

BUCKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held at Bucklesham Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 9th March 2017

Present

Cllr Heather Owen
Cllr Rhea Gardner
Cllr Ruth Johnson
Cllr Evelyn Bloomfield
Cllr David Brinkley
Mrs A Buggs Clerk
Cllr Patricia O'brien – Suffolk County Council
Cllr Susan Harvey – Suffolk Coastal District Council

30.17 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Georgina Burgess who was absent due to illness.

31.17 Declaration of interest

None

32.17 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd February 2017 were approved as being a true record

33.17 Matters arising from the minutes

Minute 23.17 To discuss the cleanliness of the village

Cllr Owen reported that she had contacted Andrew Flint regarding the annual litter pick. Andrew had agreed to organise the litter pick but would like to start at 6.30 am on a Saturday morning before traffic becomes busy.

The Parish Council agreed that 22nd or the 29th April would be suitable dates as it could be advertised in the Bugle. Cllr Owen agreed to contact Andrew. **Action: Cllr Owen / Cllr Johnson / Clerk**

34.17 To adjourn to receive the reports and questions from:

- Suffolk County Council – Cllr Patricia O'brien – written report

Social Care

We are all aware of the need for social care and mental health to join together in partnership. The good news is that Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust and Suffolk County Council intend to introduce a new joint role to lead services across the county. This will enable social workers to

operate as part of an integrated mental health team. The post, at director level, is to be introduced by the summer.

Education

We are at last beginning to see improvement in Suffolk's education. Figures published on the Department for Education's website confirm that Suffolk's GCSE progress has, for the first time, risen above the national average. Suffolk is now ranked in the top half of all authorities at 55th out of 151. This is a real improvement since 2014 when Suffolk was ranked 119th for English and 108th for maths.

This is the fifth year of the "Raising the Bar" programme which aims to improve levels of educational attainment. Since the programme began in 2012, there has been a more than 20% rise in Suffolk Schools being judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Police

I had an informal meeting with Tim Passmore, Police Commissioner, at which we discussed partnership working. It is understood that working in partnership with blue light services, health, district and county councils has to be the way forward in order to make the efficiencies that are needed. Partnerships and good communication is vital.

Highways

Suffolk Highways have treated 110,671 miles of the county's road network and this is mostly carried out during the night.

I continue to flag up to transport, police and local MPs the crucial need for an emergency action plan for dealing with the traffic chaos that arises when the Orwell Bridge has to be closed and vehicles diverted thru' Ipswich.

Locality Funding

I am very pleased to report that I have spent all 2016/17 locality funding on such projects as: speed control signs; new playground equipment; replacement church windows; notice boards; posts for war memorial; recreation barrier.

The county election will be taking place on May 4th. I shall be standing.

Cllr O'brien reported that Locality Budgets 2017/2018 would not be considered until after the Suffolk County Council elections on the 4th May. It was agreed that this item should be placed on the Parish Council's agenda for May. **Action: Clerk**

- Suffolk Coastal District Council – Cllr Susan Harvey – written report

Community Enabling Budget

I am pleased to say I have spent my entire allowance for 2016/17. This has helped with various projects spread over 7 villages, I can give you details if you wish. I shall receive another allowance of £6,500 for 2017/2018.

SCDC Council Tax

This has increased by 3.25% having been at the previous rate for several years. This is less than £5.00 a year on a band D property less than 10p a week.

Council car parks have been improved at Melton and Aldeburgh and the Deben pool has had its plans approved for complete refurbishment.

Suffolk Coastal plans to deliver high class services to everyone in our area at a time when there is dwindling support from Central Government.

Government White paper on Planning January 2017

This is recommending Neighbourhood Plans.

The need to build more houses in the future will put pressure on all our villages and towns. A Neighbourhood Plan would help to ensure that housing of the right sort and of high quality design is built where local people want it rather than almost forced on us by pushy developers. We have in excess of a 5 year building land supply. There has been no substantial house building for the past 30 to 50 years. People under 35 are finding it difficult to buy their own homes as they cannot save for a deposit whilst paying out high market rents. Villages need to keep alive with new young families. A new very small 2 bed house goes on to the market at £230,000. Planning is always a difficult emotive subject. People on very low wages will never afford to buy and they too need to have somewhere nice to live and bring up their families so housing association housing is also required.

The Deben estuary Partnership

We are looking for volunteers to assess tranquility on and around the Deben. Busy and quiet places have been identified. Volunteers will be asked to go to particular places and assess against criteria: Noise, Birdsong, etc. If you know of anyone who would be prepared to help with this please contact myself susan.harvey@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or christine.Block@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk giving us your contact details.

Scheme of Delegation for Planning

As a result of Parish Council consultation there have been adjustments to Trigger 3: other applications as follows:

The Head of Planning & Coastal Management- To determine a planning application classified as an “Other Application” other than where an objection has been made raising material planning objections has been replaced with:

where a Town/Parish Council, Statutory Consultee or at least three interested parties have raised material planning objections. When planning apps. come before the committee it is good to see the Parish Councillors coming along to our meetings and speaking for 3 minutes explaining their reasons. People who do come will see how thoroughly applications are discussed, although the decision will not always be what they would like.

