

BUCKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting held at Bucklesham Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 7th September 2017

Present

Cllr Heather Owen

Cllr Rhea Gardner

Cllr Ruth Johnson

Cllr David Brinkley

Cllr Evelyn Bloomfield

Mrs A Buggs Clerk

Cllr Patricia O-brien – Suffolk County Council

Cllr Susan Harvey – Suffolk Coastal District Council

81.17 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Georgina Burgess (illness).

82.17 Declaration of interest

None

83.17 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 29th June 2017 were approved as being a true record with the following amendment.

Page 4 – 79.17 Minutes

Changed to:

- d. A resident reported that one of the houses in Levington Lane... **Action: Clerk / Cllr Heather Owen.**

84.17 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

85.17 To adjourn to receive the reports and questions from:

- Suffolk County Council – Cllr Patricia O'brien

Most of what I write will relate to the summer months.

At Full Council on 20th July SCC adopted its new Strategic Priorities document. This outlines SCC's priorities for the next four years building on the Conservative manifesto from the recent CC elections in May. At its core are three principles – inclusive growth, health care and wellbeing, efficient and effective public services.

Every four years any council is required to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to look at and report on the Allowance Scheme for Councillors. SCC voted to accept the proposals made by the Independent Remunerations Panel, to increase allowances for the Cabinet, Deputy Leader and Leader. The Panel recommended no change to the level of basic allowance for county councillors. The increase for Leader, Deputy and Cabinet has been met by savings and will have no overall effect upon the budget.

I was re-elected as Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 21st July. The meeting focused on road safety, update on Local Policing Review and speed watch schemes. Road safety is a major issue and areas discussed included; urban community speed watch schemes. Questions regarding the Local Policing Review centred on: police recruitment, delivery of the Police & Crime Plan objectives, communication, a most vital area; response to 999/101 calls.

There has been improvement in both GCSE 'O' and 'A' level results.

Suffolk CC Highways have been restructured and as of 4th September telephone 0345 606 6171.

Free school travel has been adjusted and only those attending the nearest school will be able to benefit. Those attending a school that is not the nearest will no longer benefit from free travel. Free travel will remain available for those with individual needs and from low income families.

- Suffolk Coastal District Council – Cllr Susan Harvey

I hope you have had a good summer.

The most important item is the 10week consultation on the Issues and Options for the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Review. All comments need to be in by 30th October. Now is the time to have your say on the future of your area. For once there is some joined up thinking as Suffolk Coastal, Ipswich, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are all at a similar stage and are working together.

East Suffolk Tourism Strategy generates £0.5 billion of economic value and accounts for 13% of the total employment in the 2 Districts.

The Tour of Britain will be coming through Kesgrave, Woodbridge, Melton, Wickham Market before finishing in Aldeburgh on 8th September.

The Beach Hut Review has taken place and this time there have been discussions with the Hut Owners Association. There are 916 existing beach huts in Felixstowe and Sizewell and they are all on a licence system. This is due to be discussed at Cabinet early in September. I have had an input and I am hoping that what is decided will be a much better solution than that offered previously. The consultation has been listened to.

Disabled Facilities Grants. There are to be amendments to the policy which will help these applications to be dealt with more speedily. This will benefit those who really need them.

The Deben Leisure centre has now closed for refurbishment which will take 10 months. There will be a new spacious Gym and a health suite which will feature a steam room, sauna and ice room. During the refurbishments there will be a slight loss of car parking.

Have your say on Dog Controls. Public are being urged to have their say on proposed changes to dog controls and introduce Public Space Orders. To take part in this consultation visit

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/animals/dog-control/public-space-protection-orders Comments should be in by Friday 22 September 2017.

- Question Time

Discussions took place concerning the talk given by John Lefever Regional Head of Development Hastoe Group regarding the Rural Exception Scheme and also the Local Plan Review – Issues and Options Consultation. A copy of the notes of John Lefever’s presentation is appended in the minute book. **Action: Clerk**

To re-convene the meeting

86.17 Community Council Report

No report.

87.17 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.

Planning Training

Jayne Cole LCPAS will be training councillors at Heather’s House at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 30th October 2017.

New Fund Launched to Reduce Litter by Using Innovation

The government has announced a new fund to tackle litter using new technology and innovation. Councillors do have the power to issue fixed penalty notices for dropping litter, graffiti and fly posting. Although very few Councils take up the powers (Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003). This is in part that policing this issue is problematic as is the issuing and collecting fines. This is because if you take up these powers the Council must be prepared to take court action if the fines are not forthcoming. There are also the issues around dog fouling which we find is the most common nuisance reported to us. Should there be a reward system for clean communities as an incentive to tackle litter and encourage people to use bins instead of fines for individuals or a mix of both? Should Councils and their communities have a zero tolerance stance and give greater publicity to the issue using posters, websites and newsletters? There is also a link to the governments response to the recent consultation on penalties for environmental offences including littering. Information for applicants to the Litter Innovation Fund can be found on WRAP’s website.

Silver Sunday – 1st October

Silver Sunday is a national initiative that is described (on their website) as an opportunity to ‘pause and think about older people and celebrate their contribution to society’ with the aim of drawing attention to the problem of loneliness amongst older people. You can find out more at <https://silversunday.org.uk>.

“Help Plan the future of the District”

Local Plan Review – Issues and Options Consultation

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Suffolk Coastal District Council is committed to undertaking a review of its Local Plan as outlined in the adopted Core Strategy. The Core Strategy sets the broad scale and distribution of growth across the district up to 2027.

