

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Bruisyard Parish held on Monday 12 May 2014 at 7pm in the Bruisyard Village Hall**

Present: John Marten, Peter Robinson, John McKee, James Ingmire, Thelma Barham, Stephen Stow, Anne Smith, The Clerk

### **1. Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Chairman welcomed everybody and thanked all for coming. The Parish Council has received only three planning applications in the past year so fairly quiet. The system of how to report the potholes has been changed so from now on it will take a bit longer. October storm has brought down trees down at Low Road. Power was off for a few days at some houses in the village.

- a) Council members: John Marten, Peter Robinson, John McKee, Anne Smith, Stephen Stow, Teresa Barham and James Ingmire
- b) Charity Donations: the council has ceased giving charity donations.
- c) Precept for 2014: £2500 at the same level as in 2013
- d) Rural coffee caravan: has been in the village a couple of times, will also be back later in the year. Information about RCC will be on the notice board and village newsletter.
- e) Wine tasting: takes place regularly
- f) Play area: funding application have been submitted to Awards for All and Suffolk Coastal District Council. As soon as the funding is granted and received we will go ahead with the build of the play ground.

### **2. Village Hall Report, given by John McKee, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee**

Village Hall has been busy, path has been done, 280 functions took place in the last year which is an increase of 44 on the year before. A lot of advanced bookings for the winter have been received. In the past year the Village hall has raised around £3000 for the charities. There have been occasions when events are on in the village hall but no one from the village is attending which is disappointing. Village hall committee always looks for and welcomes helpers for the Village Hall.

### **3. Bruisyard Social Amenities Committee, report given by John McKee**

- a) **Report and Accounts:** The committee co operates with PCC. Harvest supper and Christmas party have been booked in. This Sunday film afternoon of 40-50s films about England is taking place. £3405.00 in the bank. £2000.00 of this money will go towards play area.
- b) **Elections:** Peter Robinson proposed that the committee carries on with its current members. Anne Smith seconded the proposal. All agreed unanimously.

### **4. Bruisyard Young People, report given by John Marten, Chairman**

The club has now been running for 4 years and currently meets once a month. The membership is down to 9 members. Hopefully new play area will bring new people in. Disco raised money, paint balling went well as well.

### **5. Police Report, PCSO Kevin Mann delivered the following report**

From May 2013 to May 2014 there has been only one recorded crime. Meeting that will bring together police with residents from Framingham and nearby parishes will take place on Wednesday 9 July.

### **6. District and County Councillors' Report**

Report by Councillor Stephen Burroughes on behalf of Suffolk Coastal District Council:

- **DISTRICT MOVING FORWARD WITH BOUNDARY CHANGES**

Suffolk Coastal has submitted its proposals for the new warding arrangements and the reduction of Councillors from 55 to 42 to the Boundary Commission for its approval in readiness for the 2015 elections. A review had to take place in order to equalise the amount of ‘electors’ per District Council ‘Ward’ and Suffolk Coastal have put in their suggestions for the Boundary Commission to study. Reducing the number of councillors will save money and more fully engage councillors in the day to day running of the council.

- **DISTRICT COMMITTED TO ZERO INCREASE ON COUNCIL TAX**

Suffolk Coastal remains committed to no increase in its share of the council tax. As part of its continual drive for economies of scale and to deliver first class services without putting extra cost on local council tax payers, SCDC has agreed to a ‘zero’ increase in its setting of the council tax for 2014/15.

- **SUFFOLK COASTAL MAY MOVE TO NEW HQ**

A move to new offices is being considered by Suffolk Coastal Councillors. The current HQ in Melton are becoming costly to run, are not particularly accessible and not ‘fit for purpose’. Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet are looking at options to see if a move to new premises is possible and how to make it happen without putting any cost onto the council tax payer.

- **NEW LOCAL ENABLING BUDGET FOR COASTAL AREA**

A new community enabling budget is being introduced across Suffolk Coastal District to help promote the core aims of the council, i.e., protecting the environment, promoting healthier lives, and increasing physical involvement of young people. It is seen as a way to significantly help promote active community involvement and applications for funding can be made to your District Councillor setting out the nature of the scheme, how it will be of benefit to your community, and how it will be delivered sustainably.

The County Council already operates a successful ‘Locality’ Scheme, which is vital in the Council’s objective of supporting communities financially.

Report by Councillor Stephen Burroughes (member of Framlingham division) on behalf of Suffolk County Council:

- **SCC DELIVERS ON COUNCIL TAX FREEZE PLEDGE**

SCC’s portion of council tax will be frozen at its 2010/11 level for the fourth year in a row, after the council voted through its budget proposals for 2014/15 in February this year. The council will be saving £38.6million over the next year to meet a budget gap caused by on-going reductions in government grant and increased demand for services. This is the first part of plans to save £156million over four years. Despite the tough financial climate, the council will be pushing ahead with important projects, such as ‘Raising the Bar (driving up attainment levels in education), the roll-out of super-fast broadband across the whole of Suffolk, investing in apprenticeships, and supporting the development of 10 new, state-of-the-art care homes for older people. At the same time, the road maintenance budget – used for fixing potholes - has been protected from cuts. With plans to freeze council tax each year up to 2017, this will mean seven years with no increase.

