

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Bruisyard Parish held  
on Monday 16 May 2016 at 7pm in the Bruisyard Village Hall**

Present: John Marten, Peter Robinson, John McKee, Thelma Barham, Stephen Stow, Anne Smith, Paul Church, the Clerk

Apologies: None

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

Chairman welcomed everybody and thanked all for coming. It has been reasonably quiet in the village and Bruisyard Hall is doing well. There were three planning applications received by the Parish Council in the last year: one was refused and two have been approved including one for the toilets and storage shed for the church. Roads have mostly been done, Church road re surfaced, however, it still floods regularly. The one road that has not been done is Low Road. Thelma Barham has written to highways to query it and they informed her that they will be sending someone to have a look. Broadband is still an issue and will be reported on during Annual Meeting of the Council later on.

- a) Council members: John Marten, Peter Robinson, John McKee, Anne Smith, Stephen Stow, Teresa Barham and Stephen Stow
- b) Rural coffee caravan still visits two times a year
- c) Wine tasting: 2 sessions a year, next one is taking place on 18 June with the wines of Australia to be sampled.
- d) Play area is being regularly used

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

380 functions took place in the last year which is an increase of 21 on the year before. Some days it gets used up to 4 times. We get a lot of advanced bookings. Crib league takes place every Tuesday night. We don't charge them, but VH gets good income from the bar takings. Unfortunately, no one from Bruisyard attends the crib league but some Sweffling and Rendham residents do attend. Painting and decorating is scheduled to take place this year. VH bank balance sits at healthy £11799.50. Current VH working committee is very good and efficient. There have been no members on the committee, however, since the VH started.

John Marten has thanked John and Teresa McKee for all the hard work they are doing.

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

- a) **Report and Accounts:** Currently there is £3689.52 in the Social Amenities fund for us to draw on for any future projects. The account has made no donations since donating a sum of money towards play area equipment.
- b) **Elections:** Currently on the Committee: Margaret Sinclair, John McKee, Peter Robinson, Paul Church, Teresa McKee, Thelma Barham, Anne Smith, John Marten with input from PCC representatives: Sally Milton and Rupert Willis. It has been agreed that the committee will carry on with its current members.

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

The club ran for 5 years but came to an end in September 2015 due to the fact that there were not enough young people in Bruisyard. The BYP account still has some money left to be used when needed. John will contact those youngsters who have been coming to BYP meetings and take them out bowling. Saxmundham Youth Club has started so it had been agreed to give them our equipment to use for as long as they need. The equipment has now been collected.

**5. Bruisyard Village Litter Pick**

Council members will be doing it themselves when they can. But generally the village is pretty clean and tidy and does not need much done.

**6. Police Report**

No police report was available to present.

## 7. District and County Councillors' Report

Councillor for the Hacheston ward, Carol Poulter, delivered the following report in person.

This report is to provide a brief overview of Suffolk Coastal District Council key challenges and achievements 2015/16.

Some interesting Suffolk Coastal District statistics: figures: population of 124,600 (Children 16%, 16-64 59% over 65 25%, there are 58,600 dwellings – includes 6280 housing assoc, large rural district – 88,938 hectares, 76km of coastline, 5730 businesses – energy, telecoms, port, tourism, food, art, small business.

### Council Tax 2016/2017

We have agreed to put up Council Tax bill for this coming year (2016/17) by just under 2 per cent (1.99% to be exact).

This is disappointing, as we have kept Council Tax frozen at 2010 levels, but it needs to be put into context – the increase will be less the £3 (or about 25p a month) for a Band D property, with their Council Tax rising from £149.40 to £152.37 a year. This is the first time we have done so since 2010 and it is important that we explain the reasons for this increase – and the fact we are investing in building a strong and vibrant economy. The reality is that our funding from central Government has been cut by 40 per cent in the last five years. In the same period Suffolk Coastal also froze its portion of the Council Tax, leading to a reduction in our net budget of £3.7 million. Now Government is removing the Revenue Support Grant, significantly reducing our core funding by over £2.5 million by the end of this Parliament. Another essential part of our funding, the New Homes Bonus is also likely to be cut. Taken together, funding from these sources reduce from over £3.6m in 2015/16 to around £500,000 in 2019/20. We recognise that Government is doing this as part of the drive to reduce the national deficit, but on a local level we need to properly fund our services.

### Further Transformation in East Suffolk

The Simultaneous Cabinet Meeting in mid-March attracted considerable public and media interest. It resulted in the Cabinets of both Councils agreeing that the officers should develop a Business Case to explore the possible benefits of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney formally merging.

We were the first councils in Suffolk – and among the first in the country – to go down the partnership working route, appointing a joint Chief Executive in 2008. The success of this partnership working has been central to our ability to make £16million efficiency savings since then.

