

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, 9th September 2026 at Trinity Park

Present

Cllr G Watts - Chair

Cllr E Lawrence

Cllr B Newell

Cllr K Rout

Cllr E Beach

Cllr E Warham

Cllr C Thornber

Cllr Alistair Jeffreys Suffolk County Council

Cllr Mark Packard East Suffolk Council

Mrs Angie Buggs – Clerk

106.26 Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

107.26 To receive Members' Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

108.26 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the Wednesday, 8th July 2026 were approved as being a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

109.26 To approve the co-option of a new councillor for Purdis Farm

The Chairman reported that Catherine Thornber had put herself forward to become a Parish Councillor and the Clerk had checked her eligibility. It was proposed that Catherine Thornber be co-opted on to the Parish Council - all in favour. Catherine Thornber signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and the Clerk said she would arrange for the Completion of Interests log in with East Suffolk Council to be sent to Catherine. The Clerk said she would also arrange for Catherine to be provided with a gov.uk email address. **Action: Clerk / Catherine Thornber**

110.26 Matters arising from the Minutes.

97.16 Update on proposed Gladman Development and purchase of charity land.

The Clerk reported that the charity had held a meeting with the Land Director of Gladmans Developments Ltd who had suggested the charity get in touch with a land agent to discuss the proposed development and the purchase of the charity land by Gladmans.

101.26 To discuss the Local Plan and Questionnaire Submission / Deadline.

Cllr G Watts reported that he had completed the Local Plan Questionnaire and submitted it to the local authority.

111.26 The meeting was adjourned to receive reports and questions.

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

Cllr Packard confirmed that LGR for Suffolk had been cancelled and District Council elections would take place in May 2027. He also gave a brief update about the collection of refuse. Although not perfect the situation had improved and he had received less complaints. Hopefully, things will continue to improve.

- b. Cllr Alistair Jeffreys Suffolk County Council – written report

Introduction

August is a quieter month for county council meetings, but I have still been progressing several highways issues and projects and been conferring with residents on casework while preparing for the work of the health scrutiny committee over the next couple of months.

I am pleased to report the success of the highways surface dressing program as well as the trial of the JCB Pothole-Pro which fixed a large number of potholes in Kesgrave.

However, the most important news is the government's withdrawal of the LGR plans

Committees

Scrutiny

In the scrutiny committee we have agreed the following items to be scrutinised at our next meetings:

- Adult Services – outcomes from the CQC inspection (1 October)
- Major Incidents Dunwich Fire/Storm Babet/JEPU/(El Nino) – (5 November).

The committee will be deciding on further scrutiny topics later. As well as the budget, which must be scrutinised, potential topics are LGR preparedness, response to NSIPs. I have suggested scrutinising how trading standards and other agencies approach high-street crime in the light of new laws and powers.

Our first public scrutiny meeting is on the 1st of October.

Health Scrutiny

The Health Scrutiny meeting will be held on the 14th of October. The topic will be "To understand how Norfolk and Suffolk ICB is utilising the Population Health Strategy to understand the needs of Suffolk's residents and how the Strategy, and the NHS 10 Year Plan are reflected in the ICB Commissioning Strategy." This was agreed by the committee at our last private meeting. Several items are being considered for the meeting after that. One of which is the corridor care situation at ESNEFT of which we are planning to be briefed on in October. We also have further provider briefings on the 9th of October.

As Chairman I have been invited to the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (30th September) and the East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (6th October) AGMs. I plan to attend both.

East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership

I was elected to this body by fellow County Councillors based in East Suffolk. I will be meeting with officers later this month to discuss this position. Community Safety Partnerships were established to improve quality of life and keep our residents, visitors and employees safe. One scheme that has been developed by the partnership is the High Street Business Security Improvement Grant Scheme. Business owners in East Suffolk can now apply for funding from East Suffolk Council to help improve the security of their premises.

Highways

Foxhall Road Crossing

We still need the footfall data as evidence to progress this.

From the funding side, Suffolk County Council is putting in place a new process to assess new active travel schemes coming forward and to make decisions on funding. I will be sent the form for this once it's ready and can then submit this for them to review.