- **SCC SHORTLISTED FOR MOST IMPROVED COUNCIL AWARD**

The county council has made it through to the final shortlist in the Most Improved Council category for the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards. In being shortlisted – for the second year in a row - we have been recognised for being at the cutting edge of the national broadband project, in the vanguard of moves to share office accommodation with other public sector organisations, helping secure the City Deal for Greater Ipswich, as well as managing the multi-million-pound energy from waste project towards its completion. The other councils on the shortlist are all from eastern England – Norwich City Council, Luton Borough Council and Thurrock Council. Overall, 640 entries were submitted for 19 different awards this year. Winners will be announced on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

- **RAISING THE BAR IN EDUCATION**

A report which produced a series of recommendations aimed at driving up educational standards in Suffolk was endorsed by the county council in July last year. The report was produced by the RSA, under the auspices of the county council’s ‘Raising the Bar’ initiative. Raising the Bar was launched last year, as a major project to improve attainment levels and build a stronger aspirational culture around education in Suffolk. The RSA’s report, ‘No School is an Island’, contained 20 recommendations. Among these was the idea that small rural schools with fewer than 100 pupils should enter a federation with others to maximise resources. Other suggestions included: for Suffolk to form a partnership with a London Borough with a record of improvement in educational standards, to learn from the huge progress they have made; for every school to establish a Parents’ Council to ensure voices are heard, and also for all Suffolk schools to join together to form a new county-wide, school-led Suffolk Partnership for Excellence in Learning.

- **GCSE RESULTS MOVE SUFFOLK UP FIVE PLACES IN LEAGUE TABLE**

December’s publication of the national league tables for schools, based on the most recent GCSE results, saw Suffolk move up to 137<sup>th</sup> out of 151 local authority areas. This is a five-place improvement on last year. It also means Suffolk is climbing nearer to the national average. 54.6% of Suffolk pupils gained five or more GCSEs graded between A\* to C, putting Suffolk 6.4% off the national average of 61%. This compares with the previous year’s results, when Suffolk was 8.5% off the national average of 59%. As Lisa Chambers, SCC’s cabinet member for education said: “The results are a reflection of the hard work put in by young people and all those individuals in the Suffolk education system who have been relentless in pursuit of improved standards in the county. I do however recognise that there is still work to be done to get Suffolk further up the league tables and performing above the national average. Crucially, the pace of improvement needs to increase. It’s what our young people deserve from their education and it’s what we are all determined to achieve.”

- **GREATER IPSWICH CITY DEAL SIGNED**

Local councils and businesses have signed the deal with the Government which will bring in £millions of new investment for the local economy. The Greater Ipswich City Deal will see thousands of people supported into work and millions invested in Ipswich and the surrounding area. Suffolk County Council have worked closely with the borough council and local businesses to develop our local deal, which will aim to make Suffolk more prosperous by: supporting 3,500 young people into work in the greater Ipswich area; creating and piloting a Youth Job Centre; increasing local private and public investment in skills by at least £10 million; creating 5,000 new apprenticeships by 2019; creating 3,000 additional high-value jobs and 400 new businesses across Suffolk and Norfolk; developing a new approach to skills, led by employers, and a highly-skilled local workforce. SCC Leader, Mark Bee, said: “The effects of this City Deal won’t just be felt in Ipswich. The entire county stands to benefit

because of the investment and improvements that will be made as a result. This is a significant moment for the future prosperity of Suffolk.”

- **SOR IN BURY – CABINET GIVE THEIR SUPPORT TO CHANGE TO TWO-TIER EDUCATION**

In February this year, SCC’s cabinet gave their support to the proposed changes to schools in the Bury St Edmunds area, following an extensive public consultation which showed support for a move to two-tier education. At the cabinet meeting, the cabinet agreed to press ahead with the changes. However, the decision was challenged by the Labour councillors, so will be subject to a review by the council’s scrutiny committee this month. Pending the outcome of that scrutiny process, the decision is on hold. The cabinet debate followed a public consultation, in which 54% of respondents to a questionnaire said they agreed with the move to two-tier education in Bury St Edmunds; 34% disagreed. Notices were published immediately following the cabinet’s decision and before the call-in was submitted, so if the scrutiny committee endorse the cabinet’s decision, the process will go ahead as per the original timetable. If the decision is instead referred back to cabinet, then they would have to re-consider their decision at a future meeting, and the overall schedule would then be revised accordingly. However, if this happens, and the cabinet then decide still to press ahead, it is hoped that the changes could still be made in time for completion in September 2016.

- **GOVERNMENT CONFIRM FUNDING FOR A14 AND DROP PLANS FOR A TOLL**

In June, the government confirmed that funding will be available to upgrade the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon. The work to upgrade the A14 will go ahead at a cost estimated at being close to £1.5billion. It was originally proposed that this would be funded in part by local authority contributions, together with tolling of the road when completed. However, following a concerted campaign by Suffolk businesses, residents, media, councillors and MPs, the plans for tolling were dropped. The improvements planned for the A14 are much-needed, and will be a shot in the arm to the Suffolk economy, particularly with regard to the ports and the throughput of freight. SCC’s cabinet agreed to commit around £1million to the project over a 25-year period.

