

Reydon Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on 20th November 2025

1 Present and Opening

Present:

Chair, Cllr Linda Coe, Vice-Chair Cllr David Panther, Cllr Kalvyn Friend, Cllr Kim Harvey, Cllr David Eccles, Cllr Mike Medland, Cllr Chris Dixon, Cllr Dominic Knight, Cllr Dale Goldsmith and Cllr David Beavan.

Clerk – Ann Dobson.

Laurence Vulliamy, Pam Cyprien and Georgie Glen were present to give a presentation under item 8.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from SCC Michael Ladd, Cllr Adele Coleman and Cllr Sarah Jerman and these were duly accepted by all the Councillors present.

3 Public Forum and Councillor Reports

Cllr David Beavan said that Natural England had recently begun some works which it was hoped would help the water level management at Potters Bridge.

He went on to say that the planning application (DC/25/3322/FUL) for the erection of four residential properties at Easton Bavents had been turned down originally by the Planning Inspectorate on a technicality which the applicant had now addressed so, as this new application had still been met with numerous objections from local residents, this would now be going to the full Planning Committee at the beginning of December. He asked if someone from the PC could be at that meeting and Cllr Kalvyn Friend said that he hoped to attend.

Cllr David Beavan went on to say that the reorganisation of local government was still at the consultation stage.

He finished by saying that the hedges along the Lowestoft Road were going to have a Winter Cut.

The Chair, Cllr Linda Coe, thanked Cllr David Beavan for his report.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 23rd October were unanimously agreed to be authorised by the Chair and duly signed.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters Arising from the Minutes that were not being discussed later in the Meeting.

7 Clerk's Report

Cllr Medland's Crime Stats already circulated.

Crime for September.

Reydon – 4. 2 – violence and sexual offences, 1 – criminal damage and arson, 1 other theft.

Southwold – 4. 3 – violence and sexual offences, 1 – other theft.

VAT had been reclaimed on various invoices for purchases by the PC and the sum of £3,347.53 had been received.

A Cost of Living Grant had been applied for through ESC but the Clerk said there had been no decision so far as to what sum would be awarded.

The Notice Boards in the Village Hall had been updated and were to be put back in position by Cllr Dale Goldsmith.

There was to be an increase in the yearly invoice from SALC next year and all the Councillors had been informed.

WW1 Pillbox Working Group

A sum of £10,000 had been requested by the Working Group, from CIL Money to go towards the restoration costs of approximately £35,000. Laurence Vulliamy, Pam Cyprien and Georgie Glen had prepared a presentation to support this request. The presentation from Laurence Vulliamy was as follows:

"Madam Chair, councillors, colleagues and friends,

Most of you know Pam Cyprien, the founder of the Pillbox Steering Group, and one or two of you might recognise Georgie Glen, who will be helping the steering group with public engagement. A number of councillors are in our group, which is actively trying to restore the World War 1 Pillbox (or historic defensive stronghold) on the A1095 at Mights Bridge.

Reydon Parish Council own a rare Heritage Asset! Rare because this building is small, circular and made of specially cast curved bricks. In the day most Pillboxes were thrown together in all shapes and sizes, using bricks, breeze blocks or even dry stone walling. This building was thought about. It was built by a garrison fearing an enemy invasion and was covertly and strategically positioned to protect not only the only road in and out of Southwold, but also to keep watch for any enemy landings on the beach, just a few hundred yards to the East.

Rare too . . . because – luckily - our Pillbox stands where two public footpaths meet and it can be visited safely at any time. You do not have to hike over fields to see it, or park precariously alongside a main road.

So why should we preserve this ruin? There are two reasons:

both World Wars there was a very real threat of invasion by a foreign power along this, our East coast. I am passionate about History and have been lucky to have made many hours of broadcast television about different periods and civilisations.

So we must remind ourselves that life in Britain could have been very different, if for example, the Central Powers (including the Ottoman Empire) in World War One . . . OR The Third Reich on World War Two had occupied Britain . . . and this century-old monument is a living testament to that existential threat.

