

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

## **Minutes**

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Trinity Park

Present

Cllr E Warham - Chair

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr G Watts

Cllr K Rout

Cllr E Beach

Cllr B Newell

Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council

Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

### **112.24 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr W Thurston, Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council  
Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council.

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

None

### **114.24 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were approved as being a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

### **115.24 Matters arising from the Minutes**

All items arising from the minutes formed part of the agenda.

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

- a. Cllr Mark Packard – East Suffolk Council – no report.
- b. Cllr Ed Thompson – East Suffolk Council – no report.
- c. Cllr Patti Mulcahy – Suffolk County Council – written report.

### **Council Formally Objects the Latest Sea Link Plans**

Suffolk County Council has formally objected to National Grid's Sea Link project, because of proposals for the building of a new bridge and for construction work to take place on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The scale of a new permanent access bridge across the River Fromus is deemed hugely disproportionate. Plans show that it could be up to six metres in height with a span of over 150 metres, including embankment.

Updated plans from National Grid also revealed that core working hours are being proposed to include 7am to 5pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

In response to Sea Link's latest public consultation which has just closed, the council has submitted a 29-page document outlining these and a variety of other potential impacts, that the scheme would have on local communities and the environment.

In its response, the council adds that roads will be subject to construction traffic seven days a week. This provides no relief for locals or visitors who want to enjoy the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths National Landscape, and will disrupt local amenities and tourism.

National Grid expects to submit its application for development consent in early 2025.

### Suffolk Residents will be able to Access Electric Vehicles on a Short-term basis from next summer

A trial of electric community vehicles is set to launch next summer in Suffolk, with the tender process beginning this autumn.

Plug In Suffolk Car Clubs will be placing sixteen electric vehicles across eight locations in Suffolk which local residents can book by the minute, hour or day. Planned locations include Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Sudbury, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Lowestoft and Woodbridge.

Members of the public interested in this project are urged to sign up to the mailing list to receive updates as the project progresses - [Plug in Suffolk Car Clubs - Mailing List](#).

Car Clubs have already offered people in other parts of the UK access to local, low-emission vehicles without the expense of owning one. Local communities in these areas have already experienced many benefits including improved air quality, reduced congestion and increased mobility for those without access to their own car.

Current providers remain reluctant to fully fund electric community vehicles in rural and semi-rural areas like Suffolk as they do not yet have the real-world data to support the usage.

The project is funded by Suffolk's public sector organisations, helping deliver on two of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan's goals; a reduced number of cars on the road and an increased proportion of vehicles on the road that are low or zero emission. Additional charge point funding is being provided by the Department for Transport's On Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS).

### Solar Together Launches in Suffolk

Residents of Suffolk can come together to invest in renewable energy sources through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Solar Together Suffolk helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from qualified installers.

Suffolk residents can join the group-buying scheme, which offers solar panels with optional battery storage and EV charge points, as well as retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels and are looking to get more from the renewable energy they generate. The scheme allows homeowners to increase their independence from the national grid.

It's free to register here, and there is no obligation to go ahead with an installation. Suffolk's councils are working in partnership with iChoose, experts in sustainable energy transition, to make the transition to clean energy as cost-effective and hassle-free as possible.

How does it work?

- Householders can register online to become part of the group for free and without obligation at [solartogether.co.uk/suffolk](https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk)
  - Approved UK solar PV suppliers participate in a reverse auction. They are able to offer competitive pricing as the volume and geographic concentration makes it possible for them to realise greater efficiencies, which they pass on with lower prices for installations.
  - After the auction, registered households will be emailed a personal recommendation which is specific to the details they submitted in their registration.
  - If they choose to accept their recommendation, the specifics of their installation will be confirmed with a technical survey after which a date can be set for the installation of their solar PV system.
  - Telephone and email helpdesks are on-hand throughout the whole process which, together with information sessions, will allow households to make an informed decision in a safe and hassle-free environment.
- d. To receive questions from members of the public. No members of the public were present at the meeting.

### **117.24 Planning**

The following updates the planning schedule highlights any applications for discussion at the September 2024 meeting of the Group Parish Council. There are last two appeals which are being dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate after the original applications were refused by East Suffolk Council Planning. As detailed below there appears to be little progress on most of these applications.

#### **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 whilst National Highways would like further time to assess the impact on the Strategic Road Network. No further news about this application.

#### **DC/23/4635/FUL – Care Home Felixstowe Road Foxhall**

The Parish Council objected to this application due to insufficient car parking and expressed concern about the adverse effect on primary care in the area as highlighted by the NHS Integrated Care Board.

At their meeting in July the Referral Panel decided there was insufficient grounds to refer this application to the Planning Committee for a decision. As a result, the decision will be made by the

Planning Officer who is minded to approve the application. So far, no decision has been made but the application is likely to be approved.

