

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, 8th July 2026 at Trinity Park

Present

Cllr G Watts - Chair

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr B Newell

Cllr K Rout

Cllr E Beach

Cllr Alistair Jeffreys Suffolk County Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

90.26 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council and Cllr Liz Warham.

91.26 To receive Members' Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

92.26 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the Wednesday, 10th June 2026 were approved as being a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

93.26 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

94.26 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions.

- a. Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council – no report.
- b. Cllr Alistair Jeffreys Suffolk County Council – written report

Introduction

This month I have continued with my training while beginning my roles of the scrutiny committees. I have been progressing several highways issues and projects and been conferring with residents on casework.

I am pleased with what the county council has announced on challenging the current process of LGR, securing the future of our county farms and increasing the availability of SEND places.

Training

Over the last month I have continued with my training but to a lesser extent to last month.

I received the following training:

- Scrutiny in Practice – 11th June
- Development and Regulation Committee – Rights of Ways, TRO's & Village Greens – 12th June
- Councillor Locality Budgets – 12th June
- Working with Constituents – 29th June

I still have the following training to come:

- Public Speaking – 13th July
- Strategic Questioning and Listening Skills – 13th July
- Chairing Committee Meetings – 22nd July
- Health and Safety for Councillors – 22nd July
- Working with the Media in Suffolk – 22nd July
- Corporate Parenting – 27th July
- Highways Reporting, Engagements and Local Highways Budgets – 29th July
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – 29th July
- Data and Information – 2nd September
- Safeguarding for Councillors – 2nd September
- External Funding – 18th September
- Artificial Intelligence and Suffolk County Council – 18th September

Committees

We've had our first meeting of the scrutiny committee in which we had all of the cabinet members and senior executives for the county council departments speak to use about their responsibilities and we asked questions to help us develop our forward working plan of what we wish to scrutinise this year. We will be having a further closed meeting on the 30th.

Similarly in Health Scrutiny we were briefed on our scrutiny responsibility and then had similar discovery sessions with the Public Health department of the council and the Integrated Care Board for Norfolk and Suffolk, who deliver NHS services in our two counties.

Highways

Foxhall Road Crossing

I met with my highways officer at the site of a potential new crossing. It is now in the stage of evidence gathering for this and I will be working with Rushmere St Andrew parish council on how we can gather a sample of footfall data.

Path South of Sainsbury's Garage

The Suffolk County Council assets team has not objected to the plan. Therefore, my highways officer is happy to provide a preliminary design for comment from me and the parish council. We can then go on to a formal quote from the design department. We need to determine now what the source of funding will be, bearing in mind that the approximate amount was estimated to be between £40K and £50k.

Woodbridge Road Cycling Improvements

There is a proposal for a widening of the southern footpath on Woodbridge Road in order to make it multi-use for walkers and cyclists. This will require the road to be narrowed to accommodate this change. I have been asked to support it. I have some clarifications I require on it before I can make a decision, and I would like to hear views from others about it.

Potholes

Some of the potholes I reported in Kesgrave, Falmouth Close and Cedar Avenue, have been picked up for repairing. I am happy to do more sessions of reporting so we can improve the quality of our roads.

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/en-gb>

Locality Budget

I have now formally submitted my application for funding for the play equipment at Tower Hall to be transferred to Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council. There are other requests for locality funding that I am still considering.

If there is anything you would like me to use my locality budget for in Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm please do contact me.

Local Government Reorganisation

Suffolk County Council have developed the Future Suffolk website to share updates on LGR. Please do sign up for notifications on there: <https://www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk/>

However, we are challenging the LGR process and have now had a response from the government. Suffolk County Council held an extraordinary Cabinet meeting on the 29th of June.

The meeting documents contain the letters sent to and from the government. We believe that the Secretary of State may have rejected civil service advice and potentially overstepped his powers.

We can reveal that the Government's letter states:

"We consider the 1 unitary to be the strongest proposal for Suffolk against the criteria. The single unitary proposal meets all the criteria and does so more strongly than the 3 unitary proposal in relation to its geography, financial resilience, and service delivery. The 3 unitary proposal meets the criteria though it is complicated by a significant boundary change request modification."

This raises questions about the process of LGR.

