

## BUCKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes

Parish Council Meeting held at Bucklesham Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019

#### Present

Cllr Ruth Johnson (Chair)  
Cllr Rhea Gardener  
Cllr Evelyn Bloomfield  
Cllr Heather Owen  
Cllr David Brinkley  
Mrs A Buggs Clerk  
3 members of the public  
Cllr Patricia O'brien – Suffolk County Council

#### **88.19 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Georgina Burgess, Cllr Mellisa Allen – East Suffolk Council and Cllr Richard Kerry – East Suffolk Council.

#### **89.19 Declaration of interest**

Cllr Evelyn Bloomfield declared an interest in Item 18 of the agenda.

#### **90.19 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were approved as being a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **91.19 Matters arising from the minutes**

Page 5 70.19 General Matters – Plum Hedge

It was reported that plum hedge had still not been cut back. **Action: Clerk**

#### Pavement Uplift - Levington Lane Bucklesham

It was reported that the pavement is extremely dangerous and a person had fell over due to the height of the uplift. It was agreed that although Suffolk County Council Highways had said they would not repair it now and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact them again reporting the incident. **Action: Clerk**

#### **The meeting was adjourned to receive reports from:**

Cllr Patricia O'brien – Suffolk County Council

On 4th October I chaired the Police & Crime Panel that provided an update on the financial position, how the precepts are used; The Annual Report that set out a review of activities undertaken in 2018-19; Objective 2 “Caring about victims” -steps to improve victim satisfaction; Roads policing – initiatives to improve road safety; Rules of Procedure relating to a draft of panel arrangements. On

November 5th I will be having an informal meeting with Tim Passmore, Police & Crime Commissioner.

I was part of a very interesting and informative meeting of town, parish, district and county councillors with First Buses on 29th October to discuss the changes and bus cuts that have come into effect. - Most concerning was that First had not informed parishes, towns and councillors of their changes. - The meeting certainly alerted to our need to be told and it was agreed that in future consultation was most important and that regular meetings would take place. The meeting concluded in a far more contented atmosphere.

Changes to Cabinet have taken place and created closer links between key policy areas.

In the reshuffle:

- Councillor Mary Evans remains as Deputy Leader and moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills.
- Councillor Gordon Jones moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.
- Councillor Andrew Reid joins the Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs.  
Councillor Nick Gowrley takes on additional responsibility for the County Council's property portfolio and assets, in addition to his responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Housing and Enterprise.
- Councillor Richard Rout takes on responsibility for the council's policy on Sizewell C, in addition and linked to his role as Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection.

All other Cabinet positions remain the same.

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is working with 16 and 17-year-old students to encourage young people to stay safe on Suffolk's roads.

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is a partnership between Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Constabulary, Highways England, and the East of England Ambulance Service.

The Road Safety Team's Braking Point project will be visiting 20 schools across Suffolk to deliver the Braking Point play. The play, delivered by Performance in Education, is designed to encourage the safe behaviours of both drivers and passengers.

Follow-up sessions in schools, which will continue to run into 2020. These sessions are designed to change student behaviour by normalising sensible decision making on the highway.

Find out more information about Braking Point on the Suffolk Roadsafe website.

The DfT announced funding for Highway Improvements from the Housing Infrastructure Fund and £19.75m has been allocated for improvements to the A12 at Brightwell

- A12 Access Junction
- West Ipswich Road junction improvements
- Adastral Park Roundabout improvements
- Spine and Branch Road including associated cut and fill
- Utility Network Extension
- A12/A14 Roundabout improvements

- Foxhall Roundabout improvements
- Martlesham Roundabout improvements
- Barrack Square Improvements

Cllr Richard Kerry – District Councillor / Cllr Mellisa Allen – District Councillor

If you have any referrals or objections to any planning applications – Melissa sits on the Planning Committee South so please contact her direct by phone or email and if you have any concerns for homeless or housing, Richard is our Cabinet member for Housing, so please contact him.

### **Community Partnership Meeting**

The first meeting is at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club on the 7th November 17:30 for 17:45 start. This is your meeting come and engage with the East Suffolk Team.

### **ECB Funding**

Each Councillor has a funding pot of £7500.00 the help with projects with each ward, so far, we have helped – Bucklesham with some Goal Posts and Nacton with a Defibrillator. Can we help you with a Community Project?

### **Flood barriers tested ahead of winter weather**

A training exercise was held on 25 September to test the deployment of a section of temporary flood barriers in Lowestoft in readiness for the winter season.

The temporary barriers and those operating the barriers are tested annually to ensure that East Suffolk Council can provide the best possible response to the threat of a North Sea tidal surge.

