



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Reydon Village Hall on 22nd January 2026

1 Present and Opening

Present:

Chair, Cllr Linda Coe, Vice-Chair Cllr David Panther, Cllr Kalvyn Friend, Cllr Kim Harvey, Cllr Dale Goldsmith, Cllr Chris Dixon, Cllr David Eccles, Cllr Mike Medland, Cllr Sarah Jerman, Cllr Dominic Knight, Cllr Adele Coleman, SCC Cllr Michael Ladd,

Clerk – Ann Dobson.

There were three members of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3 Public Forum and Councillor Reports

SCC Cllr Michael Ladd gave his report as follows:

“Applications to join Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have surged by 32% compared to last year, highlighting a growing interest in a career that makes a real difference to local communities. This year’s recruitment drive also saw a significant increase in female representation among successful candidates, with women making up 17.2% of the recruitment pool compared to 11.7% last year, which represents a 38% rise. This marks an important step toward building a workforce that truly reflects the communities it protects.

Suffolk County Council has called on the Department for Transport to correct a report it says wrongly labels the authority in the worst category of a new ratings system. The new system ranks highways authorities using a traffic-light system based on effectiveness in spending the government's highways maintenance funding. The council says the DfT failed to include in its assessment £10 million of highways funding it brought forward from 2025/26 and invested early in 2024/25. Had this been included, Suffolk would have received an Amber rating for highways expenditure, consistent with its ratings in road condition and best practice, rather than an overall Red.

Suffolk County Council has published its budget proposal for 2026/27, setting out how it will protect essential services while managing ongoing financial pressures. The £850 million plan aims to safeguard frontline services, support the most vulnerable, and invest in Suffolk’s future – despite rising costs, growing demand and shortfalls in national funding. To support these plans, the council has proposed a 4.99% rise in Council Tax, comprising a 2.99% general increase and an extra 2% for adult care. Alongside a forecast 1% rise in the taxbase, this would generate an additional £27.4 million. For households, this would mean:

Band B property: £25.90 per week, an increase of £1.23 a week

(Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk)

Band D property: £33.30 per week, an increase of £1.58 a week.”

Jessica Jeans (Chair of South Gen) and Sydney Barbrook (The Old Hospital’s Community Business Manager) gave a presentation on the proposed Old Hospital Community Gym, in particular to answer questions that had been raised by Reydon Parish Councillors. They explained that RPC was being asked for a bigger donation than STC because the latter did not have CIL money to spend. The Chair, Cllr Linda Coe, pointed out that STC did have a far bigger precept. Concerns had been raised by the Councillors about noise, parking, and ventilation and all these concerns were answered, although the Councillors still had reservations and did not agree with some of the answers given. Mr Barbrook said that the new estimate was now for a total of £125,000 and that there would be a maximum of 20 people at any one time with the Gym open between 6.00 am and 9.00 pm and manned from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Although it was thought by the Councillors that the Gym in principle would be of benefit to the local community, they were not convinced that the Old Hospital site was the best venue. Cllr David Panther said that the Old Hospital team were full of passion but he had reservations with the business plan. It was also felt that a small gym would not be comparable to some of the larger gyms that were available within a 20 minute drive and that their 24 hour access, dedicated booking apps, and increased facilities were more appealing.

Mrs Jeans and Mr Barbrook were thanked for their presentation and were told that the request for funding would be discussed later in the meeting.

Next, Gareth Jones and Halcyon Meldrum from St Felix were welcomed to the Meeting. They had come along to give some answers as to why the conditions outlined in the Community User Agreement, signed in 2021 had not come to fruition. Mr Jones began by saying that he had never seen this Agreement in the time he had been with the School, until a copy had been sent to him recently by RPC, but that the School wanted to work together with Reydon Parish Council and the local community to make this happen. He said that £40,000 had been invested in the pool recently and it was noted that the pool and certain other facilities were now able to be hired by groups but not by individuals. Cllr David Panther made the point that when the permission was given for the new housing development for which St Felix had received £3.5m, it was on the understanding that the conditions in the Community User Agreement would be implemented, but this had not happened. The School had changed ownership since the Agreement was signed and it was said that although there had been a significant investment towards these facilities already, the finance had to be available to finish these off. Many of the Councillors expressed their disappointment at this state of affairs and it was agreed that a way forward needed to be found. To this end the Clerk was asked to write to the Headteacher, and Gareth Jones was asked to return to the Parish Council Meeting in March to report on progress.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the Headteacher at St Felix School.