[Council to weigh up reorganisation legal challenge as letter reveals minister ignored professional advice - Suffolk County Council](#)

[Meeting Documents - Committee Minutes](#)

East Suffolk Plan

Everyone is invited to complete the scoping consultation from East Suffolk on their new plan. I encourage as many people as possible to complete it. I have completed it now as both a resident

and a councillor: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-local-plans/new-local-plan>

Select County Council Updates

Protecting Our Farms

I am very pleased to say that we will have committed to secure the future of our county farms and will not be selling them off for housing development as has happened in the past. Most of our farms are on good agricultural land and preserving them in council hands gives a unique opportunity for tenant farmers and protects our food production capability. This was a matter I spoke to the council member directly about last month and I'm very pleased that my suggestion was taken up.

Please see the full press release here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/council-commits-to-securing-the-future-of-suffolk-county-farms>

Expansion of SEND Support

The county council has secured vital funding to improve the SEND provision in Suffolk which will enable us to provide 168 new specialist places in secondary schools and 80 additional places in existing specialist schools. SEND is an area that has seen a rapid increase in demand for places over the last few years, and we are determined to improve provision so children can get the support they need. I am intending to arrange a meeting with the cabinet members responsible for this to learn more about our improvement plan as it is an issue I have often heard from residents about.

Please see the full press release here:

[Suffolk County Council plans £18.9 million investment to expand SEND support across the county - Suffolk County Council](#)

Meetings

Since the last time we met I have been at:

Suffolk County Council Cabinet Meeting -16th June
Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council Meeting – 18th June
Meeting with my highways officer in Rushmere St Andrew – 22nd June
Suffolk County Council Extraordinary Cabinet Meeting – 29th June
Kesgrave Town Council Meeting – 29th June
Suffolk County Council Scrutiny Committee – 30th June
Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – 1st July
Rushmere Commoners AGM – 2nd July

My upcoming meetings are:

Foxhall, Brightwell and Purdis Farm Parish Council Meeting – 8th July
Suffolk County Council Cabinet Meeting – 14th July
Suffolk County Council Full Council Meeting – 16th July
Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council Meeting - 16th July
Suffolk County Council Development and Regulation Committee – 21st July
Kesgrave Town Council Meeting – 27th July
Suffolk County Council Scrutiny Committee – 30th July

Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council Planning and Transport Committee – 30th July
Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council Meeting – 20th August
Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council Meeting – 3rd September

It is proposed to install a cycle path on Woodbridge Road adjacent to Rushmere Heath. Kesgrave Town Council is supportive of the Kesgrave FCA pitches in Foxhall Road although they have not offered any funding.

The Chairman re-convened the meeting.

95.26 Local Government Reorganisation Update

Suffolk County Council has put forward a claim for a judicial review stating that the Local Government Review decision which was taken by the Secretary of State is unlawful and should be withdrawn. Suffolk County Council believes that the Secretary of State may have rejected civil service advice and potentially overstepped his powers. Suffolk County Council has asked the Secretary of State to explain how the decision was reached, including the analysis behind it and to withdraw the proposal. The decision to launch a judicial review was confirmed at a cabinet meeting where the leader of the council also confirmed that the administration would continue to prepare for the transition to three unitary councils despite launching a judicial review.

96.26 To discuss and agree the application from a Purdis Farm resident to become a Parish Councillor

The Clerk reported that she had received two applications from residents who are applying to become councillors: 1 Foxhall and 1 Purdis Farm.

The Purdis Farm resident had shown her interest by attending the last council meeting and a recent footpath meeting and had made positive contributions. The resident has considerable experience of working at District and County level. It was agreed that the resident should be elected at the September Parish Council meeting. **Action: Clerk**

The Foxhall resident had previously been a Parish Councillor. It was agreed that the resident should be asked to attend the September Parish Council meeting so their election can be discussed. **Action: Clerk**

97.26 Planning

Councillor G Watts presented the Planning Application Summary document.

There were two new Planning Applications to be considered at the meeting.

DC/26/2055/FUL - Brightwell Road Bucklesham Suffolk

Engineering operations including the laying of underground electricity cables and associated infrastructure within the highway of Brightwell Road to connect the consented solar farm at Land East of Bucklesham Village and the A1093 (permission: DC/22/4401/FUL East Suffolk Council) to the point of connection.