Our steering group aim to engage with the public and turn the pillbox into a living history exhibit for schools, locals and visitors - to remind people about the perils of foreign occupation. All three local schools have expressed enthusiasm for our plans (though are unable to contribute any funds at this time). To make this work we plan to provide vandal-proof signage boards, (subject to planning permission) explaining the significance of this historic monument, and we would plan to provide a regular programme of guided talks and practical demonstrations on site, in conjunction with The Household Cavalry Foundation and The Southwold Museum and Historical Society.

The other reason to preserve this building is not dissimilar.

A century ago, Buss Creek (running under Mights Bridge) was tidal and opened out into the North Sea just north of the Pier. You could catch flounders off the bridge in living memory!

As an aid to tourism and the village economy Reydon Parish Council could promote a public trail exploring the history of Reydon, including coastal erosion, why Buss Creek was blocked off, the existing Viking Ship, why the marshes were drained, visiting the disused Wind Pump, exploring the remains of Reydon Quay and telling how The River Blyth was once navigable up to Halesworth . . . and, indeed, why a Pillbox was needed in Reydon!

Our initial budget for the reparation of this historic asset is in the region of £35,00, and a full costing is available from the Clerk. Our group is asking for a contribution of £10,000 to get us started, as match funding - to persuade other funders that this project is accountable, worthwhile and in the public interest.

You own the building. You already have an energetic steering group working for you, supported by eminent public figures, such as the nationally recognised Archaeologist Francis Pryor.

What's not to love!"

Pam Cyprien said that she fully supported all that Laurence had said. She went on to say that Reydon didn't have a lot that it actually owned, and that it would promote Reydon and be a valuable asset.

Georgie Glen then gave her presentation as follows:

"Madam Chair, members of the committee ... I would like, if I may, to say a few words. I'm very much the new girl in this group and I come with no specialist knowledge or expertise so I will be brief. Until recently, I'm ashamed to say, I was unaware of the very existence of the pillbox by Mights Bridge, but when Geoff Cooper knocked on the door and invited me to join, I didn't hesitate. In a world of special effects, super heroes and AI, we have in our midst a most precious, tangible, modest piece of history, that has been sitting quietly through the years, I suspect, unnoticed by many. It would have gently crumbled away into oblivion had you not had the foresight to procure it. In so doing, you have stopped the erosion and protected what is left. With help, it can be saved, carefully restored and secured for generations to come. It will be a symbol of real heroism, of what our forebears did to defend their shores and save their communities.

The Chair, Cllr Linda Coe, thanked the three representatives from the WW1 Pillbox Steering Group for their presentations.

Laurence was asked how the Pillbox would be funded apart from any donation that RPC made from CIL money (It had been established by the Clerk that CIL money could be used if this was going to be an asset to the residents in terms of learning more about history and heritage).

He said that the National Lottery, Reydon Trust and Southwold Trust were all being approached and Francis Pryor, previously an inspector for National Heritage, would be looking for 'pots of money' from other sources.

Cllr Mike Medland asked if the estimated £35,000 was a very conservative one and had the pillbox been surveyed etc.

Laurence said that Geoff Cooper had carried out a structural survey free of charge and had drawn up a list of works. He felt that this sum of money would be sufficient for now but he didn't rule out the possibility of needing to look for a bit more in the future.

Laurence said that Cllr Chris Dixon had agreed to be in charge of fundraising and it was expected there would be fundraising events, public meetings etc.

It was asked whether David Beavan had said that ESC would give any money.

Cllr Kalvyn Friend asked what the pillbox would be used for internally. Laurence said it could be a bat roost but that he had not yet got the cost of creating an area for bats.

Cllr Kalvyn Friend suggested that a Perspex frame over the front of the pillbox with the inside set out with WW1 memorabilia might be a better use and it was generally agreed that a visual display was a good idea, especially for engaging with young people. Laurence said he would investigate this.

