Reydon Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Reydon Village Hall on 19th February 2026

1 Present and Opening

Present:

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

Clerk – Ann Dobson.

There were no members of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Dominic Knight and Cllr Dale Goldsmith and these were duly accepted by the Chair and Councillors.

3 Public Forum and Councillor Reports

SCC Cllr Michael Ladd gave his report as follows:

"Following the announcement last Monday by the Secretary of State, Stephen Reed, the Suffolk County Council elections are now back on in May this year as the government made another U turn.

Suffolk County Council has agreed its budget 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 and 77% of this budget goes on Adult Social Care and Children and Young Peoples Services which are both statutory services. 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 D property: £33.30 per week, an increase of £1.58 a week.

A new 20mph speed limit policy to enhance road safety and improve quality of life across Suffolk's communities has been agreed by county councillors. Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has backed the proposal to make it easier to reduce the speed limit, where appropriate, in residential and high-pedestrian areas to 20mph. Under the new scheme any applications for a 20mph limit in an area where recorded average traffic speeds are 28mph or under is likely to be approved.

The SCC Scrutiny committee met in Riverside Lowestoft on Tuesday to look at the Gull Wing Bridge, which was quite timely as it had broken down for the first time since opening 18 months ago a few days before. The committee agreed that this iconic structure, which is the largest infrastructure project SCC has ever delivered, was a big success. Various recommendations were made around improved signage and an early electronic warning if the bridge is closed again.

At a recent Carbon report SCC has saved around £41m since it agreed a Climate Emergency in 2019. The £10m investment in changing over 42,000 streetlights to LED is saving £6m per year on energy costs."

Cllr David Beavan began by saying the new Bin Regime was coming in June and that all the information as available online about this.

He went on to say he had met the representative from Orbit Homes and that he hoped a temporary haul road would be possible for construction traffic.

The sensor at Potters Bridge had been fitted by Cllr Beavan and it was now awaiting UD Live to activate it.

Cllr Beavan said that the Easton Bavents proposal had now gone to appeal and the outcome would largely depend on how the Inspector viewed it.
He went on to say that the Community Bus - Mr Bus – finished at the end of January and that a two-month pilot was being planned for July and August of a professionally-driven bus that could provide a more efficient and flexible service, catering to a wider range of passengers and improving connectivity in Southwold. One of the main objectives of the new service would be to connect Southwold with Darsham train station and Cllr Beavan said that this link would be particularly beneficial for tourists visiting Southwold, as it would provide easier access to the town from the train station and would mean less cars in the town.
Cllr Beavan finished by saying there would need to be a rise in Council Tax in East Suffolk, and that the council were currently working through reserves.
The Chair, Cllr Linda Coe, thanked Cllr Ladd and Cllr Beavan for their reports.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 22nd January were unanimously agreed to be authorised by the Chair, subject to one minor amendment being made which was raised by Cllr Chris Dixon. This amendment was to be made by the Clerk, circulated to all the Councillors for their approval, and then the Minutes would be duly signed by the Chair.

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

7 Clerk's Report

Cllr Medland's Crime Stats already circulated.
Crime Figures for December:
Reydon – 5 – 3 Violence and Sexual Offences, 1 Criminal Damage and Arson, 1 Drugs
Southwold – 3 – 1 Antisocial Behaviour, 1 Burglary, 1 Shoplifting.
Cllr Medland Crime Stats Circulated.
The Clerk said she had circulated the SALC Official Engagement Letter for Audit in advance of the Meeting. It was proposed for acceptance by Cllr David Panther, seconded by Cllr Adele Coleman and unanimously approved by all the Councillors.
The Clerk said she was liaising with a local contractor for two more noticeboards for the Village Hall and their purchase was approved by all the Councillors.
ACTION: Clerk to get these ordered.
Finally, the Clerk said she had been working alongside the Chair, Cllr Linda Coe, and STC regarding updating the Emergency Plan and that this was progressing well, with ESC coming out to approve the Village Hall, St Margarets Church and the Sports and Community Hall as official rest centres.

8 Highways Committee (DP)

Cllr David Panther explained that the Highways Committee Meeting was not until 26th February so there was nothing new to add. Cllr Kalvyn Friend asked about the winter cut on the Lowestoft Road and Cllr Panther said this would be added to the next Highways Agenda. The inspection at Potters Bridge had not yet taken place and this too would be discussed at the Highways Meeting as the SCC representative would be present.