Recommendation: The Parish Council does not object to this application. It should be noted that these cables will be placed underground within the footprint of the road and leave no visible trace.
AGREED.

DC/26/2310/TPO - The Herons Purdis Farm Lane Purdis Farm Ipswich Suffolk IP3 8UF

1no. Oak (T1 on plan) - Reduce in height by up to 2.5 metres, bringing the height from 15 metres - 12.5 metres. Reduce lateral spread by up to 2 metres, bringing the crown spread from 18 metres to 14 metres. Crown raise up to 3.5 metres over the drive and 5.2 metres over the road 1no. Oak (T2 on plan) - Crown raise by up to 4 metres.

Recommendation: The Parish Council does not object to this application. **AGREED.**

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 25th September 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

An Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion was submitted last year. DC/25/4003/SCO refers.

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

A planning application is expected to be submitted imminently having been delayed by the complexity of this scheme and how it relates to other developments in the area such as Brightwell Lakes.

PROPOSED GLADMAN DEVELOPMENT MEETING

The meeting due to take place on 2nd July 2026 has been cancelled and as yet not rearranged. The Clerk reported that in her capacity as Clerk to Foxhall Pools Land or Fuel Allotment Charity Gladmans had approached her to arrange a meeting regarding the possibility of purchasing the Charity's land on Bucklesham Road. **Action: Clerk**

98.26 Update regarding new footpath and VAS post in Murrills Road

Footway Between the Lay-by and Crossing near JS Garage

An email has been received from Suffolk County Council Highways stating that their Asset team had approved the footway. SCC Highways are estimating the cost of the project to be between £40,000 and £50,000. Following discussion Cllr G Watts proposed that the Clerk replies stating the Parish Council have agreed to fund the project up to £50,000, seconded Cllr E Beach – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

VAS Post in Murrills Road

The Clerk had contacted the Safety and Speed Management Team at Suffolk County Council concerning the erection of a new post on which to mount a VAS sign however to date no reply has been received. Clerk to follow up again. **Action: Clerk**

99.26 ESC Pathway Clearance Scheme

As reported at the June Parish Council meeting Cllr G Watts, Cllr E Lawrence and the Clerk attended a meeting with Aimee McLachlan Sustainable Travel Officer to discuss options for the ESC Pathway Clearance Scheme for various areas in Purdis Farm where steps could be taken to tidy up growth, edging of paths which had become overgrown and those responsibility it is. Cllr G Watts stated that although he had not inspected the area Aimee has had positive conversations with Trinity Park to cut back the vegetation adjacent to the back gates of Trinity Park opposite Purdis Avenue. The alleyway between Bucklesham Road and the Murrills Road Recreation Ground due to its location is a suitable location for the Community Pay Back Scheme. The Community Pay Back Scheme would work on overgrown hedges and weeds and in addition deal with graffiti in that area. The Parish Council will complete an application form. The footpath on the Felixstowe Road adjacent to Straight Road on the opposite side of the road to the layby is another area in need to cutting back. Cllr E Beach agreed to let the Clerk have photographs of the area to submit to Community Pay Back Scheme.

Action: Cllr E Beach / Cllr G Watts / Clerk

100.26 To discuss the request from Kesgrave AFC for a grant.

Kesgrave AFC has applied for District CIL funding. Although the CIL Committee has recommended approval of the funding request of £370,000 the funding still has to be formally agreed by Cabinet which meets on the 1st September 2026. Following discussions, Cllr E Lawrence proposed that the Parish Council does not approve the application as the GPC strongly opposed the project when it was first proposed and they continue to believe that any benefits to the Parishes will be greatly outweighed by the disturbance to local residents and the dangers caused by the vastly increased use of Straight Road to access the site, seconded Cllr E Beach – 4 in favour, 1 abstained. The request for funding was therefore rejected. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify Kesgrave AFC of the Parish Council's decision. **Action: Clerk**

101.26 To discuss the Local Plan and Questionnaire Submission / Deadline

It was agreed that the Chairman would complete the East Suffolk Local Plan Scoping Consultation Questionnaire on behalf of the Group Parish Council based on the following principles and priorities.