**DC/24/0448/FUL - Part Land at Foxburrow Farm Waldringfield Road Brightwell Ipswich Suffolk  
IP10 0BZ - Change of use of land for use as caravan storage (associated with Oaks Caravans).**

The Parish Council did not object to this application. It remains undecided and Waldringfield Parish Council have objected based on the number of applications for this site and their cumulative effect on the local area. There is no further news about this application other than a new revised site plan has been submitted.

**DC/24/0412/FUL – Twisted Oaks Bike Park – Intensification of use for outdoor activities.**

The majority of the Bike Park is not within the Parish of Brightwell but as with other major applications in neighbouring parishes we have made a comment which in this case is that we do not object to the application. Bucklesham Parish Council have objected on both environmental grounds (effect on wildlife) and health and safety (the danger of flying arrows). There is no further news about this application.

**DC/24/1384/FUL reconsideration – Ferndale Elmham Drive**

Proposed demolition of existing conservatory & erection of a two-storey side extension, single storey extension to the front & rear.

The Parish Council raised no objections to this application, and it was approved on 29/08/2024.

**DC/24/2025/VOC – Foxhall Barns Hall Road - Variation of Condition No. 3 of DC/23/4450/VOC  
(Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission DC/22/0785/FUL**

Change of use, alteration and extension to some of the former agricultural buildings into a new Orthodontic surgery with associated facilities) - Variation to the wording of Condition 3 to allow the following - The hereby approved development shall be used for only dental and related healthcare use and associated facilities including office administration and welfare arrangements, plus the sale of food and beverages to staff and patients, retaining Class E(e) Use and adding Class E(b) Use - Sale of food and drink for consumption (mostly) on the premises.

The Parish Council objected to this variation as we do not see the need for the sale of food and beverages to staff and patients. In the opinion of the Parish Council the provision of drink making facilities and cooking facilities such as a microwave are appropriate for this type of business not the sale of food and beverages to staff and patients.

There is no further news about this application.

**AP/24/0014/REFUSE or APP/X3540/W/23/3331555 (Planning Inspectorate Reference)**

Outline Application (All Matters Reserved) - Proposed new dwelling with associated outbuildings | Backlands Purdis Farm Lane Purdis Farm Ipswich Suffolk IP3 8UF.

This involves concerns about access to the new property via a narrow lane between two bungalows in Purdis Farm Lane. Both sides have submitted their case to the Inspectorate and a decision is awaited.

**AP/23/0074/REFUSE or APP/X3540/W/23/3330089 (Planning Inspectorate Reference)**

Change of use of land for siting of 31 static units and 12 touring pitches and ancillary facilities - re-submission of DC/20/5102/FUL. | Land Off Ipswich Road Brightwell Ipswich Suffolk IP10 0BJ

The applicant claims that they have addressed the Council concerns about non-vehicular access, damage to SSI, sewage, and facilities on the site. A final decision is awaited. However, the Planning Inspectorate has decided that considering the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Development and nature of the receiving environment, whilst there may be some impact on the surrounding area and nearby designated sensitive areas as a result of this development, it would not be of a scale and nature likely to result in significant environmental effects. Accordingly, this development is not an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development.

#### **Applications for discussion at the September Parish Council Meeting**

##### **DC/24/2056/FUL – 2 Purdis Place Bucklesham Road – Double storey side extension, single storey flat roof rear extension.**

At the July meeting it was decided that the Parish Council does not object to this application unless objections are received from neighbours.

Surprising this application has been circulated once again for comment. I recommend that the Parish Council maintains its current view that we do not object to the application, but the planning officer should consider the views of neighbours and ensure that the conditions include an appropriate construction management plan. Comments have been received from two neighbours highlighting the fact that objections have been made.

Recommendation: The Parish Council does not object to this application unless objections are received from neighbours. Agreed

**DC/24/2447/FUL - High Trees Bucklesham Road Foxhall Ipswich Suffolk IP10 0AA** - Proposed 8 stabled, timber framed, pitched roof building along with feed room/hay store and WC. Proposed stables fenced off from existing dwelling. Access provided by existing gate along Woodhouse Lane, access modified in accordance with Suffolk County Council Highways Drawing No. DM01.

Recommendation: The Parish Council does not object to this application unless objections are received from neighbours. Agreed

#### **118.24 To discuss inappropriate parking in Purdis Farm**

Cllr E Lawrence reported that the District Councillor Cllr Mark Packard had contacted residents in both Woodrush Road and Foxglove Crescent following complaints regarding parking on grass verges. Unfortunately, there are no regulations to prevent parking on the pavement/grass verges in and around Purdis Farm. Cllr Packard has agreed to push for 'regulations' in Purdis Farm.

Councillors discussed the fact that there are places for residents to park without resorting to parking on grass verges.

