

Minutes of the Bruisyard Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2013 at 7pm in the Bruisyard Village Hall

Apologies for absence: James Ingmire

1. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Chairman welcomed everybody and thanked all for coming. Chairman reported that following the upheaval of the year before things have quietened down and the village is now back to normal.

- a) Council members: Peter Robinson, John Marten, John McKee, Anne Smith, Jeremy Holland-Howes, Teresa Barham and James Ingmire
- b) Charity Donations: the council has ceased giving charity donations.
- c) Precept for 2013: £2500

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

Village Hall has been busy, 236 functions in the village hall in the last 12 months. Sometimes a few functions a day, including Pilates and tea & biscuits get meetings. 69 bookings from outside the village. Some functions have the Village Hall for free but leave too much mess and damage. This needs to be addressed. At the time of the meeting there was £7862.86 in the Village Hall account. On the list of things to do for the Village Hall in 2013-2014 the committee is looking to tarmac the path to the Village Hall, put solar panels on the roof. Lights in the car park have been installed.

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

- a) **Report and Accounts:** £2800.00 in the bank. The Committee assists in organising events in the village. The committee also assist the church with fundraising.
- 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, Vice-Chairman

The club is running fortnightly meetings. Things are going very well. The club currently has 10 members. There is also a possibility of starting club for 4 to 8 years olds.

5. Police Report, PCSO Christian Hassler delivered the following report

From May 2012 to May 2013 there have been 4 reported crimes: 2 thefts, 1 interference with a motor vehicle and 1 fraud by false representation. There will be two new PCSO officers joining the team soon. One of the will be a dedicated officer to Bruisyard.

6. District and County Councillors' Report

Report by Councillors Ray Herring and Phillip Dunnett from Suffolk County Council

We hope you will find this report informative and, if you have any questions, on the matters covered, or any other matters, please do not hesitate to raise them.

We have set out below for you some of the important decisions taken by the Council throughout 2012/13, together with ongoing initiatives.

In August 2012 a new **contract was signed**, extending the highly successful partnership between **Suffolk Coastal Services Limited and Suffolk Coastal District Council** for the provision of key local value for money services to residents across the District. Since it was set up in August 2004, SCS Limited has played a large part in Suffolk Coastal's success in delivering over £10m of savings over the last decade.

September 2012 saw the first meeting of a **new Forum**, supported by the Council, run for and by the **District's disabled people**. The Forum aims to give them a better voice in how local services are provided. The Forum was launched on 20 September 2012. The Council is fully supportive of the Forum and sees it as a way of giving disabled people a new way to come together and address the issues affecting their daily lives.

A new online guide was produced in December 2012, to offer guidance to voluntary and community groups and volunteers in Suffolk Coastal. In the last four years, the **Suffolk Coastal Resource Network (SCRN)** has helped local groups attract over £1.7m of funding and given advice to over 400 groups. The new directory of resources can be seen on www.scrn.co.uk/about-scrn/directory-of-resources.html

You will be aware, from being invited to complete a questionnaire, that the Council's Scrutiny Committee is carrying out an in-depth **investigation into housing** in the District. In November 2012 the Scrutiny Committee heard from a large number of town and parish councils, district councillors and tenants about their concerns about housing. The findings and recommendations of the Housing Working Group, formed by the Committee, will be reported to a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee taking place on 9 May 2013.

On 26 January 2012 Suffolk Coastal's Full Council resolved that the Council requests that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England conduct a **review of the size of Suffolk Coastal District Council**, alongside its Further Electoral Review, with a view to reducing the number of Councillors who represent the Council from May 2015 onwards. The LGBCE has requested, as the first stage of the Further Electoral Review (FER) that the Council provides a council size submission to the LGBCE by 18 March 2013. At Full Council on 28 February 2013 it was resolved that the draft submission on Council size be 43 Councillors. Community engagement will take place throughout the review.

In addition to **freezing its Council Tax** for a third successive year and achieving £5.4 million of efficiencies in three years, Suffolk Coastal is geared to **promoting growth and prosperity** in the District. Full Council, at its meeting on 28 February 2013, agreed to keep Suffolk Coastal's Council Tax at £149.40 for a band D home, which will generate £6.9 million towards its budget of £12.7m for 2013/14. Its Council Tax income from residents will be over £500,000 less than last year and its net budget requirement £300,000 lower.

