

Reydon Parish Council

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Reydon Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 23rd April 2026 at 6.30 pm

Present: Chair, Cllr Linda Coe, Vice-Chair, Cllr David Panther, Cllr Kalvyn Friend, Cllr Dominic Knight, Cllr Sarah Jerman, Cllr Dale Goldsmith, Cllr David Eccles, Cllr Mike Medland, