



# BATTISFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD **TUESDAY 20th October 2020**

This meeting was held by virtue of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

*These Regulations came into force 4th April 2020*

UK Statutory Instruments 2020 No. 392 PART 2 Regulation 5 (as emailed to all councillors on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020)

Present:

Cllr D. Wicking (Chairman)

Cllr J. Cook (Vice Chairman)

Cllr S. Zethraeus

Cllr J. Pope

Cllr C Nicholas

In attendance:

C/Cllr K. Oakes, D/Cllr D. Pratt (arrived 8.10pm), N. Glading, parish clerk, and one member of the public

2020/41	<b>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME and RECORDING OF MEETING</b>	
	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting	
2020/42	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
a.	There were no apologies for absence	
b.	Council to consent to accept apologies received – not applicable	
2020/43	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
	None	
2020/44	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>	
	None	
2020/45	<b>UPDATES FROM COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</b>	
a.	County Councillor K. Oakes had updated the council via her Newsletter which had been sent to all councillors by email The 'Plug in 2020' fund proposes to have electric charging points at every village hall in the county. Cllr Oakes will speak to the Chairman of Battisford Village Hall Management Committee	C/Cllr Oakes
b.	District Councillor Dr D. Pratt reported on the white planning paper: some Members have concerns about reforming planning around zonation. Essentially, the new proposals would mean that the District Council would not be talking about the principle, just the design of the building	

2020/46	<b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 22nd September 2020</b>	
a.	The minutes of the meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020 were <b>AGREED</b> with an amendment at 2020/50 "Straight Road" to be altered to " <i>Bowl Meadow Bowl Road</i> " It was <b>AGREED</b> that delegated authority be given to the Chair to sign the minutes outside of the meeting	
b.	Matters arising not on this agenda (i) Cllr Pratt had sent an email with ideas on cycle rack provision. This was thought to be a matter for the Village Hall Management Committee. It is evident that cycle clubs no longer visit the Punch bowl. (ii) The ACV Certificate has been applied for- no reply (iii) The utilities letter was sent out regarding DC/20?04165 (iv) The letter to vulnerable people asking to retain their details will be organised by Cllr J Pope Cllr Nicholas reported that Tesco have a traffic light system	Cllr J Pope
2020/47	<b>BPC NOTICE OF VACANCY</b>	
a.	It was <b>NOTED</b> that the clerk has not received a Notification of a Request for an Election from the Monitoring Officer. The Notice of Vacancy for 2 Councillors was displayed on all Noticeboards and on the website from 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2020. BPC councillors will therefore discuss the co-option of two Councillors at the November 2020 meeting Chair will produce a list of vacant jobs and forward e. g. footpath warden (need not be confined to parish councillors)	Cllr D Wicking
2020/48	<b>MATTERS RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR BATTISFORD</b>	
a.	Councillors discussed application DC/20/04165: Application for Outline Planning Permission - Erection of 1No agricultural workers dwelling subject to an occupancy condition. Location: Tye Farm, Straight Road, Battisford, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 2HD  Decision: <b>NO COMMENT</b> (4 in favour, 1 against)	
2020/49	<b>MATTERS RELATING TO THE PLAY AREA</b>	
a.	<b>NOTED</b> The identified repairs/ considerations in the 2020 ROSPA inspection report (previously emailed to councillors on 6th October 2020) were discussed. Cllr Wicking and Cllr Pope agreed to work on a plan of repairs and monitoring etc. to fulfil the Issues highlighted in the report	Cllrs Wicking and Pope
b.	Cllr Cook updated councillors on the mound slide repair He reported that the installation companies had been difficult to liaise with, two quotations have been received, a third is imminent. To be discussed at the November meeting The Chair thanked Cllr Cook	Cllr Cook
2020/50	<b>MATTERS RELATING TO OUTSIDE BODIES</b>	
a.	Cllr D Wicking was confirmed as the BPC representative to the Suffolk Association of Local Councils	
2020/51	<b>MEETING DATES 2021</b>	
a.	The 2021 meeting dates were <b>APPROVED</b> as: January 19 <sup>th</sup> 2021 February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2021 March 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2021 April 20 <sup>th</sup> 2021 May 18 <sup>th</sup> 2021	