The 1400m of fully removable barriers were acquired in 2016 using over £400,000 of funding secured by the former Waveney District Council from the Regional Flood and Coast Committee. The temporary scheme is designed to help reduce the risk of tidal flooding to people, homes and infrastructure whilst the permanent flood protection scheme progresses.

### **Skills insight for local young people**

Young people from across East Suffolk have been learning more about potential careers through a series of fun skills initiative delivered by East Suffolk Council and local organisations.

Children from local primary schools (Years 5 and 6) along with secondary school and Sixth Form students took part in three separate programmes which combined hands-on activities with innovative learning style; Eyes On, Game Anglia and the Cefas Masterclass.

East Suffolk Council, together with East Coast Collage, Game Anglia and Cefas are committed to providing young people with opportunities to learn and practice new skills, in order to help develop a vibrant post-16 skills system which is closely aligned to the current and future economy.

### **Villages and Council come together to help provide affordable homes**

East Suffolk Council is delighted to be providing funding of nearly half a million pounds to help build new affordable homes in a village where people are finding it hard to get on the housing ladder.

In December 2016, the former Suffolk Coastal District Council was awarded an allocation of £1,500,000 through the then Department of Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Community Housing Fund (CHF), an initiative aimed to help councils deliver additional affordable housing in communities with high levels of second homeownership.

Housing provision forms a key part of the East Suffolk Business Plan's strategic ambitions and, working in partnership with the Peninsula Village of Bawdsey as a key opportunity to use the grant.

A sum of £455,125 was approved and this will deliver four affordable homes for rent at the School Lane site, Bawdsey, meeting an identified need in the parish and wider Deben Peninsula where there are limited development opportunities for new affordable housing.

### **Views sought on coastal management**

East Suffolk Council is considering making a change to the Shoreline Management Plan policy to Sudbourne Beach, which stretches between Martello Tower, Slaughden and the Lantern Marshes. Here a narrow shingle ridge separating the River Ore from the open sea is at potential risk of breaching, which could substantially impact not only the River Ore, but also the wider Alde and Ore Estuary.

Therefore, a public consultation titled 'Developing a Resilience Approach at Slaughden' has been launched by Coastal Partnership East of behalf of the council, to determine how best to manage it going forward. The consultation runs until 30 November with drop-in sessions being held at Aldeburgh Community and Sports Centre, Kings Field, IP15 5HY on Friday 18 October 3 - 7pm and Saturday 19 October 10am – 1pm. People can also have their say by filling out a short questionnaire online: [www.coasteast.org.uk/our-work/current-consultations/](http://www.coasteast.org.uk/our-work/current-consultations/)

### **Get running for charity**

Following the success of the first ever Honour Run event held last year, East Suffolk Council and the Suffolk British Legion are putting on the event once again on 20 October.

The run is taking place in Rendlesham Forest which was established after the First World War when Britani had an increasing demand for timber.

There are two options available; the 5km run, which is open to anyone who wants to walk, jog or run, and the 10km run, which is open to anyone who wants to jog or run. Both options are off road and there will be goodie bags and treats for the runners.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us run the event on the day. For more information, email [activecommunities.scdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:activecommunities.scdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) or call 01394 444652.

### **Funding boost for much-loved local village hall**

Cllr James Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment and local ward member for Deben, donated £500 from his Enabling Communities Budget to Boyton Parish Council to help them carry out much-needed electrical work to the local village hall.

East Suffolk Council's Enabling Communities Budgets support activities delivered by community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations. A total of £412,500 has been allocated for 2019/20 from the New Homes Bonus, funding generated through new houses built in the district.

Distributed equally amongst each of the Council's 55 members, each ward councillor has a £7,500 Enabling Community Budget to spend on community projects or to develop new projects which tackle community needs in their area.

Previous projects which have benefitted from Enabling Community Budget funding include play areas, village hall refurbishments and equipment, community events, projects supporting people with disabilities and the purchase of defibrillators.

Community groups wishing to apply for Enabling Community Budget funding should contact their district councillor or go to [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/enabling-communities-budgets](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/enabling-communities-budgets)

### **Helping others to become 'plastic clever'**

Volunteers are being asked to step forward to help their local community take a smart approach to plastic waste by joining a network of Plastic Action Champions.

The scheme aims to encourage more people to learn about their environmental impact, take action to reduce it and spread the word on environmental issues.

The role of a Champion includes volunteering in their local community for a minimum of 20 hours annually. This can include reaching out to local community groups and businesses, exhibiting at local events, blogging about relevant topics, and organising litter picks and survey.

Four new training sessions for new Plastic Action Champions will be provided by the Greenprint Forum and Jason Alexander from Rubbish Walks/Wildlife Gadget Man from 14 October:

East Suffolk House	Riverside
Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 6-9 pm	Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October 4.30 – 7 pm
Monday, 28 <sup>th</sup> October 6-9 pm	Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> October 4.30 – 7 pm

Ongoing training, a comprehensive Plastic Action Handbook, support and travel expenses will be provided through the scheme.