Cllr David Panther asked Mr Jones and Mrs Meldrum about the large amount of rubbish at the back of the school and said that he felt in the spirit of good neighbours this was unreasonable and should be cleared. Mrs Meldrum said that a meeting was planned for the following day to move this forward.

Mr Jones and Mrs Meldrum were thanked for coming to the Meeting and explaining the St Felix situation so far.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 18th December 2025 were unanimously agreed to be authorised by the Chair and duly signed.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk was asked if she had any update on the fitting of the new sensor. Most of it was being paid out of Cllr Michael Ladd's Locality budget and the money had been received by RPC.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up with ESC David Beavan as he was fitting the sensor.

7 Clerk's Report

Cllr Medland's Crime Stats already circulated.

Crime Figures for November:

Reydon – 4: 1 Other Theft, 1 Anti-Social behaviour, 1 Criminal Damage and Arson, 1 Violence and Sexual Offences.

Southwold – 4: 2 Violence and Sexual Offences, 1 Criminal Damage and Arson, 1 Public Order Offence.

The Clerk asked for confirmation from the Councillors that they were in agreement with SALC being asked to do the internal audit and there was unanimous agreement.

Cllr Mike Medland asked the Clerk about CIL money being used for the refurbished bus shelter rather than RPC funds, as this had not been reflected in the most recent budget figures. The Clerk agreed this should be possible and said she would look into it and make the adjustment where necessary.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up on this and notify the Councillors.

8 Highways Committee (DP)

Cllr David Panther said that there was not much to report this month. He said that the traffic calming on the Wangford Road for the Copperwheat Development had gone through despite RPC objections to Joe Blackmore, but that a delay in implementing these measures could be sought. This was to be discussed at the next Highways Meeting in February. Cllr Linda Coe said that it was hoped the investigations by Cllr David Beavan into a possible haul road for Copperwheat would result in a positive outcome.

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Finance Committee (RFO/DK)

The request for £25,000 to go towards the Old Hospital Gym project was discussed at length by the Councillors. There were still many reservations but Cllr Sarah Jerman said she felt it was important to support the project even if it was a smaller amount of money offered. The Councillors agreed with this and agreed to give £5,000 as a one off sum towards the project assuming it went ahead, on the understanding that regular progress reports would be forthcoming. The motion was proposed by Cllr David Eccles and seconded by Cllr Chris Dixon, with unanimous approval by all the Councillors.

ACTION: Clerk to let Mrs Jeans and Mr Barbrook know.

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Green Spaces Working Group (MM)

Cllr Mike Medland said that Cooper & Denny were progressing the work at the Recreation Ground.

The Councillors were not very happy with Playdale's answer to the split wood. All the equipment was under guarantee however and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would book the annual inspection with Playdale and if anything was deemed to be unsafe that Playdale had fitted then it would be replaced.

ACTION; Clerk to arrange annual inspection due at the end of February.

Cllr Kalvyn Friend had circulated a picture of the bus shelter roof at the Reydon Corner bus shelter which was damaged. It was agreed to ask Cooper & Denny to fix this.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Cooper & Denny.

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WW1 Pillbox Working Group (KH/CD)

Cllr Christine Dixon said she was looking in to funding for this project and needed RPC accounts as part of the application process.

ACTION: Clerk to send the Accounts to Cllr Chris Dixon.

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

Cllr Linda Coe's Report had been received as follows:

"The month began with issues concerning the very strong smell emanating from the new floor sealant in the Village Hall. My thanks to all the volunteers who braved the very cold elements to move many of the items available outside and away from the fumes. We did, unfortunately, have some comeback on the situation and sadly had to dispose of quite a lot of goods which had been contaminated by these fumes. Many thanks also to the volunteers who gave the Pantry a 'deep clean' in order to remove all the dust which had settled on the surfaces in the Pantry.