	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2021	
2020/52	<b>ENVIRONMENT MATTERS</b>	
a.	A tree survey with associated risk assessment and appropriate remedial actions was discussed. BPC are responsible for the trees at the Cemetery and the Village Green Cllr Cook has assessed the trees at the Village Green and reported that only two need remedial action. Cllr Cook is liaising with Suffolk Wildlife Trust Cllr Wicking informed members that Barking Parish Council have completed a tree survey and risk assessment. Cllr Wicking will speak to Barking PC and SALC and report back to the November meeting with quotations	
b.	The Designated Quiet Lanes (details previously emailed to councillors) It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to propose Church Lane and Burnt House Lane Clerk to confirm expression of interest Clerk instructed to inform T Bamber (Combs) concerning Burnt House Lane as councillors thought that part of the lane may be within in the parish of Combs	Clerk
2020/53	<b>MATTERS RELATING TO STREET FURNITURE</b>	
a.	(i) <u>Replacement Noticeboards</u> were discussed. It was thought that the same style and design would be more aesthetically pleasing. Aluminium would last longer than wood. C/Cllr Oakes agreed to look at funding, additionally to ascertain details from Needham Market Town Council the supplier, liaising with BPC clerk. The Chair thanked C/Cllr Oakes  (ii) <u>Signage at the Playing Field</u> was discussed. The clerk had been instructed at the September meeting to obtain quotations for signage. It was <b>AGREED</b> not to progress this and focus on the ROSPA report	C/Cllr Oakes
2020/54	<b>CHAIRS ITINERARY and REPORTS</b> (on the night)	
a.	<u>Chairs report</u> (i) The Chairman confirmed that he and Cllr Nicholas will take responsibility for checking the defibrillator at the locations nearest to their residences (ii) Recognition of effort and potential presentation items were discussed. Chair will look into signed photographs and a presentation plaque. (iii) Additional SID posts: Chairman advised councillors that data may be collected without the flashing lights option. Cllrs Nicholas and Cook will look into the most beneficial siting and report back to the November meeting.	Cllr Wicking Cllrs Nicholas and Cook
b.	<u>Councillors reports</u> (i) Cllr Zethraeus reported that she and the clerk attended an onsite meeting at the Cemetery to locate an unmarked plot and agree gravestone placement with the family of the deceased (ii) Cllr Cook has written a SID report to be included in Barclif news (iii) Cllr Nicholas commented that the report of speeding c.80 mph at Straight road near the village Green should mean that calming measures are investigated. C/Cllr K Oakes will look into (iv) Cllr Pope reported supporting the Citizens Advice service by putting signs up (v) Cllr Nicholas will ask SCC mobile Library to provide a second stop in Battsford	C/Cllr Oakes Cllr Nicholas
2020/55	<b>FINANCE/ AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS</b>	
a.	<u>Expenditure</u> The itemised expenditure/ invoices for payment October 2020 were <b>unanimously AGREED</b>	

	Staff costs October 2020	£384.02	
	Office July August Sept Expenses	£78.00	
	SALC Provision of payroll service	£54.00	
	Playsafety ROSPA Provision of play equipment inspection	£120.00	
	SALC Birketts Planning webinar	£10.00	
c.	<p>The Quarter Two Report Was <b>NOTED</b></p> <p>(i) Cashbook</p> <p>(ii) Income</p> <p>(iii) Expenditure against Budget</p> <p>BPC have numerous obligations within the village e.g. Play area and defibrillator maintenance</p> <p>The budget should reflect these costs</p>		
d.	The paper on the allocation of Reserve monies was discussed, to be confirmed at the November meeting		
e.	The paper on budgets and precept 2021-2022 was discussed in preparation for budget/precept confirmation in November 2020		
f.	<b>NOTED</b> in response to query at September meeting Suffolk Cloud have confirmed in writing that they are not VAT registered		
g.	Grass cutting expenditure: Clerk to report on expenditure over the last two years		Clerk
2020/56	<b>APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR</b>		
a.	The appointment of SALC as internal auditor was unanimously <b>AGREED</b>		
b.	The letter of appointment of internal auditor was unanimously <b>AGREED</b>		Clerk
2020/57	<b>EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION</b>		
	To exchange any relevant information at the discretion of the Chairman Cllr Wicking will investigate changing to Teams: the sound on Zoom was faulty		Cllr Wicking

DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS in 2020, for up to date information please see BPC website

<http://www.battisfordpc.org.uk/battisford-parish-council/meetings/>

meeting closed +20.58

November 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

(no meeting in December)



# October 2020 Monthly Parish Newsletter



Visit [suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus) for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Keep up to date on the latest guidance on Covid-19 from central government here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## **Council announces £300,000 for electric vehicle charging points in rural Suffolk**

100 fast charging points for electric vehicles will be installed in rural parts of the county by Suffolk County Council. The council will be reaching out to interested parish and town councils and non-profit organisations to put in fast chargers where there are currently none. The funding will cover the installation and set-up costs, meaning very little expense for the hosts and possibly creating a source of income for them.

This project is the first to benefit from the council's Suffolk 2020 Fund, which was announced earlier this year. This is a £3m fund for the council's own projects to bid into. Projects must help address the council's climate emergency declaration and must improve Suffolk for all residents in years to come.

The £300,000 award will link into the council's existing Plug In Suffolk project, which was launched in February 2019. It is the UK's first 'fully open' public fast charging network for electric vehicles, meaning drivers simply pay by contactless payment with no need to register their details.

For further information on Plug In Suffolk or to apply to join the network, visit [www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk](https://www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk)

## **Plotting the road to COVID recovery – Leaders agree £3.4 million investment in Suffolk's future**

On 25 September, Suffolk's public sector leaders met to agree collective action as part of Suffolk's recovery from COVID-19 over the coming months.

To kickstart the process, the group agreed in principle to a significant investment of £3.4 million towards key priorities to support Suffolk's communities and businesses, addressing some of the challenges people currently face, including isolation, hardship, exploitation and the uncertainty of the economy.

As part of the first phase of supporting Suffolk's recovery, the following funding was agreed to support some of Suffolk's immediate areas of focus:

- **Driving inclusive economic growth** – investing in recovery (visitor economy/local investment) and the Suffolk Growth Partnership - £1,302,500m (over three years).
- **Supporting the most vulnerable** – hardship funding - £800,000.
- **Community safety** – tackling gangs and county lines – £1,352,202m (over three years).

## County Council unable to support plans for Sizewell C

Suffolk County Council has stated it cannot support EDF Energy's plans for Sizewell C in its current form.

A report, and accompanying supporting documents, discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 22 September, focussed on significant concerns regarding transport impacts, site design, and the environmental impact on the Suffolk coast which remain unanswered by EDF Energy. Details of the council's position will be shared as Relevant Representations with the Government's Planning Inspectorate, which is overseeing the process for this proposed development.

It is very clear from the Council's representations that the current proposals do not sufficiently avoid, minimise, mitigate or compensate impacts of the proposed development. Many issues raised in previous rounds of consultations remain outstanding, and the lack of improvement and progress regarding many of these issues is very disappointing considering how early in the development process the council raised its concerns. The Relevant Representation document fully details the council's proposed position and lists the areas where it believes EDF Energy needs to undertake further work.

Suffolk County Council has always supported the principle of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and recognises that Sizewell C would offer an important contribution to the national energy strategy. The council would also welcome the benefits of new jobs and skills. However, it cannot support the current proposals presented by EDF Energy as they stand today.

The council does not support EDF Energy's proposed transport strategy as it remains predominantly lorry-based and, in the council's view, is unsustainable. The authority strongly believes that an increased proportion of rail and sea transport is reasonably achievable and, in its current form, the transport impacts on Suffolk's highway network are unacceptable.

The Relevant Representation document published goes into greater detail on other areas of concern, including:

- Proposals to have additional pylons on site.
- Ecological damage.
- Suitable mitigation to protect local wildlife species.
- Appropriate levels of funding for mitigation measures and compensation to support the impact on the local community and related infrastructure.

## Successful £4.4m adaptive street lighting project celebrates first year

On 17 September, Suffolk celebrated a successful first year of its £4.4m Live Labs project – ‘A Smarter Suffolk’.