People who want to volunteer as a Plastic Action Champion, should email [greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) or register online at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/plastic-action-champions-and-volunteering](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/plastic-action-champions-and-volunteering)

The scheme is part of the Greenprint Forum's ongoing Plastic Action campaign which is part funded by the East Suffolk Partnership and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

### Question Time

- a. Sally Voelcker gave the Parish Council information regarding a life share scheme that would be discussed at Item 13. Both Sally and Tim expressed an interest in such a scheme and implored the Parish Council to invite a speaker to share their ideas on how the scheme could work. Cllr Ruth Johnson said that the proposal would be discussed at tonight's meeting and that action would be taken at the January 2020 meeting. **Action: Cllr Ruth Johnson / Clerk**

- b. Tim Voelcker expressed his disappointment that Manor Oak Homes were not in attendance at the meeting as he understood that they would be at tonight's meeting. Cllr Ruth Johnson said that they Manor Oak Homes had not agreed to attend and that the Parish Council had received no further information re the proposed application.

### **The meeting was reconvened**

#### **92.19 Planning**

Cllr Ruth Johnson said that she felt by circulating the online planning applications, that the process for dealing with planning applications was working better.

DC/19/3960/FUL 15 St Mary's Park Bucklesham – Erection of boundary fence to replace over-height newly erected fence – application in the process of being discussed by the Parish Council.

#### **93.19 Report by the Community Council**

Cllr Ruth Johnson reported that the Community Council had received £2,000 from the Suffolk Sports Fund, £1,000 Enabling Communities Budget (£500 Cllr Richard Kerry, £250 Cllr Melissa Allen, £250, Cllr Ed Thompson) and £500 from Cllr Patricia O'Brien Locality Budget which has been spent on new goals for the playing field. The Community Council have supported the Knit & Natter Group by £600 to hire the Village Hall for the year. The Community Council have also supported the Village Hall with their fuel bill by £200.

#### **94.19 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.

#### Technical Consultation on Local Government Finance

The government is not proposing to extend council tax referendum principles to local councils in 2020/2021.

#### **Council Tax Support Consultation**

Letter from East Suffolk Council:

As a local stakeholder I would like to invite you to take part in a consultation on a proposed change to East Suffolk Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The plans aim to provide greater certainty to people claiming Universal Credit.

Our current scheme means working-age people who access support because of a low income can claim up to 91.5% off their Council Tax, depending on their individual circumstances. However, as people claiming Universal Credit have an income that can rise and fall each month based on their latest earnings from employment, under the existing scheme the amount of Council Tax people are expected to pay can also regularly rise and fall.

To provide people with more certainty over their Council Tax bills, we are proposing that people claiming Universal Credit will not see a change in their Council Tax unless their weekly income changes by more than £15, or £65 in a month.

The proposed change would not apply to people who have reached state pension age or are not on Universal Credit as other provisions achieve similar outcomes.

The new approach would mean that small changes in income would not trigger a reassessment of Council Tax support, nor a revised Council Tax bill, so Universal Credit claimants know how much their Council Tax will be and can more easily manage their finances.

While the change is expected to help the vast majority of claimants, the proposals also make provision for people who may be disadvantaged by a single change by giving East Suffolk Council the flexibility to not apply the new £15 tolerance rule on a case-by-case basis.

For example, if a Universal Credit claimant has a single change in the year where their income falls by less than £15 a week, their Council Tax support will remain the same despite their reduction in earnings. In such cases, the person's Council Tax support could be reassessed at the end of the year, based on their actual level of income.

Further, for Universal Credit customers, East Suffolk Council intends to change when it assesses entitlement to Council Tax support from DWP notification that a Universal Credit claim has been made to when DWP notifies the actual award. The effect of this is to avoid correcting awards, whilst ensuring they are correct first time, which is seen as beneficial for customers and does not have any financial impact.

If you'd like to comment on these proposals, please take part in our consultation which runs until 3 November 2019. It is accessible at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/counciltaxreductionscheme](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/counciltaxreductionscheme) or in paper copy at the Marina Centre in Lowestoft and Woodbridge Library.

Results from the consultation will be taken into account before the final proposal is put forward for consideration by Councillors in early 2020. If agreed, the change would come into effect from April next year.

#### SALC AGM

The SALC AGM will be held on Tuesday 26 November 2019 at Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmwell, IP30 9UH. The evening will commence with registration from 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. The annual report, agenda and minutes of last year's AGM will be circulated to the clerk next week.

To book your place, please follow this link to Eventbrite (a separate booking is needed per delegate) The password to book is: *AGM2019*.

#### VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

The VE Day 75 weekend of 8th - 10th May 2020, will be an international celebration of peace – a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions at home and abroad who played such a vital part in achieving it. This includes the Armed Forces personnel from many countries who gave their lives or were physically and mentally injured; the hard-working women and men who kept the factories, mines, shipyards and farms operating throughout the years of turmoil; the ARP wardens, police officers, doctors, nurses, firemen, local defence volunteers and many others safeguarded the home front.

SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity - which has been supporting service personnel, veterans and their families since 1885 - is the charity partner for this series of VE Day 75 commemorative events.

#### **95.19 Speeding Signs**

The Clerk reported that the cost of purchasing a vehicle activated sign is £3690.00 plus £500 per mounting post unless posts for fixing the sign already exist at the identified locations. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Suffolk County Council Highways regarding suitable locations. Cllr Ruth Johnson proposed, seconded Cllr David Brinkley the some of the money from the CIL payments be used to purchase moveable camera – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

#### **96.19 Parish Council Meeting Dates 2020**

The Parish Council agreed the meeting dates for 2020 as follows:

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Annual Parish Council Meeting / Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

#### **97.19 CIL Receipts**

The Clerk reported that £8,501.10 had been received in respect of CIL receipts and that it is anticipated that further payments will be made to the Parish Council in 2020/2021.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council agreed to spend some of the CIL receipts on a VAS sign (see Minute 95.19). Discussions took place concerning the use of the remainder of the CIL receipts. Cllr Heather Owen the Parish Council purchase a new bus shelter to replace the existing shelter. It was agreed that an estimate of costs should be sort. **Action: Clerk**

Discussions took place regarding the possible siting of changing/toilet facilities on the playing field. Councillors agreed that the cost of installing toilets, connecting water, sewage and electricity plus running costs would be prohibitive due to the small number of residents in Bucklesham.

#### **98.19 To discuss setting up a lift share scheme for the village**

Cllr Ruth Johnson stated that she had received information regarding a lift share scheme from Sally Voelcker. Sally had indicated that the scheme worked well in other villages/areas and she could arrange for a speaker from another village to discuss this with the Parish Council. Parish Councillors expressed concern about the problem of private individuals offering lifts and how this would affect their insurance. Cllr Ruth Johnson stated that the Parish Council would not organise such a scheme but saw it as something a group of local people could organise. Following discussion, it was agreed that a article should be placed in the next edition of the Bugle asking for villagers to express an interest in a lift share scheme. It was agreed that this item should be placed on the next Parish Council meeting agenda for further discussions. **Action: Cllr R Johnson / Clerk**

#### **99.19 Budget 2020/2021**



The Clerk presented the Budget 2020/2021 which had previously been circulated. It was agreed that this item should be deferred until the January 2020 meeting. **Action: Clerk**

#### **100.19 To discuss Sizewell C**

No further discussions.

#### **101.19 To discuss the playing field and the purchase of a strimmer**

Cllr Ruth Johnson reported that a group of villagers had agreed to volunteer to do some work on the hedge which goes around the playing field. Cllr Ruth Johnson said that the Parish Council would need to cover some costs regarding hire of equipment such as diggers etc.

Cllr Ruth Johnson reported that the football subs are more than covering the cost of the grass cutting.

Cllr Ruth Johnson said that David Riddleston had identified a strimmer to help him maintain the playing field areas where the grass cutting machine cannot cut. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to David asking whether the strimmer he had identified would meet his needs. **Action: Clerk**

#### **102.19 Bucklesham School Report**

No report. Cllr Ruth Johnson reported that she had been in touch with the Headteacher and invited her to come to the meeting.

#### **103.19 Manor Oak Homes – any developments or feedback from the open event which was held in the village**

Nothing to report.

#### **104.19 Finance**

##### Receipts

CIL Receipts	£8,501.10
Football Receipts – Under 15s	£270.00
Football Receipts – Boyleyn	£125.00

##### Payments (to be approved this meeting)

Clerk's Salary September 2019	£200.00
Clerk's Salary & Expenses October 2019	£246.24
Norse Commercial Grass Cutting	£176.40
OneSuffolk Web Hosting	£60.00
Print4You	£142.00
HMRC Tax	£150.00
Royal British Legion Wreath	£17.00

##### Bank Balances

Current Account	£16,144.80
Deposit Account	£4,513.37

Cllr Evelyn Bloomfield proposed, seconded Cllr Ruth Johnson seconded that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

**105.19 General Matters**

- a. The Clerk reported that she had received a request from Trimley St Mary Parish Council asking whether Bucklesham would be prepared to contribute to the cost of a PCSO for themselves and neighbourhood parishes. It was agreed to place this item on the January 2020 agenda. **Action: Clerk**

**106.19 Date of next meeting**

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.**

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

Angie Buggs  
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