1. The environment and landscape character of East Suffolk should be preserved.
2. Quality and diversity are very important for the health and wellbeing of residents and the on-going success of tourism.
3. We should focus on improving geographical diversity of employment and types of employment, to enhance prospects locally.
4. The resilience of employment opportunities in a changing technical and competitive environment should be secured.
5. Infrastructure should be completed swiftly in line with housing developments including schools and healthcare provision.
6. Redundant commercial buildings should be converted into housing including above shops.
7. Priority should be given to preserving and enhancing farmland including for organic crops.
8. Solar panels should be compulsory on commercial buildings and new homes.
9. Encourage responsible use of the countryside for well-being.

Action: Cllr G Watts

102.26 Clerk's Report July 2026

Bulbs for Autumn Planting

The Clerk has applied to East Suffolk Council's **East Suffolk Blooms** campaign which provides free pollinator-friendly bulbs to town councils, parish councils, and community groups to plant in public spaces.

Applications for the annual giveaway are accepted online until **31st August**, with successful applicants notified by September and bulb collection taking place at designated district locations in October. **Action: Clerk**

102.26 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

Clerk's Salary and Expenses June 2026	£436.20
Trevor Brown Audit Fee	£300.00
HMRC Tax / NI	£318.83
Kevin Rout Reimbursement for Purchase of Plants	£78.88

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

Bank Account Balances

Current Account on 30 th June 2026	£37,312.45
Deposit Account on 30 th June 2026	£48,743.64

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 30th June 2026 for both the Current Account and the Deposit Account.

Audit Report 2025/2026

1. To discuss and accept the contents of the Internal Audit Report

The Internal Audit Report 2025/2026 had previously been circulated to all councillors. The Internal Auditor had made two recommendations.

Recommendation 1: In terms of compliance with the new Assertion 10 in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2025/26, the Council is advised to test the Council's Website in detail to determine how far the website is compliant with the latest accessibility standard WCAG 2.2 AA. Following the review, action can be taken to address any areas not in compliance with the latest standards, if it is practicable to do so.

Recommendation 2: Cheque 100949 dated 9 October 2024 is now out-of-date and should be written back into the Accounts as a deduction from Payments. The Clerk/RFO has agreed to complete this action during the year 2026/27.

Councillors noted the two recommendations highlighted which will be dealt with by the Clerk.

Cllr G Watts proposed that the Parish Council accept the Internal Auditor's report, seconded Cllr E Beach – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

2. Confirmation that documents have now been submitted to the External Auditor

The Clerk confirmed that the Audit Documents 2025/2026 had been sent to the External Auditor for approval. **Action: Clerk**

To note the increase in mileage rates

The Parish Council noted the increase in mileage rate from the 1st April 2026 from .45p per mile to .55p per mile which is line with NALC / NJC guidelines. **Action: Clerk**

Moving the Parish Council's bank accounts to Unity Trust Bank

The Clerk reported that she had attended an on line presentation by Unity Trust Bank. Unity Trust Bank is completely electronic. In line with their recommendations and ease of transfer, initially it is recommended that only the signatories on the existing bank accounts should be logged on the new accounts. Once all the existing bank transfers have been successful the remaining Parish Councillors will be logged as signatories. **Action: Clerk**

103.26 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk.

- a. Cllr G Watts attended the latest meeting of the Orwell and Villages Ward Cross-Parish Group held at the Recreation Ground Pavillion in Kirton. This group discusses new and potential developments along the Felixstowe Peninsular. Potential developments such as the Bloor Homes and Gladman Orwell Green sites were discussed as well as the potential expansion of Felixstowe Dock to Innocence Farm Kirton. It was agreed that at present there was a lack of business investment and progress was slow on housing developments such as Brightwell Lakes which could cause problems with the provision of much needed infrastructure and facilities. No date has been set for the next meeting as we are waiting for actual applications from Bloor Homes and potentially Gladman's.

104.26 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr B Newell expressed concern about the breakdown in the new waste collection and disposal. The Clerk agreed to send a report on the waste collection which explains the short comings to all councillors and Cllr Alistair Jeffreys. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Cllr K Rout asked about the ownership of the Oak Trees in Straight Road. The Clerk reported that both ESC and SCC Highway do not own the trees but are the property of Trinity Park. Clerk to confirm this is correct. **Action: Clerk**

105.26 Date of next meeting

The Chairman reminded councillors that there was not a Parish Council meeting in August. The next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday, 9th September 2026 at Trinity Park

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.21 pm.

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

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