Councillors agreed that the following articles would be placed in the Parish Magazine:

1. Inconsiderate parking on the grass verges in Purdis Farm and the Parish Council are investigating what steps could be taken to alleviate this problem.
2. Planting of shrubs on the grass verges to try and stop the parking of vehicles.

It was agreed that Cllrs G Watts and E Lawrence would write the articles. **Action: Cllr G Watts / Cllr E Lawrence / Cllr E Beach**

#### **119.24 To discuss the renovation of Foxhall and Brightwell Village Signs**

It was agreed to defer this item until the October meeting. **Action: Clerk**

#### **120.24 To receive a report and discuss whether the Parish Council should move the website and email addresses to a gov.uk platform**

The Central and Data Office (CDDO) leads the Government's digital and data function; the Government's vision is that by 2025, all levels of Government operate using this more secure and professional way. Our local provider, OneSuffolk can provide the facility at a discounted rate if the Parish Council transitioned the website at the time of taking up the email offer.

The transition would be managed by OneSuffolk, taking approximately two weeks.

The email boxes are 10GB in capacity, so provide plenty of storage for our duties as councillors and Clerk.

#### Current Position

The Parish Council presently arranged for its website to be hosted via our provider OneSuffolk.

Each of the Councillors, Clerk and Newsletter Editor have their own arrangements for email, a mix of Outlook, Yahoo, Gmail etc. Many of these are owned and controlled by the individual.

The website hosting has a cost of £50 (excl VAT) per annum.

#### Opportunity

OneSuffolk can provide the PC with dedicated gov.uk domain names for our website and our emails. This provides opportunity to professionalise our IT footprint and provide a level of security that complies with the 2025 vision.

To illustrate, our website could be 'Brightwell FoxhallandPurdisFarm.gov.uk' or 'BFPP.gov.uk' and out emails could be 'eddie.lawrence@BFPP.gov.uk'.

The PC would 'own' the email accounts, individuals would use them. The content of the email accounts would be secure and private unless a relevant formal investigation occurred, in which case OneSuffolk would provide the investigators with access.

#### Costs

"The pricing for the gov.uk domain name now stands at just £18.00 for the initial first 2 years of having the domain name and then £138.00 for every 2 years after that.

If you are also looking for email addresses to be attached to your own domain name then we can also supply these.

Currently we charge £30.00 per mailbox per year for a 10GB mailbox. However, if you were to order a .gov.uk domain name then we will discount this to £24.00 per mailbox per year.

All prices shown in this email include VAT.”

### Cost Implications

The Parish Council can reclaim VAT.

Our PC would need:

- 7 email accounts for councillors (currently we have 7 councillors but would be more of we increased to our full complement of councillors (12)
- 1 for the Clerk

Total = 8

If the website transitioned also, the cost would be:

Email – 8 x £20 = £160.00

Website - £15 (excl VAT) for years 1 and 2 total £115 (excl VAT) ever 2 years thereafter/

Migration of data from an existing email account to the new would incur a one-off cost of £30 (excl VAT).

To demonstrate predicted costs (excl VAT):

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Email (x8)	£160	£160	£160	£160
Website (2 years)	£15	£0	£0	£0
Data Migration (x1)	£30	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£205</b>	<b>£160</b>	<b>£160</b>	<b>£160</b>
Existing Website	£50	£50	£50	£50
<b>Additional Expenditure</b>	<b>£155</b>	<b>£110</b>	<b>£225</b>	<b>£110</b>

### Proposals

Proposal 1: The Parish Council adopt the gov.uk domain name for the website and email accounts for each of its councillors and Clerk. Proposed Cllr G Watts, seconded Cllr B Newell – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

Proposal 2: The Parish Council agrees to migrate the data from the Clerk’s Yahoo email account to the new gov.uk account. Proposed Cllr G Watts, seconded Cllr B Newell – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

**121.24 To discuss and agree plans to provide greener parishes**

Councillors discussed the Biodiversity Report which had recently been undertaken by East Suffolk Council in Murrills Road Park. This involved assessing the effectiveness of 'low mow' policies and whether they efficiently generate a boost for biodiversity. The reports concludes that the results found were promising with much higher figures recorded in areas left for nature. Two pages (20/21) were devoted to Purdis Farm.

It was agreed that Cllr E Beach obtain permission from the East Suffolk Council to publish the results of the survey in the Parish Magazine. **Action: Cllr E Beach**

### **123.24 Clerk's Report September 2024**

#### Foxhall Sign

Thanks to Kevin for keeping the area around the Village Sign tidy and also for planting some beautiful bright pink geriums. The geriums are in full bloom and look beautiful. Kevin has also cut back the foliage blocking the Village Notice Board.

#### Item 11 on the agenda – to discuss move the website and email addresses to a gov.uk platform

Please see separate report. It would be useful if councillors could familiarise themselves with the document.

#### Insurance Renewal

Last year the Parish Council paid £351.00 for insurance, and the cost of renewal is £405.97 for 2024/2025 which is approximately a 15% increase. Most Parish Council's budgeted for an approximate 10% increase and in general most PCs have received renewal documents round about 10% to 15%. **Action: Clerk**

### **124.24 Finance**

#### Income

None

#### Expenditure

Clerk's Salary and Expenses July 2024	£394.70
Clerk's Salary and Expenditure August 2024	£391.00
Mrs A J Buggs – Reimbursement for Memory Stick	£39.99
Royal British Legion – Donation (Wreath)	£50.00
CAS Business Services – Insurance Renewal 2024/2025	£405.97
Cllr L Beach – Float for Stamps	£17.00
Flyer Magazine – Parish Magazine	£659.00

#### Bank Account Balances

Current Account on 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	£40,923.56
Deposit Account on 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	£8,424.65

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

#### Notification from PK Littlejohn External Auditor

The Clerk reported that to qualify for exemption of an external audit that either the Parish Council's income or expenditure for the year must be below £25,000. As reported at the May 2024 Parish Council Meeting a request for exemption of external audit had been submitted to PK Littlejohn. An acknowledgement of the request had been received however the Parish Council has not received official confirmation. Official confirmation has now been received. **Action: Clerk**

#### **To discuss and agree insurance renewal for 2024/2025**

The Clerk reported that the renewal notice for the Parish Council insurance for 2024/2025 had been received. The cost for 2024/2025 is £405.97 an increase from £351.01 in 2023/2024. Cllr K Rout proposed that the Parish Council accept the insurance for 2024/2025, seconded Cllr E Warham – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

#### **125.24 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk**

##### a. Sizewell C – Southern Transport Forum

Cllr G Watts reported that the Parish Council was required to apply to the Independent Chairman of the Southern Transport Forum for permission for himself to become a member of the forum. Permission has now been granted - noted. **Action: Cllr G Watts**

##### b. Sizewell C Community Forum

Cllr G Watts reported that he had been invited to attend the next Community Forum, which is being held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 19:00 at High Lodge Leisure Hinton.

The purpose of the Sizewell C Community Forum is to provide the community with an update on the construction of Sizewell C and the associated developments. This will now be a bi-annual meeting held throughout the construction period. Cllr G Watts offered his apologies for the next Parish Council Meeting. **Action: Clerk**

##### c. The East Suffolk Communities Energy Partnership

Cllr G Watts reported that both he and Cllr B Newell had attended a virtual meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 of the East Suffolk Communities Energy Partnership. The partnership started as an ad hoc group of councillors who were concerned about energy project in East Suffolk. They are now seeking to formally set up the partnership with a constitution. The principal purpose is to represent Town and Parish Councils in discussions with developers, government etc. They do not feel that their views have been expressed by East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council and therefore are directly contacting the appropriate minister(s). A process complicated by the change in government. As was stressed at the meeting all East Suffolk will be affected – anybody who uses the A12 north will be affected by the vast increase in traffic not just from Sizewell C but the other energy projects. For this reason, I recommend that we confirm membership of “the Partnership” (no cost). It was agreed that the Parish Council should be a member of the partnership.

We have been asked to agree to sign a letter to the Secretary of State and to comment on the proposed constitution for “the Partnership”.

Cllr G Watts stated that he had no comment to make about the letter to the Secretary of State but believed that the Parish Council should agree to sign the letter. Cllr G Watts proposed that the PC sign the letter – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr G Watts said that he had one comment to make about the draft constitution. Membership – one councillor wholly or partly within the relevant area – what is the relevant area? East Suffolk? It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Energy Partnership expressing the PC’s comments regarding the draft constitution – membership. **Action: Clerk**

d. East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA)

East Suffolk Planning Alliance and East Suffolk Council will be holding the first agreed Community Engagement Group meeting at East Suffolk House in Melton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024.

ESPA will be attending the meeting on behalf of our 55 affiliated Town/Parish Councils/Resident Groups.

It is hoped that future CEG events will provide opportunities for affiliated members to join in with these meetings, as and when required but at this initial first meeting it is the wish to use the limited time available to fully represent your issues and concerns across the board.

It appears that many of the members have experienced similar difficulties during negotiations with ESC planners. The shared feeling from communities is that they are being ignored and developments that we know will be inappropriate and will not solve the housing crisis that we all face and are being pushed through despite our advice and concerns. Consequently, members are all left with the multiple problems that this is causing.

Cllr G Watts stated that as far as the Parishes of Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm are concerned the Parish Council does not appear to have had any problems.

**126.24 Members questions to the Chairman**

None

**127.24 Date of next meeting**

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Cllr G Watts offered his apologies for the October Parish Council meeting as he would be attending the Sizewell C Community Forum.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27 pm.**

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

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