Woodbridge Road Cycling Improvements

This scheme is something that they have been trying to deliver for several years now. The government has extended the period the grant money for it is available for because of delays, such as the local elections, slowing down the project. My input into this has only been recent. The plan has clearly evolved over time.

I spoke with highways team a few weeks ago about this and suggested several improvements which they are going to try and take into account and create a new plan. It would probably be useful to know what these are:

- Remove the Northern on-road cycle lane addition to the road west of the common. Instead direct all cycle traffic over a modified crossing at the roundabout.
- Instead make the southern path a continuous dual use path all the way to the common going eastwards.
- Retain the island crossings and don't add the extra crossing at Playford Road.
- Retain the two lanes of traffic to the roundabout. (Made possible by removing the cycle lane.)
- Retain an off-road bus stop through an alternative bus shelter placement.

I haven't received the new design yet so I don't know if all these changes can be made. I was told to expect the new design by now.

The one aspect that seems impossible to change is avoiding narrowing the road. I have been assured that the new width is not too narrow for a 30mph road and is still wider than many others. The pathway is planned to be increased to 3m which is the minimum for a shared use pathway. From looking at the plan, I believe that the minimum the road through the common will go to is 6m with most of it 6.3m. They received no objection from the emergency services when they asked them about the plans, but I have asked for a new response from them because I know this was something raised by councillors in Kesgrave when we discussed it. I am still awaiting this response.

I am happy to hear the views of the parish councillors on this matter.

Potholes

I am very pleased to see that the large number of potholes on Penzance Road which I have been chasing up for several months were fixed as part of the JCB Pothole Pro trial. (See below).



Please continue to report all potholes.

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

Locality Budget

Suffolk County Council has told me that the funds for the play equipment at Tower Hall have been transferred to Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council.

Local Government Reorganisation

We have successfully secured the future of Suffolk by preventing a highly disruptive and unnecessary reorganisation plan that will have disrupted vital services that Suffolk residents rely on every day. This is a huge victory for Suffolk residents. Challenging this plan was the first decision of this administration and it shows that it was a success. This administration will engage with the government to ensure any future plans have Suffolk's interests at heart and residents have their say.

The judicial review (JR) will cost Suffolk residents nothing. It is still set to be heard in December. Central government is not contesting the JR, we therefore win by default and our costs will be paid in full. In any case, these costs were a fraction of the figure of £500,000. Central government will be paying back some of the costs that have already been spent on LGR. While we were confident of our victory, we believed it was prudent to ensure any disruption to residents would be kept to a minimum.

District and Borough elections are due to go ahead on existing boundaries in May. Just as the government wanted to postpone the county elections due to LGR but then they went ahead after a legal challenge, the district and borough elections were not going to take place next year because of unitary elections. Now it is clear that district and borough elections will take place as normal.

Anyone saying this is a pause for Suffolk are conflating with other areas, the three unitary authority proposal has been fully withdrawn. All LGR related activities will be halted, all recruitment for LGR has been paused, this administration is fully focused on delivering on our mandate from Suffolk residents. Unlike in 14 other regions, the plans for Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and Hampshire were withdrawn. In the first three the county councils had launched judicial reviews on the process. In the fourth they were seeking legal advice on whether to launch one.

Devolution is a separate matter to LGR and plans for devolution remain in place. This administration will only agree to a deal that protects the interests of Suffolk. Positive conversations have been had with central government as well as Norfolk that will see an elected mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk.

Select County Council Updates

JCB Pothole Pro Trial

“Cutting edge pothole-busting machine put to test as council launches new plan to put Suffolk communities first

Suffolk County Council will today start trialling new pothole machinery as part a new plan to bring more innovation into the way public services are delivered for residents.

The JCB Pothole Pro - a specialist 3-in-1 machine designed to deliver speedy and permanent pothole repairs – is on free loan from JCB.”

Please see the rest of the update here: [Cutting edge pothole-busting machine put to test as council launches new plan to put Suffolk communities first - Suffolk County Council](#)

I am very pleased that one of the locations used for the free trial was the Penzance Road area of Kesgrave which was a pothole hot spot!