Although we have a strong track record of partnership working with Waveney, it is important to stress that this is not a fait accompli and we are at the start of a long process. These proposals are still at a very early stage.

But, in the current economic climate, when Councils are being forced to put up Council tax for the first time in six years, we have a duty to continue to explore new and innovative ways of making savings.

As such, we need to look closely at the benefits of a merger, but we will only take this forward if we feel it will help us to deliver better services and value for money. However, before any merger could take place, it would have to be agreed by both Full Councils, as well as there being public consultation and the Boundary Commission being involved.

Any such proposal would be subject to a lengthy and full democratic process, which would be in the public domain over a period of years and would not be implemented before the 2019 elections.

### Business Plan

At a time of great challenge for local authorities across the country, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have published their vision for the delivery of services to communities across the two districts. The **East Suffolk Business Plan** presents the Councils' key priorities and ambitions between now and 2023 and details how they will seek to improve the lives and opportunities of all local communities. This is the first time the Councils' have ever

produced a joint Business Plan and, as one of the most progressive local government partnerships in the country, it is a natural progression following many years of innovation.

To read our Business Plan, visit: [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/east-suffolk-means-business-business-plan](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/east-suffolk-means-business-business-plan)

## Devolution

Following the announcement by the Chancellor, George Osborne, about the Devolution proposals for East Anglia (Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire), Suffolk's Leaders and Chief Executives met on Wednesday, 23 March, to begin discussions on the detail which needs to be worked through before all councils vote on a proposed deal later in the year.

Ahead of any decisions being taken, we are all agreed that we must engage with communities and other key groups to make sure they both understand what is and isn't part of the proposed deal but also to hear what their views on it are.

We will keep you updated, as this engagement process develops but for the latest Devolution information see: [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/a-devolution-proposal-for-suffolk/homes](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/a-devolution-proposal-for-suffolk/homes). We are investing £1.68million in creating more affordable homes to ensure people can stay within the communities where they are raised and work. This money has come through Section 106 money we have built up over the years into unlocking the development potential in the District to provide more affordable homes. We are now looking to bring in new specialist staff to help us decide the best ways of using this money, but it may be that Suffolk Coastal may effectively become a developer, buying land to build affordable homes on, getting them built and then selling them to the people that need them. We will obviously have to work closely with colleagues on the Town and Parish Councils, as well as developers, to get this moving, but this is an exciting new innovation for Suffolk Coastal and shows our commitment to making things happen in this area.

## Housing

A total of 175 affordable homes have been completed in the District since 2010/11. Of these 58 were completed in the last year, including 14 homes developed by demolishing existing homes no longer fit for occupation;

## Sale of Melton Hill

At the end of January, we selected a preferred bidder for Melton Hill, subject to contract, ahead of our move to the new building in Melton. The selected preferred bidder, Active Urban Property Group (AUPG), is also in the process of launching its Community Planning process. The group is holding a Community Planning Weekend on Friday and Saturday, 15 & 16 April (from 2pm-5pm on 15 and 11am-4pm on 16 April), to develop the vision for the new development, then stage a Report Back Presentation on Tuesday, 19 April (at 6:30pm). All these events will be held at Woodbridge Primary School in Wilkinson Way. The Community Planning Weekend gives local people the opportunity to contribute to the planning through workshops and hands-on planning groups. Attendance is on a 'drop-in' basis, with people welcome to pop in to see the exhibition and chat for a few minutes or stay for the entire event.

## New Offices

The work to build Suffolk Coastal's new headquarters, opposite Melton Railway Station, is progressing well. The move will reduce our running costs, saving £8million of tax payers' money over 20 years. We will be taking over the building to fit it out to our requirements with the intention of moving into it during the autumn. The building will officially be named 'East Suffolk House' after Councillors and members of staff came up with suggestions.

## Customer Services in local libraries

Work to develop and upgrade Suffolk Coastal District Council's Customer Services in Woodbridge Library is due to be completed in March. The development is part of the Council's plan to provide more services in the heart of the community at our current shared facility within Woodbridge Library and supports our move to new council offices. The development is part of our work to take services out into the heart of communities, working in partnership with Suffolk Libraries in Woodbridge and Felixstowe offering customer services, tourist information and benefits advice in central locations.

## Enabling Communities

We've had another successful year supporting our communities through our councillors Community Enabling Budgets. This year, each councillor had £5,500 to spend on supporting community projects, local organisations and initiatives. In total they have spent over £200,000 on over \_ projects across the district. Projects this year have included supporting a number of charities, activities for young people, helping care for older people and helping to support local events.