You will all be aware that EDF Energy are developing plans for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and, at a meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 February 2013, a consultation response was agreed in response to initial proposals and options for the **development of Sizewell C**. This response can be found at <http://Sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info/proposal/>

On Monday 25 March 2013 the new **customer service** from Suffolk Coastal based in Woodbridge Library opened to the public. This is also the new home for tourist information in the town. For five days a week the Council's customer service staff will be on hand to offer help and information to residents and visitors from the new location. The Council is committed to making its services

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more available to its residents and is working hard to ensure that it improves its online service delivery but, at the same time, this additional new service shows that having face to face contact with staff remains central to what the Council will offer.

Approval has been given to proposals which will see a thorough **review of Suffolk Coastal's leisure facilities** and could result in significant investments in providing modernised services. The Council's current contract with DC Leisure to manage its four leisure centres comes to an end in March 2014. The Council has agreed a coordinated approach that will see two separate contracts. This will not only deliver a longer term leisure facilities operator but will also include a leisure development partner that will support the Council with future planning and development of its leisure offer. A consultation exercise will be carried out and we hope you will take the opportunity to participate.

During 2012 the Council adopted a revised **Business Plan (2012 – 2022)**. Through the Business Plan the Council has a specific priority to promote economic growth. The Business Plan also specifically allocated part of the New Homes Bonus monies, relating to 2011/12 and 2012/13, towards delivery of this priority. At a Cabinet meeting held in April 2013 it was resolved that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Economic Development be given delegated authority for the allocation of up to £100,000 towards projects targeted at business start-up, growth and development; town centre economies and Skills / NEETS. It was further resolved that the Council establishes an Empty Property Grant scheme and allocates £100,000 towards that scheme. Under this scheme owners of empty properties will be able to bid for a maximum of £5,000 per property.

The Core Strategy & Development Management Policies document is the principal planning document in the district and sets out the strategic vision, objectives and policies across the district from 2010 - 2027. The document was formally submitted in May 2012 for independent Examination by Planning Inspector - Mr Mike Moore - who is testing the document for legal compliance and 'soundness'. The Inspector held 12 public Hearings in October / November 2012 where he heard evidence from all parties on the main issues of debate. Following the conclusion of the Hearings, the Council was requested by the Inspector to publish and consult upon the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies: Main Modifications (and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal). This final stage of consultation was held between 21st February 2013 and 5th April 2013. The responses have been provided to the Inspector and the Council is currently (April 2013) dealing with some of the Inspector's queries regarding this. It is expected that the Inspector will issue his final report on the Examination of the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies document around May / June 2013, and if the document is found to be 'sound', then the Council can progress to formal adoption of the document. Further information regarding the Examination of the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies document can be found on the Council's website at:

<http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review/corestrategy/examination/>

The Council continues to operate schemes for **capital and revenues grants**. Details can be found on our website. However, please bear in mind that a review of grants is underway and it is expected that this the new scheme will come into effect in September 2013.

The Suffolk Skills for the Future Strategy identified a need to increase young peoples' awareness of local growth sectors and careers and to enhance links between current employers and the future workforce. Working in partnership with District Councils across Suffolk, U-Explore are proposing the introduction of their nationally recognised careers and employability platform as a significant

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step towards achieving the County's 'Raising the bar' strategy. Cabinet, at its meeting in April 2013, agreed to promote and support the delivery and installation of the U-Explore platform across East Suffolk High Schools and further establishments.

In conclusion, we would like to highlight for you, some of our other achievements in 2012/13 -

- A balanced budget and frozen Council Tax
- Further efficiencies and partnership working continue
- Priority services protected
- Recycling rates among the country's highest
- 90% of food businesses rated in top two levels for hygiene
- We led a countryside project that won £265k to help make local homes warmer
- We agreed an environmental policy to make our district even greener
- Our District's economy was recognised and rewarded by Government as being Suffolk's powerhouse
- The East Suffolk Partnership is now established with a 15 strong Board. This replaces the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership
- Thanks to partnership with other councils the Tour of Britain cycled through many of the District's town and villages
- We worked with local tourism businesses to help them set up the Suffolk Coast Limited Destination Management Organisation to boost the area as a visitor destination
- We have been working with town and parish councils and developers to increase the number of new affordable homes in our District
- We have worked with Rendlesham Parish Council on the District's first Neighbourhood Planning initiative that will create a planning vision for Rendlesham's future
- Residents can now have their textiles collected from home, saving tonnes going to landfill and cutting collection costs.

There was no report from Suffolk County Council.

7. Questions from the floor:

There was a comment about road signs in the village. Some are missing, some are in a terrible state and need replacing. The person to talk to is Bob Clench from Suffolk County Council.

There being no further questions from the floor the Chairman announced the meeting closed at 19.45.