Suffolk Roads Redressing Programme

In other Highways news I am pleased with the scale of our dressing programme for this year.

“86 sites completed across the county as Suffolk Highways delivered its 2026 surface dressing programme.

Suffolk Highways has completed its 2026 surface dressing programme, treating 141 kilometres of roads across the county to help protect and extend the life of Suffolk’s highway network.

The programme saw more than 750,000 square metres of road treated – equivalent to over 100 full-sized football pitches – across 86 sites in all areas of Suffolk.

Surface dressing is a fast, efficient and sustainable way to maintain roads. It seals the road surface, restores skid resistance and helps protect against water damage, extending the life of roads and reducing the need for more costly repairs.”

Please see the rest of the update here: [Over 140km of Suffolk roads treated as 2026 Surface Dressing programme comes to an end - Suffolk County Council](#)

Dunwich Heath Fire

I wanted to acknowledge the heroic efforts of the Fire Service and other organisations that responded to the large fire on Dunwich Heath. All 35 Suffolk Fire Stations were involved and were supported by 18 other fire services from outside the county.

Please read this piece by Cllr Tristan Gale (Cabinet member for Planning Devolution and the Fire Service): [OPINION: The magnificent response to the Dunwich fire, as major incident is scaled back - Suffolk County Council](#)

The Chairman re-convened the meeting.

112.26 To discuss the co-option of a new councillor for Foxhall

The prospective new councillor was not at the meeting, so no further action was required.

113.26 Planning

a. General

Cllr Watts updated councillors about two outstanding 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 and 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.

DC/26/2309/FUL - Change of use of an underutilised family meeting area to a use falling within class E(b) cafe Foxhall Barns Hall Road Foxhall Ipswich Suffolk IP10 0AP

As the application was submitted between Parish Council meetings it was agreed to email to submit the following comments.

The Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds of highway safety. NPPF Paragraph 116 states that: Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network, following mitigation, would be severe, taking into account all reasonable future scenarios.

We believe that sufficient mitigation would be provided by a stop sign being added to the point where the Foxhall Barns driveway opens onto the road in order to remind visitors they are entering the highway. The applicant is happy to comply with this request, and for this to be sought by way of a compliance condition as stated in paragraph 4.9 refers of their covering letter submitted with their application.

The Parish Council would like to see such a condition imposed.

Since we submitted these comments there has been no further news about this application.

Three new applications were considered at the meeting.

SCC/0125/26SC - Retrospective extension to an existing recycling facility for the importation, storage, treatment and recycling of inert waste and storage of building materials, with parking, office, storage facilities, and associated infrastructure. Land at Foxburrow Farm Ipswich Road Brightwell IP10 0BZ

This Planning Application has been submitted to Suffolk County Council (SCC) seeking planning permission for a retrospective extension to an existing permitted recycling facility for the importation, storage, treatment and recycling of inert waste materials and the importation and storage of building materials with associated vehicle parking, an office, toilet cabin and storage containers on land at Foxburrow Farm, Ipswich Road, Brightwell, Suffolk, IP10 0BZ.

Nobody appears to be aware of this facility despite it being granted permission under reference SCC\0096\17C on 18 July 2017. Several companies have expressed support as it provides a valuable facility for the disposal of waste. SCC Highways have expressed concern about the entrance and whether there are sufficient splays at the entrance and reduced visibility due to signage.

Recommendation: The Parish Council does not object to this application as long as SCC Highways are satisfied that there is sufficient visibility at the entrance. Agreed.

SCC/0170/25SC - Transport improvements to the A12 from Junction 58 (Seven Hills, Ipswich) to Woods Lane Roundabout, Woodbridge including the upgrade from a single carriageway to dual carriageway between A12 / B1438 and the A12 / B1078, Construction of a new pedestrian bridge and other highways and pedestrian improvements. Location: A12 between Junctions 58 (Seven Hills) and Woods Lane Roundabout, Woodbridge, Suffolk

Cllr Watts asked if anybody has any comments about this proposal? No comments were made therefore the Group Parish Council will respond to Suffolk County Council that it does not object without further comment.