### Brown bins

Brown bins will continue to be collected for free in Suffolk Coastal following a decision in November. The issue was prompted in response to Suffolk County Council's decision to reduce funding of recycling credits in this area. This is an important issue for Suffolk Coastal. We have an excellent track record on recycling. In 2013/14 we were in the top 10% of local authorities in the country (coming 19<sup>th</sup> out of 352 authorities) with a recycling rate of 57.44%. Although we recognise that there will be financial implications for this Council, the decision to not charge for this service was taken to allow us to build on this good recycling performance.

### Developments in Felixstowe

A lot of progress has been made in Felixstowe over the last year. The Seafront Gardens were officially completed in December last year. Work to Martello Tower P has also been finished making the Martello Park area more complete.

Work to create an outdoor events area at the boating lake and Go-Kart site has now started and is due to be completed during the summer. The new area will feature a grassed open space and hard standing car park. The area will serve as a multi-use events space which will function as a car park and picnic area when not required for events. It is anticipated that the events area could attract fairs, markets and exhibitions to support the local Felixstowe economy. This regeneration will bring this site in line with the other successful projects which are boosting the economy of Felixstowe and attracting extra tourists into the town.

### New website

Our website is currently being updated – look out for a new look and feel later in the spring. The [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk) website will incorporate both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney websites onto one platform and aims to be clearer and more accessible through smartphone devices and tablets.

### Part Night Street and Footway Lighting

Work to install an 'intelligent lighting system' to all our street and footpath lights has now been completed. This allows us to move to part night lighting (effectively switching off the majority of street and footpath lighting between midnight and 5.30am), in line with the current Suffolk County Council and other District and Boroughs in the county. The Town and Parish Councils, among others, were informed of this work and consulted about the plan to introduce part night lighting in 2014. However, we intend to send round further detailed information about the plans ahead of any move to implement part night lighting during the summer months (after the clocks go forward), as well as issuing a press release and putting information on the website.

### Local Economy

Suffolk Coastal has the strongest economy in the County with 5730 businesses and our unemployment rate is a very low .7%.

Councillor for the Suffolk County Council emailed the following report for the attention of the Parish Council.

- Council Tax for sixth year in a row

SCC's share of council tax is to be frozen for a sixth year in a row. This means that Suffolk residents will not pay any more than they did in 2010/11.

The council has made savings in excess of £170million since the Government's deficit reduction programme began in 2011/2012 and faces the need to make further savings of over £80million during the next two years. The budget passed in April saw a ZERO% increase in base Council Tax. The Administration decided to implement the 2%

National Adult Social Care Levy to support the implementation of the National Living Wage. The budget for Adult Social Care and Children's Services increased. SCC has achieved its target savings and looks set to achieve next years.

- Children's Services NOW RATED 'Good' by Ofsted

Suffolk County Council's Children's Services has been rated GOOD by Ofsted following the publication of its inspection report on 15th February 2016. The report praises the work of the council in protecting and looking after children and young people, with some areas of outstanding practice highlighted in the report. The inspection was carried out between 23 November and 17 December 2015.

Suffolk now sits in the top 22% of local authorities in the country. 78 councils have been inspected so far under Ofsted's new framework. No authority has been judged outstanding and of the last 17 inspections across the country, just one authority had been judged GOOD, until Suffolk's rating. Whilst SCC Children's Services meets its savings targets we are actually improving the service that we provide. In comparison NCC has injected an extra £30m into its service and has consistently been rated 'Inadequate'.

- Education attainment in Suffolk

There has been a 4% rise in the number of students getting five or more A\*-C grades, including English and Maths. It means that 56% of Suffolk's year 11s got the expected level of attainment. The validated figure for 2014 was 52%. Suffolk's results have increased by 2.6% from last year's provisional results and see Suffolk rise 17 places in the overall league table, going from 124<sup>th</sup> to 107<sup>th</sup>. 77% of 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or higher in their SAT tests in the three subjects in 2015 – up from 73% in 2014.

This closes the gap to the national average to just 3%. This is the third consecutive year the gap between Suffolk and the national figure has closed. Suffolk was 7% points behind the national average in 2012 - the results show Suffolk as the most improved local authority in the entire Eastern region, with a higher percentage rise than the other 10 local authorities in the area.

Suffolk has also improved in the national ranking and is now in 134th place out of 152. This is an improvement of six places from last year. Progress in Writing between Key Stages 1 and 2 is another improvement. The percentage of pupils making the expected progress went up from 89% in 2014 to 91% this year. The percentage of children making expected progress from Key Stage 1 to 2 in Reading and Maths also increased – with both seeing a 1% point rise. In all three subject areas the increase in Suffolk was greater than the national rise.