- **SCC CABINET AGREES INVESTMENT IN NEW APPRENTICESHIPS ACROSS SUFFOLK**

SCC’s Cabinet endorsed the Greater Ipswich City Deal in early December. At the same meeting, they gave the go-ahead to the investment of £1.5million to establish a local Apprenticeship service for Suffolk.

SCC leader Mark Bee signed the Greater Ipswich City Deal at the end of October, along with the leaders of other local councils, the Anglian LEP and the government. The deal will bring in investment to cut youth unemployment, develop local skills and work with businesses to help them create new jobs. In December, as well as endorsing this deal, the Cabinet agreed the new investment in apprenticeships – a three-year plan to increase apprenticeships across Suffolk. The plan involves three key programmes of activity: Making apprenticeships more accessible to employers, particularly to small and medium-sized businesses; raising the profile of apprenticeships in schools and supporting young people to participate; and finally, community-based marketing and communications to raise awareness of the benefits of apprenticeships.

- **SUFFOLK AND NORFOLK SIGN UP TO CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIP**

In November 2013, SCC Leader, Mark Bee met up with his counterpart in Norfolk, George Nobbs, on the border of Norfolk and Suffolk, to sign an agreement committing the two counties to working more closely together.

In signing the ‘Memorandum of Understanding’, the two leaders announced an immediate pledge to simplify and improve health and social care for people living near the county boundary. While both county councils will remain as independent sovereign bodies, they will now work together to strengthen existing joint-working arrangements and explore areas where the county councils can join forces, cut duplication and so save money for the tax payers of East Anglia whilst protecting front-line services. Areas where closer co-operation will be explored include: Collaborative working to maximise the benefits of the Norwich and Ipswich City Deal proposals; sharing the benefits of the latest information technology, drawing upon initiatives under development in Norfolk; joining up the commissioning of Mental Health services. Norfolk and Suffolk have one Mental Health Trust and so it makes sense for the councils to commission services in collaboration.

- **TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY IN BURY ST EDMUNDS MARKS FIRST YEAR OF CARE-HOME PARTNERSHIP**

In December, the first anniversary of the partnership between Suffolk County Council and Care UK - which is building state-of-the-art care homes across the county - was marked with a topping-out ceremony.

Yesterday, representatives from SCC, Care UK, and its development partner on the project Castleoak, placed a fir tree on the roof of the under-construction new Davers Court care home in Bury St Edmunds. This new care home and wellbeing centre, at the site of the former Davers Court in Shakers Lane, is part of a £60million three-year plan for 10 similar new developments. In December last year Care UK began operating SCC’s 16 care homes and eight wellbeing centres. One year on, construction of seven of the 10 new developments is under way as part of the phased modernisation programme.

- **EXTRA BROADBAND FUNDING CONFIRMED AS SUFFOLK’S BROADBAND ROLL-OUT REACHES 13,000 PROPERTIES**

Suffolk is being given an extra £5million from the government to help make high-speed fibre broadband available to the hardest-to-reach communities. The news comes as Suffolk’s Better Broadband programme passes the 13,000 property mark. Last month’s announcement about new funding means that the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme, currently working to make superfast speeds (24 megabits per second (mbps) or more) available to 85% of the county, can start working towards a higher coverage target of up to 95%. At present, all properties in Suffolk have been promised speeds of at least 2 mbps by the end of 2015. In January 2014, SCC announced that it was inviting potential suppliers to discuss how they could deliver the additional work. A ‘mini-competition’ - separate to the current Better Broadband for Suffolk contract with BT – is now underway to identify a suitable supplier. The aim will be to complete the tendering process by the summer of 2014, and for works to start by the end of 2014 - in parallel with the on-going Better Broadband for Suffolk programme. Every three months between now and the end of the project, a further 10,000 properties should receive access to broadband.

- **A47 TALKS IN LOWESTOFT**

Senior politicians met in Lowestoft at the beginning of January to start a campaign for a new river crossing in the town. Mark Bee, leader of SCC, joined up with Colin Law, leader of Waveney District Council, Graham Newman, SCC’s cabinet member for roads and transport, and Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, to discuss plans for the A47 to be extended all the way into Lowestoft. The county council took the decision, last month, to commission a feasibility study into building a third river crossing over Lake Lothing. The A47 is in the running to receive funding over the next five years. It is believed that by linking the A47 to Lowestoft as a trunk

road, the funding could help meet the costs of a new river crossing, as well as attracting even greater benefits for the town.

**7. Questions from the floor:**

Village sign needs tending to. Anne Smith will take care of it in the summer.

A question was asked as to which charities benefit from all the funds raised at Village Hall functions. Those charities are: East Anglia Air Ambulance, Big Action, Rural Coffee Caravan and Bruisyard Church.

There being no further questions from the floor the Chairman announced the meeting closed at 19.37.