DC/26/2768/DEM - Prior Notification - Proposed Demolition of the existing buildings on land known as 'Shepherd and Dog Farm' at Orwell Logistics Park Ipswich IP10 0DD

This is phase four of the original development of the Orwell Logistics Park and already has outline planning permission. The application has been submitted by Sizewell C, and it is their intention to build new purpose built offices a car park and additional hard standing for storage on the site.

Despite two requests East Suffolk Planning have failed to provide or place on their website the detailed demolition plan which shows which buildings are to be demolished and how. Councillor Watts has been able to confirm with Sizewell C at a recent Transport Forum meeting that the entire site is to be demolished in one go.

The Parish Council has been invited to a public drop-in session at the Holiday Inn, The Havens, Ransomes Europark on Tuesday 22 September 2026 between 3:30pm and 6:30pm. Councillors Watts and Rout will be attending.

Cllr Watts also said he had received a small community consultation leaflet from Sizewell C about the Sizewell C proposals at Orwell Logistics Park. Councillors Beach and Rout had also seen the leaflet.

Cllr Watts expressed the Parish Council's disappointment to Councillor Packard that the Demolition Plan (ref. 26070-UMC-XXXX-SI-DR-A-0502-P02) had not been provided by East Suffolk Council Planning. He was not able to provide an explanation why not.

Recommendation: The Parish Council does not object to this application but are disappointed that not all the documents relating to this application are on the website or have been provided to the Parish Council. – Agreed.

Cllr Watts advised the meeting that nothing further had been heard about the Bloor Foxhall Road development, but an application was expected soon.

b. Update on the new National Planning Policy Framework Document.

Cllr Watts confirmed that the NPPF had been published in August and made interesting reading. He was pleased that there were different rules for development within settlement boundaries and those outside. In addition to a 5 year supply of sites for housing the Housing Delivery Test would also be applied.

The Housing Delivery Test (HDT) is carried out each year and is a percentage measurement of the number of net homes delivered against the number of homes required, as set out in the relevant strategic policies for the areas covered by the Housing Delivery Test, over a rolling historical 3-year period.

Each Suffolk has achieved 91% and Ipswich 63%.

This is important because where delivery falls below 75% of the requirement over the previous three years, an evidenced unmet need for housing is deemed to exist for the purpose of applying policy S5(1)(j) in the Framework. Which means that developments outside settlements are more likely to be approved.

114.26 Update regarding new footpath and VAS post in Murrills Road

Footway Between the Lay-by and Crossing near JS Garage

The Parish Council is still waiting for an estimate for the cost of the project having previously agreed a budget up to £50,000. **Action: Clerk**

VAS Post in Murrills Road

An email has been received from Suffolk County Council ANPR Officer who is looking at the possibility of erecting the post for the VAS sign near the entrance to Foxglove Crescent in Murrills Road. **Action: Clerk**

A councillor stated that the VAS sign in Bucklesham Road didn't appear to be working. Cllr E Lawrence stated that VAS signs are switched off for periods of time but are not removed from the pole. Cllr E Lawrence explained that to have signs working 24/7 reduces the effectiveness and he plans to have them working again soon.

115.26 Local Government Reorganisation Update

Cllr G Watts confirmed that the introduction of unitary councils in Suffolk had been cancelled and that the District Council elections will take place as originally scheduled in May 2027. He also noted that Jim McMahon has returned as Minister for Local Government Devolution and Regional Growth after being sacked when Angela Rayner resigned. As these two ministers were responsible for introducing LGR but not the decision for three unitary authorities in Suffolk he expects LGR to go ahead but maybe not with three unitary councils after devolution and the mayoral elections. Which was the original plan.