The Beach Hut consultation has ended and officers are now looking at the comments, thank you to those who have copied me in with their responses. I fully support your concerns and will represent your views.

- Question Time

None

To re-convene the meeting

35.17 Clerk's Report

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.

Enabling Budget

We have now received the £500 from SCDC Enabling Budget towards the cost of the Bugle. Our thanks go to Cllr Susan Harvey for supporting this initiative.

Closure of the Orwell Bridge

Once again the community was thrown into absolute chaos due to the closure of the Orwell Bridge. I haven't received Patricia's or Susan's reports yet up I'm sure they will be updating us at the meeting.

Adoption of Suffolk Coastal Plan Documents

In accordance with Reg 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 you are advised that SCDC formally adopted two Local Plan documents on 26th January 2017. Copies of the plans are available on the Council's website along with a copy of the Inspector's Report, Adoption Statements and Sustainability Appraisal Reports. www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/local-plans/site-allocations-and-area-specific-policies.

War Memorials Grant Scheme (UK)

The War Memorials Trust is providing grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials in England.

Grants will normally be for up to a maximum of 75% of eligible costs, with a maximum grant of £30,000. The next closing date for applications is the 31st March 2017. www.warmemorials.org.uk.

36.17 To discuss the Playing Field

Cllr Owen reported the Parish Council would need to consult a solicitor to give advice on the legalities of the document which had been sent to them by the Community Council. It was agreed that Cllr Owen should try to find a solicitor to act for the Parish Council. It was agreed that a leaflet drop should be organised to advertise the Parish Meeting to discuss the playing field as the Parish Council needed to demonstrate that they had done everything possible to advertise the meeting to all parishioners. **Action: Cllr Owen**

Cllr Johnson reported that she had approached Ipswich Borough Council regarding the proposed new picnic benches. IBC had advised that the benches should be sited on concrete slabs and had promised a quotation but this had not been received. It was noted that the Rospa Report stated that the benches needed replacing/attention however this matter had not been highlighted as an

immediate issue. The Clerk reported that the cost of recycled plastic benches is approximately £500 each.

Cllr O'brien had previously reported that the Locality Budget would not be available until after the Suffolk County Council elections on the 4th May 2017. **Action: Clerk**

37.17 Renovation of Wooden Benches

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

38.17 To approve the Parish Council's Standing Orders, Asset Register, Risk Assessment and Standard Procedures

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council should minute the acceptance of the Standing Orders Procedures each year.

It was proposed by Cllr Johnsonn seconded Cllr Gardner that the following Standing Orders should be accepted – agreed. **Action: Clerk**

Code of Conduct
Freedom of Information
Asset Register
Grant Policy
Complaints Procedure
Financial Regulations
Internal Audit Procedure
Standing Orders
Information available from Brightwell, Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council under the Model Publication Scheme
Risk Assessment

38.17 Innocence Lane

Councillors discussed the Scoping Document which had been received for Innocence Lane. Cllr Johnson felt that until the Planning Application was received from Suffolk Coastal District Council that the Parish Council could not make a decision as to whether they would object or approve of the application. Following discussion Cllr Brinkle,y who had been appointed at the last Parish Council Meeting as Bucklesham's representative on the group Parish Council's committee organised by Kirton, asked whether the Parish Council were in support of him attending meetings. Cllr Owen proposed, seconded Cllr Gardner that Bucklesham Parish Council supports Cllr Brinkley to attend meeting and report back to the Parish Council – all in favour. **Action: Cllr Brinkley / Clerk**

39.17 Planning

No planning applications had been received however Cllr Johnson reported that an application for erecting a 1.8 metre fence on the boundary of 2 Meadow View Bucklesham was on the Suffolk Coastal District Council website. **Action: Clerk**

40.17 Correspondence

None

41.17 Finance

Payments (to be approved this meeting)

Clerk's Salary & Expenses February 2017 (excluding tax) £200.00

Norse Grass Cutting – December 2016, January 2017 and February 2017 £264.60

Local Council Advisory Service – Yearly Subscription £100.00

Bucklesham Village Hall – Hire of Hall £80.00

Receipts

SCDC Enabling Budget £500.00

Bank Balances

Current Account £1,088.10

Deposit Account £4,509.44

Cllr Bloomfield proposed, seconded Cllr Johnson that the above expenditure should be approved – all in favour.

Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council should minute the appointment of the Internal Auditor each year. It was proposed by Cllr Bloomfield seconded Cllr Johnson that the Internal Auditor Heelis and Lodge should be appointed – agreed. **Action: Clerk**

42.17 General Matters

- a. It was reported that the Plum Hedge was in need of trimming however Cllr Bloomfield stated that the hedge could not be trimmed until November 2017 due to birds nesting.

43.17 Date of next meeting – Friday, 5th May 2017

7.00 pm Annual Parish Meeting

7.30 pm Annual Parish Council Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.12 pm.

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
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