on where they have landed. Generally, it is the responsibility of the landowner to clear leaves from their own property, while local councils are responsible for removing leaves from public highways, roads, and pavements, particularly when they present a safety hazard.

Local councils have a duty to keep public highways, roads, and pavements clear of leaf litter to prevent hazards like slipping or drain blockages.

You should report issues to your local council if:

- Leaves are blocking public drains and causing flooding.
- A thick layer of wet leaves on a pavement is creating a severe slip hazard.
- A public tree is creating an imminent danger, such as broken branches falling.

Source Google: but I have no reason to doubt this information.

In this case it is clear that the majority if not all the leaves have fallen from bushes and trees adjacent to the footpath. Their origin is not particularly relevant. Somebody possibly East Suffolk Council have swept the leaves up into a pile. This has prevented the wet leaves forming a severe slip hazard as is the case on other parts of Warren Heath. However, the amount of leaves is unsightly and does block part of the path. It is East Suffolk Council's responsibility to clear them if they consider them hazardous.

### **Graffiti**

As already discussed, it is the wall owner's responsibility to remove graffiti. However, under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and subsequent legislation East Suffolk Council can demand that the wall owner takes action to remove the graffiti, issue notices, and ultimately fixed penalty notices. Should the council consider the graffiti offensive (unlikely in this case) they can take action to remove it themselves.

In both cases I recommend that the Parish Council formally reports both the leaves and the graffiti to the East Suffolk Council Customer Services Department and ask them to take the appropriate action to remove the leaves and graffiti. Progress should be checked every 14 or 21 days. They may not wish to take action but at least the matter is being progressed.

The Parish Council have not received any further complaints regarding either Murrills Park or B&M. A continued police presence is in place.

## **25.26 Finance**

### **Income**

None

### **Expenditure**

Clerk's Salary and Expenses January 2026	£452.20
ICO – Data Protection Fee	£52.00
Flyer Press – Newsletter Printing and Distribution	£659.00

Cllr G Watts proposed that the above expenditure be approved, seconded Cllr K Rout – all in favour.

**Action: Clerk**

### **Bank Account Balances**

Current Account on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	£64,713.92
Deposit Account on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	£8,600.80

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 for both the Community Account and the Premium Account.

The Clerk reported that Barclays Bank had once again blocked the transfer of money between the Community Account and the Premium Account but she had spoken at great length to Barclays and she was hopeful that the next time a cheque is presented the transfer of funds would go ahead.

**Action: Clerk**

**26.26 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk**

- a. Cllr G Watts said that he had been asked to attend a meeting of the ESCEPs energy projects on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February at Yoxford Village Hall which he had declined. These meetings are held to discuss energy projects. Unfortunately no other councillors were free to attend.

**27.26 Members questions to the Chairman**

- a. Straight Road. Cllr K Rout said he was concerned about the speed of traffic and in particular lorries which are causing the banks to be eroded and washing away the verges due to the flooding. Although the Clerk has reported the issues with Straight Road to Suffolk County Council Highways but no action has been taken. The litter in Straight Road is also a problem with discarded cans and takeaway litter in particular McDonalds wrappers. Cllr Rout also highlighted the flooding at the Bucklesham Road end of Straight Road in close proximity to the houses. **Action: Clerk**

**28.26 Date of next meeting**

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Trinity Park**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.10 pm.**

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

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