The three members of the Steering Group then left the meeting and donating £10,000 of CIL money to this cause was discussed among the Councillors. Cllr David Panther said that as the Council had decided to purchase the pillbox, it had an obligation to restore it. Cllr Dominic Knight proposed that the donation of £10,000 was made and Cllr David Panther seconded with all the other Councillors unanimous in their agreement.

9

Highways Committee (DP)

Cllr David Panther reiterated that new pipes had been installed by Natural England that it was hoped would help with Potters Bridge. They wouldn't stop the flooding but they should mean that the water drained away more successfully. The Council was still waiting on the SCC inspection of the bridge.

He went on to say that with regard to traffic calming on the Wangford Road, despite objections, it seemed that this had been passed ten days before. Cllr David Panther had written to register his disappointment, especially as the speeding problem on the Wangford Road was not as bad as the speeding problem on the Halesworth Road.

As Cllr David Beavan had said, the hedges on the Lowestoft Road would be receiving a Winter Cut which was good news.

With regard to a possible 40mph limit on the A1095, at a recent discussion in the Highways Committee Meeting, it had been suggested by the SCC representatives that there was not enough difference yet for this to go through and it was thought that a traffic survey next year, when the anaerobic digester was in operation, would be the way forward as a starting point for the re-application.

Cllr David Panther finished by saying that Quay Lane was currently flooded again and was slow to drain. However, as it had been so wet, he said that he would monitor the situation for a little longer and put it on the SCC Report It Tool if it continued to be a problem.

10

Finance Committee (RFO/DK)

Draft Budget to approve for 26/27 – already circulated

This was unanimously approved in principle subject to the Precept approval and one or two other changes. To be signed off finally at December Meeting.

Precept to approve for 26/27 – already circulated.

It was agreed that the Precept would have to increase by a small percentage as reserves were needed in 26/27 to balance the budget. The Clerk said she would get a firm figure and percentage from the Precept Team at the Council and circulate this to all, so that it too could be finally signed off at the December Meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate to all the Councillors a suggested increase in the Precept Amount and also the final Draft Budget – both for approval at the December Meeting.

Request for funding for Gym etc at Old Hospital – report circulated in advance.

This was discussed at length by the Councillors and there were strong reservations. It was also not felt reasonable that RPC was being asked for £25,000 while STC was only being asked for £10,000. There were also concerns about holidaymakers using the Gym and residents not being able to during busy periods, the parking and disturbance to nearby residents etc. In addition RPC might be able to set up their own Gym if they acquired the Sports Pavilion and Community Centre at some point in the future. There was also the possibility of being able to use the St Felix Gym. The general feeling was that more needed to be known about the following as a starting point:

Details of the survey results from local residents.

How the gym was to be ventilated.

Where were people to park.

The impact on people who live nearby.

Whether Southwold Town Council had already agreed to give £10,000 to this project.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain answers to the above and report back to the Councillors.

11 Green Spaces Working Group (MM)

Hedging at Rec

Cllr Mike Medland said he wanted to apologise to the Chair and other Councillors for going ahead with securing some saplings to plant as hedging where the new fencing had been placed at the Rec. The opportunity had arisen via the Tree Warden for free saplings to be available and so he had gone ahead. However, these had all now been planted and were looking good. Cllr Kalvyn Friend said the last saplings had died which was why the fence had been put in place, but Cllr Mike Medland said that the allotment holders would keep an eye on the watering of the saplings. The Chair, Cllr Linda Coe proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Mike Medland, Cllr Dale Goldsmith and to the Tree Warden for making this happen.

Seating in bus shelters – update (Clerk)

The Clerk reported that the seating in the new bus shelter was to be installed very soon.

Cleaning the bus shelters (Clerk)

The Clerk reported that the state of the bus shelters was not great in terms of sweeping, de-cobwebbing etc and that the lady who does the litter picking had been approached to see if she would be willing to take this on – cleaning the shelters on a rota basis every couple of months or so. It was agreed by all the Councillors to offer her 1 extra hour a week to see how this worked out and to say that she must let the Council know if she needed any equipment.