The Council is now undertaking a Local Plan Review which is to begin with the Issues and Options document which is published for public consultation from Friday 18th August until Monday 30th October 2017 (23.45). The consultation document and other supporting information can be found through this link: <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/help-plan-the-future-of-the-district/>.

Public Space Protection Orders - For Consultation

Letter from Suffolk Coastal District Council:

Dear Consultee,

Statutory Consultation Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Controls in the Suffolk Coastal District

I am writing to advise you that the Council is considering amending the various dog controls currently in force across the Suffolk Coastal District.

Currently, there are several by-laws and an order made under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 which are in force and impose requirements on dog owners including prohibiting dogs from certain areas, requiring owners to clean up after their dogs on most open land, and also requiring dogs to be kept on a lead in certain defined areas.

The Council is proposing to introduce “Public Space Protection Orders” to replace these controls as set out in the detailed consultation documents available for download on the Council’s website at <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/animals/dog-control/publicspace-protection-orders/>

There are some significant changes in some areas, and only minor changes proposed in others, and some of the controls remain the same, so please take the time to read these proposals.

If you wish to comment on these proposed new Public Space Protection Orders, please do so in writing either by emailing environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or in writing to: PSPO Consultation, c/o Environmental Protection, Suffolk Coastal District Council, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton Suffolk IP12 1RT, or by visiting the consultation page on our website.

Your comments should reach us by no later than midnight on Friday 22nd September 2017.

All consultation responses will be given due consideration before any orders are made. The final decision will rest with Suffolk Coastal District Council and will be scheduled for consideration by Cabinet at a meeting after the consultation has closed.

Transport

Bus passengers fall to lowest in a decade.

The number of people using buses in England has fallen to its lowest level in a decade at 4.45 billion passenger journeys in 2016/17.

The Local Government Association (LGA) warned that the decline in bus passenger journeys could lead to increased congestion and poorer air quality in local communities as well as leaving those who rely on the bus network unsupported.

The Department for Transport figures show that overall there were more than 75 million fewer journeys across the country in the year to the end of March 2017 in comparison with the previous year – a decrease of 1.7 per cent.

Buses in England, outside of London, had 1.1 per cent fewer journeys – a fall of almost 49 million – in the same period. Metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas saw a similar drop, with 1.1 per cent and 1.2 per cent fewer journeys respectively.

88.17 To discuss the Playing Field

Cllr Heather Owen reported that councillors had all been sent a copy of a document which had been drafted by James Hall PC's solicitor and the Community Council solicitor Prettys which states that the Parish Council resolves to act as manager of the Playing Field in place of Bucklesham, Foxhall Community Council in accordance with the terms of the Trust. A copy of the document is appended in the minute book. Cllr David Brinkley proposed, seconded Cllr Ruth Johnson that a resolution be passed that the Parish Council sign the document and therefore accepting the terms of the agreement – 4 in favour – 1 abstention. The document was signed by the Chairman Cllr Heather Owen and the Clerk Mrs Angie Buggs. **Action: Cllr Heather Owen / Clerk**

89.17 To discuss the Locality Budget 2017/2018

Cllr Patricia O'Brien reported that the Locality Budget for 2017/2018 for £500.00. The Village Hall has applied for the money to be used for a disabled ramp for the entrance to the village hall.

90.17 Innocence Lane

Cllr David Brinkley reported on the latest developments on the proposed Innocence Lane Development. He reported that the Committee comprising of a number of local Parish Councils are going to formulate a response to the application. **Action: Cllr David Brinkley**

91.17 Planning

Local Plan Review – Issues and Options Consultation

The Clerk reported that the Local Plan Review was in the process of being circulated to councillors. It was agreed that when all councillors had seen the document it should be sent to Cllr David Brinkley for holding. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

77.17 Correspondence

None

92.17 Finance

Payments (to be approved this meeting)

Clerk's Salary & Expenses July 2017 (excluding tax)	£200.00
Clerk's Salary & Expenses August 2017 (excluding tax)	£200.00
Norse Grass Cutting	£82.20
Came & Co – Insurance	£364.62
Local Council Public Advisory Service – Planning Training	£150.00

Receipts

None

Bank Balances

Current Account	£2,038.16
Deposit Account	£4,510.03

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

93.17 General Matters

- a. Cllr Ruth Johnson reported that she was concerned that an unnamed resident had wanted to donate money to the Bucklesham Drama Group but required it to be paid to a charity. The Community Council had received the money on behalf of the Drama Group and then transferred it to the Drama Group. Cllr Johnson believed that the Community Council should not receive money on behalf of village organisations. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Jayne Cole at Local Council Public Advisory Service asking for advice. **Action: Clerk**
- b. A member of the public had reported to a Parish Councillor that one of the properties in The Blundells development had a large number of people living in a one bedroom bungalow and that a van was parked on the drive of the property and a couple were living in the van. **Action: Clerk**
- c. Cllr Evelyn Bloomfield reported that the top of Levington Lane was virtually inaccessible to walkers due to undergrowth. **Action: Clerk**
- d. Cllr Heather Owen reported that the road sign in St Mary's Park was missing. The Clerk agreed to report this to Suffolk County Council Highways Department. **Action: Clerk**
- e. Cllr Heather Owen reported that unfortunately the Community been unhappy that there was not enough room in the Bugle for all submissions to be included. It was agreed that the Community Council be asked to print off a flyer and this would be distributed with the Bugle. **Action: Cllr Ruth Johnson.**

94.17 Date of next meeting – Thursday, 2nd November 2017 Planning Training – Thursday, 30th November 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggsf
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