- it'S 'GO' for third crossing in Lowestoft and the Wet Dock in Ipswich

As part of the Chancellor's budget announcements, Suffolk featured strongly with the green light being given for both Lowestoft's third crossing over Lake Lothing and the new Wet Dock crossing in Ipswich. Lowestoft will get the third crossing over Lake Lothing after many years of campaigning and a recent petition signed by over 10,000 people. The Prime Minister committed to the crossing prior to the last General Election, committing the Government to deliver a new crossing by 2020. With this further pledge of £70 million the county council finally has the funding firmly in place to press ahead with the detailed planning required in order to bring about a third crossing over Lake Lothing. This is a massive piece of work and is estimated to cost in the region of £80-100 million, but in addition to the £70 million pledged by central Government, SCC will work to source the remaining money from local funding sources.

The third crossing will provide critical regional infrastructure for Suffolk and the wider eastern counties, as people and businesses move through Lowestoft to access the growing enterprise zone with its array of business and development opportunities. The approved business case by Suffolk County Council and the New Anglia LEP followed extensive analysis of options and potential impact and consultation and engagement with the local business community. The benefits of the scheme in the business case are reduced journey times for commuters and businesses and the alleviation of congestion. The project supports the continued development of future business growth in Lowestoft and the town's regeneration.

In addition to the third crossing in Lowestoft, the go-ahead has also been given for a new wet dock crossing in Ipswich, which will span the waterfront area of the town to connect communities with a new road infrastructure that will also serve a business and innovation centre based on an island in the dock itself.

- **Broadband rollout on target**

A resolution has now been reached between DCMS and the EU which will enable us to spend our full £30m of public funding, as well as the monies clawed back from the first contract a total of £33.9m on Phase 2. Work on the Broadband rollout continues as we progress Phase 1 of the Superfast Extension Programme (the 2nd contract). The first phase of rollout will be shared onto a map on the SCC website, and the second phase will be added within the next couple of months. To date, we have enabled 35 cabinets, and reached over 3,000 premises under the Superfast Extension Programme, towards a target of over 1,000 cabinets, and over 50,000. For more information and updates please visit [www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com](http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com)

- **Rural Transport Provision**

The changes to how Rural Transport is provided will bring a positive difference to communities, providing residents with a single phone number for each area. The whole county is covered so there are no longer any areas where there may have been gaps in service. We've worked hard on our approach throughout this service transformation, engaging with range of people and organizations including those who currently provide services. This has helped us develop these new service contracts. The people who have been supplying these services have told us what is needed, not the other way around. As part of this project, we took into account the needs of all residents who use these services to ensure there will be no issues with access, particularly for elderly and disabled residents.

This excellent new service demonstrates that despite a difficult financial climate the Conservative Administration is achieving savings and improving service delivery through sound financial management, robust contracts and listening to what people really want their services to deliver. Labour have misled the public through a series of petitions designed to scaremonger.. SCC is leading the way, improving services whilst reducing costs and safeguarding the most vulnerable in our society.

- **£1bn Devolution Deal announced for East Anglia**

Government and local councils and LEPs has led to a proposed deal worth over £1bn for East Anglia. As part of the deal, announced by George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, East Anglia will receive:

- £900m (£30m a year for the next 30 years) to invest in infrastructure
- £175m to invest in housing

The Proposed Deal, which sets out a fundamentally different relationship between Government and local public services, was negotiated by Leaders from councils across Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the New Anglia and Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP. The Proposed Deal would see decisions currently being made by Government on such things as infrastructure, growth, employment and skills being made in East Anglia in the future.

The Propose Deal requires the creation of a Combined Authority and directly elected Mayor and it is proposed that the first mayoral elections would be in May 2017 alongside county council elections. The directly elected Mayor would act as Chair to the East Anglia Combined Authority and would exercise the following powers and functions devolved from Government:

- Responsibility for a multi-year, consolidated and, devolved local transport budget
- Responsibility for a new Key Route Network of local authority roads that will be managed and maintained by the Combined Authority on behalf of the Mayor
- Powers over strategic planning and housing, including £175m ring-fenced funding to deliver an ambitious target of new homes

The new East Anglia Combined Authority, working with the Mayor, would receive the following powers:

- Control of a new additional £30 million a year funding allocation over 30 years, to be invested to the East Anglia Single Investment Fund, to boost growth
- Responsibility for chairing an area-based review of 16+ skills provision, the outcomes of which will be taken forward in line with the principles of the devolved arrangements, and devolved 19+ adult skills funding from 2018/19.
- Joint responsibility with the government to co-design the new National Work and Health Programme designed to focus on those with a health condition or disability and the very long term unemployed.

More information can be fund here [www.gov.uk/government/publications/east-anglia-devolution-deal](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/east-anglia-devolution-deal)

**8. Questions from the floor:** None.

There being no further questions from the floor the Chairman announced the meeting closed at 19.44.