ACTION: Clerk to organise with Litter Picker.

Cllr Mike Medland said that the next Green Spaces Meeting would be on 27th November at 12.15 pm in the Loftus Room.

12 Cost of Living and Community Pantry (LC) (report already circulated)

Cllr Linda Coe's Report as follows:

"Not a lot to report this month, with Sarah's team continuing to deliver sterling service in their collections every evening and from Bookers most afternoons. The freezer, which had delivered significant problems, was finally serviced and is now working perfectly. We have some new volunteers who are bedding in very well and also new visitors, who continue to amaze us by maintaining that they had never heard of the Pantry before, despite our presence on social media and in the community. We obviously still have more publicity work to do. Food donations vary at this time of year, with allotments not providing too much for us, but the local supermarkets still have quantities of items which we are only too happy to accept and redistribute. The Cornish Bakery also provides us with pasties and pastries twice a week. We happily accepted two large boxes of bananas left over from the Adnams 10K Run. The Waveney Hygiene Bank continues to supply us with items which are gratefully taken by many of our older customers...but not so much the vast amount of self-tanning items we had....I wonder why? We continue to assist at the Village Hall Coffee Mornings and Soup Lunches, providing bread and pastries wherever possible. Some of our volunteers have also helped Dorcas and her team at these events".

It was also noted that the freezer had recently been successfully repaired. Cllr Kim Harvey wondered if it could be an idea to explore a service plan for the equipment. She went on to say that The Pantry would be open on the Saturday after Christmas rather than the Friday.

- 13 Footpaths Working Group (CD)**
Cllr Chris Dixon said there was nothing new to report this month but that she was pleased to say that the Southwold and Reydon Society would like to have a joint meeting which was being arranged.
- 14 Reydon Village Hall (KH/DE/KF) Update**
There was nothing new to report apart from all Councillors being invited to the Reydon Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting on Thursday 4th December between 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm.
- 15 Reydon Robin (DomK)**
Cllr Dominic Knight said that the deadline was the following Tuesday. Cllr Kim Harvey said she would send the Pantry Opening Times for December and Cllr Linda Coe said she would send a Lighthouse Ladies Report.
ACTION: Cllr Kim Harvey to send Pantry opening times and Cllr Linda Coe to send Lighthouse Ladies Report
Cllr Dominic Knight said that the future of the Reydon Robin would be discussed at the December Meeting.
- 16 Website (DomK)**
Cllr Dominic Knight read out the Google Analytic Stats which showed a considerable increase in users year on year. He went on to say that the Potters Bridge gauge was not currently working and this was nothing to do with the website; it was a hardware error that would hopefully be fixed soon.
- 17 Correspondence (Clerk)**
The Clerk said there had been no correspondence not already discussed.
- 18 Planning Committee (DomK)**
Minutes of recent meeting circulated along with responses to planning applications. Cllr Dominic Knight went through the new applications one by one.
New Applications:
DC/25/3348/FUL: Erection of 1no. detached chalet bungalow (self build), land off Halesworth Road, Reydon IP18 6NH
Response by 20th November – Planning Committee Objecting
DC/25/3987/P14J: Prior notification – proposed installation, alteration or replacement of other solar photovoltaics (PV) equipment on the roofs of non-domestic buildings – installation of roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panesl and associated equipment to provide on-site renewable electricity generation, Lytton Tree Lodge, 72A Halesworth Road, Reydon IP18 6NS
Response by 27th November – No Objections
DC/25/3875/FUL: Conversion of garage to letting room for Sizewell C and associated alterations, 27 The Drive, Reydon IP18 6PN
Response by 1st December 2025 - Planning Committee Objecting
DC/25/4186/FUL: Single storey extension to dwelling, 2 Hillfield Court, Reydon IP18 6RU
Response by 4th December -No objections
DC/25/2677/FUL: Redevelopment of the site to provide 36 Retirement Living (Use Class C3) apartments with associated communal facilities, parking and landscaping, Land South of Sole Bay Health Centre, Teal Close, Reydon
Response by 28th November - Planning Committee objecting.
Planning Decisions/Updates:
DC/25/3355/FUL: Side and rear utility room extension with attached carport – Grove View, Risse mere Lane East, Reydon IP18 6SP
Application Permitted
DC/25/3849/PDN: Permitted Development Notification – Temporary holiday site with a maximum number of 60 units including all tents and caravans between 2 May to 10 May 2026 – Reydon Playing Fields, Wangford Road, Reydon IP18 6PA
No Objections
DC/24/1686/DRC: Discharge of condition Nos. 9 and 10 of DC/19/1141/OUT – Outline Application – Development of up to 220 dwellings with associated open space – Proposed access and tie-in works and proposed pedestrian crossing and other off-site highway improvements – Land to the West of Copperwheat Avenue Reydon
Application Permitted
DC/25/4092/CON: Consultation – To install new 1 x 9m light wooden pole – OS 1 Shearwater Way, Reydon IP18 6GX
No Objections
DC/25/4093/CON: 1 x new 11m light wooden pole – OPP 2 Wangford Road, Reydon IP18 6PY
No Objections
DC/25/4158/CON: To install fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus – 9M Light Wooden Pole – Rear 27A Halesworth Road, Reydon IP18 6NJ No Objections
DC/25/4159/CON: To install fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus – 9M Light Wooden Pole – OPP The Hollyhocks, 9 Three Marsh Lane, Reydon IP18 6NP
No Objections