Suffolk’s Live Lab project is part of the ADEPT SMART Places Live Labs Programme - a £22.9m project funded by the Department for Transport. Suffolk was one of nine local authorities to successfully bid for funding.

The main aim of Suffolk’s Live Lab is to use its existing street lighting infrastructure to provide a showcase of innovative technologies that bring efficiencies to Suffolk County Council now, and potentially to other local authorities in future.

Benefits from these technologies are set to revolutionise the way services are delivered by local authorities through the collection of data from sensors placed on street lighting columns throughout the county. As well as working with the University of Suffolk and BT, Suffolk has spent the last year negotiating with potential providers of a wide range of such sensors so that they can be deployed in different environmental conditions - namely urban, rural and coastal locations.

The project will enable local authorities to monitor aspects such as weather, air quality, road surface temperatures, and traffic volumes, as well as create on-street electric vehicle charging and support the deployment of 5G infrastructure by the mobile network operators.

So far, Suffolk has installed 43 sensors, with plans to install hundreds more over the coming months.

The data being gathered can help to provide a picture of road use. This will be particularly valuable in areas where COVID-19 related initiatives such as cycle lanes have been implemented, as data for before and after implementation can be analysed. The original two-year timescale for the Suffolk Live Labs project was recently extended by six months to account for the impact of COVID-19. This allows a greater time period to analyse incoming data from the deployed sensors.

## **Window now open to apply for primary and secondary school places**

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2021.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Saturday 31 October 2020 and for primary schools it is Friday 15 January 2021. Secondary schools include high and upper schools and primary schools include infant, junior and middle schools. All applications received by these dates are processed at the same time, using the schools’ oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications where necessary. Late applications are processed after all of those received on time.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received just over 16,000 applications from parents and carers indicating at which school they would prefer their child to be educated from September 2020. Nearly 93% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and almost 98% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

Before making a school application, parents and carers need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. School Travel eligibility is based on a child attending the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available. This might not be the catchment area school. To find out more about SCC’s school travel policy please visit [suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel](https://suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel).

## **Suffolk County Council welcomes public consultation on improving rail capacity at Ely**

Suffolk County Council supports Network Rail’s proposal to unlock rail capacity at Ely for passenger and freight services.

Achieving an hourly Ipswich to Peterborough passenger rail service and enabling more freight to travel by rail has moved a step closer with the announcement that Network Rail will be seeking the public's views on a proposed scheme that will unlock rail congestion at Ely Station.

The railway track through Ely Station forms part of a key rail corridor for passenger services running from Suffolk to Peterborough, the Midlands and the North. It also forms part of the Freight Rail Network that links freight rail services from the Port of Felixstowe to the Midlands and to the North of England.

Network Rail will be gathering views from members of the public by hosting a series of online events. The results of the consultation will then be used to develop a business case for investing in rail infrastructure that will unlock the congested area at Ely Station.

## **Have your say on a new political map for Suffolk County Council**

New boundaries are being proposed for council divisions in Suffolk County Council.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A 10-week consultation on the proposals will run until 23 November 2020.

The Boundary Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Suffolk County Council to make sure councillors will represent about the same number of electors, and that division arrangements will help the council work effectively.

The Commission has published proposals for changes to Suffolk County Council. It is proposing that there should be 70 councillors in future: five fewer than now. The recommendations also outline how those councillors should represent 70 single-councillor divisions across the county. The boundaries of all existing divisions should change except for one.

### **Launching the consultation Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Boundary Commission, said:**

“We have drawn up proposals for new divisions in Suffolk County Council. We want to make sure these new electoral arrangements reflect communities. We also want them to be easy to understand and convenient for local people.

“Residents and local organisations can help us do that. We would like them to let us know whether they agree with our proposals before we take final decisions.

“It's easy to get involved. Go to our website. Or you can e-mail or write to us.

“Just tell us what you think and give us some details why you think that. It's really simple, so do get involved”

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of divisions, their boundaries and the number of councillors per division: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/18495>

People can also give their views by e-mail at [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk), and by post to:

The Review Officer for Suffolk County Council  
GBCE c/o Cleardata  
Innovation House  
Coniston Court  
Riverside Business Park  
Blyth