9 Finance Committee (RFO/DK)

Request for donation towards Southwold Scout Hut – details already circulated. **(AC)**

A full and frank discussion took place over this request

Cllr Adele Coleman said that a new Scout Hut would be good for the community. It was questioned how many Reydon children would use the Scout Hut and whether it was realistic to try to raise £250,000. Cllr Kim Harvey said it would be a shame not to support the project. It was decided not to take a decision at the present time as other priorities needed to be looked at too.

Cllr David Panther said it was important to leave enough CIL for the big projects and it was decided by the Councillors at this point (put forward by Cllr David Eccles) that it would be a good idea for a plan to be formulated of priorities for the spending of CIL money, and also a form prepared that could be sent out to any organisations in the Community who wanted to put in a request. Cllr Dominic Knight as Chair of the Finance Committee, Cllr Linda Coe as Chair of the Parish Council and the Clerk would get together to set this up and report back to the rest of the Councillors accordingly.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

Possible Playground equipment for Barn Close (LC)

Cllr Linda Coe said that ESC had been contacted to see if they would have any objection to RPC considering spending some CIL money on play equipment. They had responded to say that would be okay but the play area could also be gifted to RPC if that was thought to be beneficial. It was decided that this was possibly a project for the future and it should wait for the CIL priority plan to be implemented.

ACTION: Clerk to notify ESC.

Breakfast Club availability and funding for Feed All Children (MM)

Cllr Mike Medland said that he had read in the press that free Breakfast Clubs were to be made available to primary schools upon request and he wondered if this would make a difference to the allocation of PC funds for Feed All Children in the next financial year. It was pointed out that the local annual Feed All Children project was for a hot lunch for all those who didn't qualify for a free school lunch, rather than breakfast and Cllr Sarah Jerman said the scheme made a massive difference to the children.

Cllr Dominic Knight had said in his report that a Committee Meeting would take place in early April when the complete financial year's figures would be available.

10 Green Spaces Working Group (MM)

Cllr Mike Medland said that the Green Spaces Meeting had taken place just before the RPC Meeting and the sole topic on that Agenda had been the possible provision of a Pump Track at the Recreation Ground. The approximate cost of this would be in the region of £45,000 to £50,000 and this would come out of CIL. Cllr Kalvyn Friend said that he thought it was good value and would promote good health. Cllr David Panther said he thought it was a worthwhile project. The Clerk was asked to send all the information to everyone and Cllr Linda Coe said that the next stage would be to get the project properly costed and then to add to the CIL Priority List that was being prepared.

ACTION: Clerk to send the information to all the Councillors.

11 WW1 Pillbox Working Group (CD)

The next Meeting was on 27th February so there was nothing new to report. Cllr Chris Dixon said that an application for funding had gone to Adnams, and there was a fundraising Quiz being arranged.

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

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

"With long, dark and very wet days, the Pantry has seen an increase in the number of customers, including quite a few new faces. People do seem to be 'feeling the pinch' at this time and we are aware of an ever-increasing need. Our donations continue, for which we are very grateful, and we have been discussing the possibility of changing our opening times in order to ensure that we do not waste short life items. If we can spread our opening times more evenly across the week, food that has a limited life won't be sitting in

the fridges for too long or even have to be thrown away. After approaching the RVHMC, we were only able to partially alter our times, but we hope that it will still benefit our clientele. Consequently, we plan to open Mondays 11.30-1.30, Wednesday 9-12 and Friday 9-12, beginning in March. With our change in hours, we will also have to evaluate whether our volunteers are able to help as regularly as they do. So, we are very much in a state of flux currently but hope things will work out sufficiently well for us to continue with the new regime. RVHMC have also said they wish to re-evaluate the scheme at the end of a three-month period."

13 Footpaths Working Group (CD)

Cllr Chris Dixon said there had not been another Footpaths Meeting so nothing new to report apart from saying that the new metal cycling signs had been installed around the village.

14 Reydon Village Hall (KH/DE/KF) Update

The next Village Hall Management Committee Meeting was not until 25th March so there was nothing new to report.