116.26 To discuss the park enhancement

Cllr E Lawrence proposed that a stone tennis table and seats be located in Murrills Road Park. Councillors had also received a request from youngsters to erect another set of goal posts. The Parish Council could use CIL money for both the table tennis tables and goal posts. It was noted that

Murrills Road Park is the responsibility of East Suffolk Council. Cllr M Packard suggested the Parish Council contact Tim Snook at ESC to discuss. **Action: Clerk**

117.26 ESC Pathway Clearance Scheme

Community Pay Back Scheme

It was agreed that the Parish Council submit a request to the Community Pay Back Scheme to clear the alleyway between Bucklesham Road and the Murrills Road Recreation Ground. Cllr E Beach sent photographs of the footpath on the Felixstowe Road adjacent to Straight Road on the opposite side of the road to the layby however as this location would not be suitable for the Community Pay Back Scheme, Aimee McLachlan | Sustainable Travel Officer ESC would be asking her team to clear this location. **Action: Clerk**

Suffolk County Council Self Help Scheme

It was agreed that the Clerk should register Cllrs K Rout and E Lawrence for the Suffolk County Council Self Help Scheme which enables training for volunteers so they know how to work safely, provide public liability insurance to cover volunteers while they are working, give volunteers high-visibility safety clothing, pay back the initial cost of approved tools and equipment bought by town or parish councils and support town and parish councils as required to help them participate in the scheme. The trained volunteers will then be able to carry out basic clearance in and around villages.

Action: Clerk / Cllr E Lawrence / Cllr K Rout

118.26 Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

Clerk's Salary and Expenses July 2026	£427.30
Clerk's Salary and Expenses August 2026 including holiday pay	£643.19
Community Action Suffolk Insurance Renewal 2026/2027	£479.01
Flyer Press Newsletters	£659.00

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

Action: Clerk

Bank Account Balances

Current Account on 31 st July 2026	£36,478.54
Deposit Account on 31 st July 2026	£48,743.64

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 31st July 2026 for both the Current Account and the Deposit Account.

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

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had not been able to open the new bank accounts with Unity Trust as not all councillors had logged into the bank account to log their information. **Action: Clerk / Councillors**

To discuss the adoption of the Local Government Pay Award for the Clerk 2026/2027

The Local Governance Pay Claim 2026/2027 had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr G Watts proposed that the Parish Council agree to increase the Clerk's salary as recommended by NALC back dated to the 1st April 2026 seconded Cllr B Newell – all in favour. The Clerk is employed on SCP 17.

It was agreed to review the Clerk's salary at the time of setting the budgets for 2027/2028. **Action: Clerk**

To confirm the adoption of the Local Government Insurance Renewal 2026/2027

Last year the Parish Council paid £405.97 for insurance, and the cost of renewal is £456.26 for 2026/2027. Cllr G Watts proposed that the Parish Council accept the quotation from Community Action Suffolk, seconded Cllr K Rout – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

119.26 Meetings attended by councillors/clerk.

- a. Cllr G Watts attended two meetings over the summer.

The Kesgrave, Rushmere St. Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership Meeting on 4th August 2026 held at Tuddenham St. Martin Village Hall. The action notes for this meeting will be circulated but he highlighted three funding proposals which received approval. Enable Fitness (£6,854) Just 42 (£3000) mentoring for young people at Kesgrave High School and Riding for the Disabled (£2004) this was agreed after the meeting. As Cllr G Watts is unable to attend the next meeting on 20th October 2026. Councillor Lawrence agreed to attend at a venue to be confirmed.

The Sizewell C Southern Transport Forum on 2nd September 2026. At this meeting, the Orwell Logistics Park project was briefly mentioned, and it was confirmed that the whole of the proposed site was to be demolished, and a planning application would be submitted in about 3 months' time. The rest of the meeting was concerned with the various rail and road closures associated with the construction of Sizewell C. The action note of the meeting will be circulated when available.

120.26 Members questions to the Chairman

- a. Cllr B Newell asked why Kennels Road is closed however councillors were unaware of the closure.
- b. Cllr K Rout expressed concern about the changes being made to the entrance of the new care home in Felixstowe Road and how it would adversely affect traffic going along this major road. Councillor Watts said that SCC Highways had specifically designed the entrance with a sharp turn to slow down traffic going into the care home for safety reasons.

121.26 Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 14th October 2026

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.30 pm.

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