DC/25/4166/CON: Install new 1x 10m light wooden pole – OPP Briar Lea, Keens Lane, Reydon IP18 6NT

No Objections

DC/25/4251/CON: Installation of 9M Wooden Telecommunications Pole – Part verge opposite Thorpewood, Reydon

No Objections

19 Finance – (DK/RFO)

a) Invoices already paid

E-on D/D Electricity Jubilee Green	£23.28
Gillian Graham	£122.10
Reydon Christmas Lights Donation	£300.00
Poppy Wreath	£20.00

b) Invoices to be paid

Pantry Driving	£99.00
RVH – Hall Hire	£20.00
Gillian Graham	£122.10
Wills	£300.00
Linda Coe – CAS Training Course	£55.00
EPS Transfers (lettering for noticeboards)	£24.00
Keith Seaman	£180.00
Mears Hobbs and Durrant – Purchase of Pillbox	£648.00
Beeline – repair to freezer at Pantry	£252.71
Linda Coe – Bugler	£40.00
Kim Harvey – Flowers for Remembrance Day and Bags for Pantry	£24.00
Ann Dobson – salary and expenses at end of month	

c) Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 31st October 2025

Commercial Instant Access Account as at 31st Oct 2025	£	255,399.81
Community Account as at 31st Oct 2025	£	601.00
TOTAL	£	256,000.81
TOTAL SEPT PLUS OCT RECEIPTS	£	256,000.81
MINUS OCT PAYMENTS		

d) CIL Money Remaining as at end October 25 – £115,938.36

e) Working Budget (circulated prior to meeting)

20 Reydon Sports and Community Centre (LC)

This discussion was 'in camera' so no minutes to be published.

21 Any Other Business

Cllr Kalvyn Friend apologised to the other Councillors for not now being able to come to the Christmas Meal as he was double booked.

The Chair, Cllr Linda Coe, said that she and the Clerk were putting together a document for new, or fairly new Councillors about what is expected of them and the protocol of written communication for a paper trail, freedom of information requests, rather than using What's App etc. This would be circulated to all when it was finished.

ACTION: Clerk, in conjunction with Cllr Linda Coe, to finalise the document and circulate to all.

22 Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 18th December at 6.30 pm at the Reydon Sports and Community Centre, Wangford Road, Reydon.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.15 pm.