Now that is behind us, we continue to supply as many of our residents who come and are grateful to the Community Pantry at Saxmundham who give us their overflow items. Also, thanks to the Hygiene Bank who keep us well stocked with sanitary and personal care items.

We are, at present, in talks with the RVHMC to alter our opening hours to Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, in order that we can better serve our customers. We hope these negotiations will be complete so that we can operate our new opening times as from March 2026."

The idea of changing the Pantry to three times a week on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday was currently being mooted. RVH had been contacted re their existing bookings and whether this would work. It was thought that it would be a good idea to remind the RVHMC that this facility was helping the community, along with the warm spaces mornings and other collaborations.

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Footpaths Working Group (CD)

Cllr Chris Dixon reported that Michael from the S&RS and Philip O'Hear had joined the group for the last meeting. She went on to ask if the Councillors would agree to £2,000 being set aside for the new Reydon Map to be designed and printed. The map would start from Mights Bridge and it would show points of interest along with the roads etc. Sarah proposed the motion and Adele seconded with all in favour.

- 14 Reydon Village Hall (KH/DE/KF) Update**
RVH Management Committee had requested some funding towards a External Electricity Meter to monitor the pantry electricity more closely. The Councillors voted against paying for an electricity meter to be fitted but agreed to pay to purchase another isolation switch so that the remaining two electrical items could plug in to this. The annual £5,000 maintenance donation was discussed and it was agreed that this would be reviewed on an annual basis (next review in June 2026) and that any payment requests to RPC would be looked at on a case-by-case basis.
ACTION: Clerk to report to the VHMC.
- 15 Reydon Robin (DomK)**
Cllr Dominic Knight said that sponsors had been forthcoming for both the 2026 editions of the Reydon Robin which was great news. The deadline for the next edition was 20th March.
- 16 Website (DomK)**
Cllr Dominic Knight read out the latest Google stats to all the Councillors which showed a continuous healthy increase in numbers.
- 17 Correspondence (Clerk)**
The Clerk said there had been correspondence from John Huggins re the bench for the late Hilary Huckstep, and that this would be placed in position in the Spring. He also asked about the water gauge at Potters Bridge and was told the new one would be fitted soon. There had also been correspondence from a Reydon resident who was dismayed to see the Barn Close play equipment being dismantled by ESC. She had been advised by the Clerk that RPC had tried very hard to get this decision reversed but ESC had decided that this area was to be returned to a public open space. A new play area would be provided by the developers of the nearby Copperwheat development in due course.
- 18 Planning Committee (DomK)**
Minutes of Meeting held on 14.1.26 already circulated.
Update on ESC Planning Meeting on 20.1.26 to discuss Easton Bavents Application.
It was noted that the Application had been Refused and thanks were given by the Chair and all the Councillors to Cllr Kalvyn Friend and all involved in attending and preparing for the Planning Meeting on Reydon's behalf.
New Applications:
DC/25/4647/VOC and DC/25/4353/VOC. Variation of Condition No 2 of DC/25/1553/LBC and DC/25/1552/FUL – Garage refurbishment and rear extension to form picture framing studio, replacement joinery to dwelling (one French door set and replacing a window with a French door set) and the removal of a small section of modern partitioning – modest change in roof pitch to the existing garage while essential roof timer replacement is being carried out to provide additional storage and improve the aesthetic appearance. Also to provide the addition of a tiny bicycle and log store to the rear of the same – 55 Wangford Road, Reydon IP18 6QA.
No objections
DC/26/0080/FUL – Bungalow conversion to 2 storey house. Hunters Walk, 1 Hill Road, Reydon IP18 6NL.
Response by 9th February 2026
DC/25/4539/FUL – Change of use of land for the siting of 2no. glamping pods that can be relocated westward in response to coastal erosion. A rollback scheme following a previous grant of planning permission ref.
DC/20/1468/FUL – land to the west of easternmost Cabin, Easton Lane, Easton Bavents, Reydon IP18 6SS
Response by 10th February
Both the above to be discussed by the Planning Committee prior to the expiry date.
Planning Decisions/Updates:
DC/25/4186/FUL – Single storey extension to dwelling – 2 Hillfield Court, Reydon IP18 6RU
Application Permitted.
DC/25/3964/DRC – Discharge of condition Nos 17, 18 and 24 of DC/19/1141/OUT – Outline Application – Development of up to 220 dwellings with associated open space – Conditions 17 and 18 – Archaeology Evaluation Report. March 24 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation. July 2024 Written Scheme of Investigation. August 2024 Archaeology Evaluation and Excavation Report. October 2024 Condition 24 – Validation of Remediation: No documents submitted as details approved under Condition 22 (Ref: DC/24/1607/2024) demonstrate that no remediation is required – Land to the west of Copperwheat Avenue, Reydon IP18 6YD
Application Permitted.
DC/25/4620/DRC – Discharge of Condition No 2 (in Part) of DC/22/0462/ARM – Approval of Reserved Matters of DC/15/3288/OUT – Outline application to enable improvements to Saint Felix School to include residential development, public open space and associated infrastructure on the former playing field at Saint Felix School.

Appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, pursuant to outline permission DC/15/3288/OUT for the development of 55 dwellings – Flint Panel Details – Land South of Halesworth Road, Reydon.

Application Refused.

DC/25/3322/FUL – 4 Residential properties to be built to replace 3 cottages already lost to erosion and 1 house due to be lost in the next 20 years – Land to the rear of Larks Rising, Easton Lane IP18 6SS and The Warren, Easton Lane, Easton Bavents, Reydon IP18 6SU

Application Refused

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Finance – (RFO)

a) Invoices already paid

Gillian Graham	£122.10
E-on – Electricity Jubilee Green	£33.24
Pillbox Meeting	£25.00

b) Invoices to be paid

Pantry Electricity	£93.77
Pantry Driving	£189.00
Warm Spaces Mornings	£60.49
Hall Hire	£35.25
Mr Crown – lock for gate at Jubilee Green	£21.98
Kalvyn Friend – Refreshments for Mtg	£9.55
Lyn Nicholls – supplies for Pantry	£94.20
Cooper and Denny – securing Pillbox	£543.12
GW Shelter Solutions – seat at bus shelter	£682.80

Ann Dobson – Salary at end of month

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

Commercial Instant Access Account as at 31st December 2025	£	256,537.12
Community Account as at 31 st December 2025	£	600.20
TOTAL	£	257,137.32
TOTAL NOV PLUS DEC RECEIPTS	£	257,137.32
MINUS DEC PAYMENTS		

d) CIL Money Remaining as at end December 25 – £198,936.16

e) Working Budget (circulated prior to meeting)

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‘In Camera’ Update on Reydon Sports and Community Centre and Reydon Village Hall (LC)

This item was not minuted.

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Any Other Business

Southwold Harbour Advisory Group (DP)

Cllr David Panther said that he was the current RPC Representative for this Group but he would like to step back if some else would take this on. He asked the other Councillors to give it some thought and Cllr Dominic Knight said it could be mentioned in the Robin too.

Southwold and Reydon Society Executive Committee (LC)

Cllr Linda Coe said that she had been approached to join the Committee but she did not have the capacity so she asked if anyone else would be interested. Again, the Councillors were asked to give it some thought and let the Clerk or Chair know.

Reydon Stars Reminder (Clerk)

The Clerk said that Laurence Vulliamy had kindly agreed to carry on with this for a further year and currently there were eight nominations. She asked the Councillors to think about anyone else they would like to nominate.

Cllr Dale Goldsmith received a Vote of Thanks for initiating the pipe work and the sign at Reydon Recreation Ground.

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Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 19th February 2026 at 6.30 pm at Reydon Village Hall

The Chair closed the Meeting at 9.15 pm