

# **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> March 2026 at Trinity Park

Present

Cllr E Warham - Chair

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr B Newell

Cllr G Watts

Cllr E Beach

Cllr K Rout

Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council

Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk Council

Pc Arlene Ell

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

### **29.26 Apologies for absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

### **31.26 Minutes**

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

### **32.26 Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **33.26 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions.**

- a. Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council – verbal report

Suffolk County Council elections will take place on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Elected councillors will serve a 4 year term. In 2020/2021 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) conducted an electoral review. These boundary changes will be implemented in May 2026. The Martlesham Ward will now include Martlesham, Levington and Stratton Hall, Bucklesham, Nacton, Kirton, Falkenham, Newbourne, Waldringfield and Hemley. Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm will join with Rushmere St Andrew to form a separate Ward and Kesgrave will be a standalone Ward. Cllr Patti Mulcahy stated that she would be standing for election for the Martlesham Ward for the Reform Party in May. The District Council elections are due to take place in May 2027. The Mayoral Elections have been postponed. Cllr Patti Mulcahy stated that she had used some of her Highways Locality Budget to paint white lines in Holly Close. The work has now been completed, and they appear to be having the desired effect on parking. Concerns were expressed by councillors regarding the kerb stones and flooding in

Straight Road Foxhall. Cllr Patti Mulcahy stated there appeared to be two issues (1) the drains and (2) cleaning of the roads which is split between Suffolk County Council Highways (1) and East Suffolk Council Suffolk County Council Highways website. Cllr Patti Mulcahy asked whether the flooding at the Anchorage has been resolved. She said she would follow this up with SCC Highways. **Action: Cllr Patti Mulcahy / Clerk**

b. Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council – verbal report

The District Council elections should take place in May 2027, but this could all change. Cllr Packard said he expects the term of the District Council to be extended until May 2028. The Local Plan is due to be updated and information regarding the 'Call for Sites' should be available at the end of March 2026. Cllr Mark Packard said there will be radical changes taking place regarding the Planning Committee North and South as a result of new instructions from the Government.

c. Pc Arlene Ell

Arlene Ell introduced herself to the meeting. Following reports of ASB in Purdis Farm patrols were stepped up in the area of B&M parking area and the Murrills Road Park. An email had been sent to her colleagues asking them to increase foot patrols in the area. I visited the properties which back on to the play areas to see if there were any problems. Residents reported that they did not have any concerns. I am holding a Police Surgery between 11 am and 2 pm on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The Police Surgery will be held on the grass area adjacent to the Parish Council Noticeboard on Murrills Road. Cllr Liz Beach agreed to advertise the event in the next copy of the Parish Magazine and notices would be placed on all Parish Council Noticeboards. Arlene was asked to provide editorial by the beginning of April. Arlene said that she would also be available at the Suffolk Show Trinity Park on the Police stand. Cllr K Rout reported that he was concerned about the bright lights from the Enterprise site on Felixstowe Road which were dazzling drivers. Arlene said she would investigate the issue. The Parish Council thanks Arlene for all her support with the ASB problem. **Action: Clerk / Pc Arlene Ell / Cllr E Beach.**

d. To receive questions from members of the public

No members of the public were present.

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

### **34.26 Planning**

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

There were two new Planning Applications considered at this meeting.

**DC/25/4991/FUL The Bungalow Foxhall Garage South Felixstowe Road Foxhall IP10 ODE.**

Demolition of existing bungalow and replacement of new dwelling (Self-Build)

**Recommendation:** No Objection. - **AGREED**

**DC/25/4928/FUL Foxhall Barns Hall Road Foxhall Ipswich Suffolk IP10 OAP**

Change of use of a redundant agricultural building to provide for a mixed uses falling within Class E (e) and e(c) iii.

**Recommendation:** No Objection. However, we should continue to comment about our concerns over highway safety along Hall Road including the standard of driving. This appears to be a small additional development similar to those already operating at the site. As acknowledged in the application the Bloor Development will have a much greater effect. - **AGREED** comments should be made about the traffic along Hall Road and a suggestion made that a Stop sign should be placed at the exit of the drive to remind drivers that they are entering the highway.

#### **OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATION 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.

##### **CARE HOME – FELIXSTOWE ROAD**

There is no further news about when construction on this building will start.

##### **50 WOODRUSH ROAD - Conversion of garage to Beauty Salon, infill of garage door and addition of side door**

Councillors will be aware that this application has been approved. The Parish Council asked for specific planning conditions to be added to the approval as in another similar case. However, this was rejected by the Planning Officer who stated in their report.