15 Reydon Robin (DomK)

Cllr Dominic Knight was not present but had sent in a report to say he would shortly be sending out reminders to long-standing contributors and also getting in contact with the Southwold Arts Festival who were sponsoring the Easter issue. He wanted to say thank you to those who had already sent in contributions – specifically Cllr Chris Dixon and Cllr David Eccles – and to remind anyone else who wanted something to go in the next Robin that the deadline would be Friday, 20 March for publication on Thursday, 2 April.

16 Website (DomK)

Cllr Knight was not present but had sent in a report to say that the new Potters Bridge sensor had been installed but was yet to be activated, so readings were still down on the main page. As David Beavan had said earlier it was waiting for UD Live to activate it.

17 Correspondence (Clerk)

The Clerk said she had received correspondence from a concerned resident about the footpath at the junction of Elliott Avenue and the Lowestoft Road. SCC had said it was not a priority to fix the problem, but the Councillors decided to add this the Highways Agenda to speak to the SCC representative who would be present at that Meeting.

18 Planning Committee (DomK)

Minutes of Meeting held on 5th Feb 2026 had already been circulated.

New Applications:

DC/26/0080/FUL – Bungalow conversion to 2 storey house. Hunters Walk, 1 Hill Road, Reydon IP18 6NL

There were no objections by the Planning Committee

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 west of easternmost cabin, Easton Lane, Easton Bavents, Reydon IP18 6SS

It was felt that as these pods were being moved rather than new pods added there were no objections by the Planning Committee.

DC/26/0125/LBC – Listed Building Consent – Reconstruction of internal fireplace opening and installation of a working log burning stove, 59 Wangford Road, Reydon.

There were no objections by the Planning Committee

DC/26/0210/FUL – Demolition of an existing side and provision of new side extension together with some internal alteration work and a raised patio at the rear, Harvesters, 19 Gorse Road, Reydon IP18 6NQ

There were no objections by the Planning Committee but the application was later withdrawn.

DC/26/0442/FUL – The erection of a 2m high close-boarded fence on the east boundary of the site returning westwards to meet the main house on the north east corner, together with hedge screening to the fence. 1 Nicholas Drive Reydon, IP18 6RE **Comments by 5 March 2026**

19 Finance – (RFO)

A quote for mending the bus shelter on Reydon Corner had been received by the Clerk from Cooper & Denny and this was approved by the Councillors.

a) Invoices already paid

Gillian Graham	£170.91
E-on – Electricity Jubilee Green	£25.86
Planning Meeting	£12.40
Lyn Nicholls – supplies for Pantry	£86.34

b) Invoices to be paid

Pantry Electricity	£99.15
Litter Picker Jacket	£13.99
Pantry Driving	£144.00
Warm Spaces Mornings	£29.33
Birketts Solicitors	£968.40
Lynn Nicholls – Pantry Supplies	£36.66
Postage	£6.30
Paper Bags for Pantry	£15.98
2nd Energy Meter for Pantry	£40.56
Stationery – Copier Paper x 5 reams, Printer Ink	£64.64
Ann Dobson – Salary at end of month	

c) Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 31st January 2026

Commercial Instant Access Account as at 31st January 2026		£	254,030.13
Community Account as at 31st January 2026		£	601.00
TOTAL		**£**	**254,631.13**
TOTAL DEC PLUS JAN RECEIPTS		**£**	**254,631.13**
MINUS JAN PAYMENTS			

d) CIL Money Remaining as at end January 2026 – £202,068.82

e) Working Budget (circulated prior to meeting)

20 'In Camera' Update on Reydon Sports and Community Centre and Reydon Village Hall (LC)

The discussion regarding the above was 'in camera' and therefore would not be minuted. However, two decisions were taken by the Councillors and these were as follows:

To agree to give a sum of CIL money to the Reydon Sports and Community Centre to enable the completion of the changing rooms, subject to certain conditions being agreed by both parties. Proposed by Cllr David Panther, Seconded by Cllr David Eccles and all in favour.

To agree to explore the possibility of a new home for the Community Pantry at the Village Hall, subject to approval by the RVHMC. Proposed by Cllr David Eccles, Seconded by Cllr David Panther and all in favour.

21 Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

22 Date of Next Meeting

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

The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.40 pm