*“The Parish Council has requested the imposition of restrictive operational controls, including limitations on opening hours and client numbers, by reference to a previous permission at DC/21/0587/FUL. However, as this application does not seek planning permission for a change of use and the planning unit would remain in residential use, it would not be reasonable or proportionate to impose conditions as if it were a change of use. Such controls would not meet the relevant tests for planning conditions, particularly in respect of necessity and relevance”.*

##### **LORRY PARK AT STRATTON HALL – REFUSED AT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

This is an interesting case which was recently heard at the Planning Area South Meeting. Officers recommended approval but councillors voted 7-2 to refuse the application. The key points were that the proposed site was in the countryside and therefore went against the local plan which meant that

the applicant had to convince councillors that the benefit of the proposal had to outweigh the harm it would cause to the environment, including the extra traffic along the old A45 a national cycle way.

They were unable to do this. Although it was agreed that there was a need for facilities for truck drivers this did not meet the need and appeared to be more of a lorry park than a truck stop. Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council spoke against the proposal and clearly pointed out their concerns about such a development. The Planning Officer concluded.

*“the proposed development is contrary to the Development Plan. Whilst the need for such Lorry Parking facilities is noted, this site is the incorrect location to meet this need due to the harms identified and the resultant conflict with East Suffolk (Suffolk Coastal) Local Plan policies SCLP10.1 (Biodiversity & Geodiversity), SCLP10.3 (Environmental Quality), SCLP10.4 (Landscape Character) and SCLP10.5 (Settlement Coalescence). Benefits accruing from the development are noted but not collectively of sufficient weight to overcome the conflict with the Development Plan”.*

Policy SCLP10.5 (Settlement Coalescence) is particularly important as there is growing concerns that development will eventually stretch all the way from Felixstowe to Ipswich.

The case is likely to go to appeal.

### **35.26 Clerk’s Report March 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.

#### AFC Kesgrave

I have received an email from AFC Kesgrave requesting that the Committee meets with the Parish Council to discuss the concerns expressed by the Parish Council when they objected to Planning Application DC/22/2999/FUL - The Hollies Straight Road Foxhall IP10 0FN - 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. The AFC Kesgrave are asking for the opportunity to alleviate any concerns and discuss how BFPF Group Parish Council can work together them in the future. During a conversation with one of the committee members, it transpires that they are seeking funding to support the football club. In particular they are asking how they apply for a donation from our CIL funding.

I have replied to the email which I received, suggesting that they attend our Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to discuss.

The Clerk reported that she had asked the AFC Kesgrave Committee to write an article about the football club to appear in the next edition of Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council Parish Magazine. **Action: Clerk / Cllr E Beach**

### **36.26 Adoption of Policies and Procedures 2025/2026**

- a. Risk Assessment
- b. Code of Conduct
- c. Data Protection and Information Management Policy
- d. Freedom of Information Policy
- e. Asset Register
- f. IT Policy

Cllr E Warham proposed that the Policies and Procedures 2025/2026 a. to f. above, which had previously been circulated to councillors, should be approved with the following amendment to the Risk Assessment (Business Continuity delete ... " which are kept by the Parish Council Chairman and Meeting Location..." Delete "The Chairman and Vice Chairman have keys to the VH"), seconded Cllr K Rout – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

### **37.26 To discuss latest developments Devolution.**

The decision about how many unitary councils Suffolk will have is expected to be announced by the Government on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### **38.26 To discuss the SCC Boundary Changes**

Cllr G Watts reported that in 2020/2021 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) conducted an electoral review of Suffolk County Council Ward Boundaries and information is available on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) website. The initial proposal was to split off Purdis Farm from Brightwell and Foxhall, however this received objections and it was believed that the group parishes should be kept together. Please refer to Cllr Patti Mulcahys report in 33.26 a.

### **39.26 Finance**

#### **Income**

Fee from Barclays Bank for apology	£50.00
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#### **Expenditure**

Clerk's Salary and Expenses February 2026	£425.50
ESC SCC Highways Street Furniture Licence	£170.00
Community Action Suffolk Website	£48.00
SALC Payroll Support 6 months	£54.00

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 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	£63,905.79
Deposit Account on 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	£8,600.80

The Clerk reported that she had once again endeavoured to transfer £40,000 from the Current to the Deposit Account following a lengthy conversation with Barclays Bank. Barclays had agreed to reimburse £50 for the problems the Parish Council had encountered.

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 for both the Community Account and the Premium Account.

### **To discuss appointment of Internal Auditor 2025/2026**

Cllr G Watts proposed, seconded Cllr K Rout that Mr Trevor Brown be appointed as auditor for 2025/2026 – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

### **40.26 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk.**

- a. Cllr G Watts reported that he had booked to attend the Sizewell Transport Forum but unfortunately, he was unable to attend due to illness. Noted

**41.26 Members questions to the Chairman**

None

**42.26 Date of next meeting**

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at Trinity Park**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.31 pm.**

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

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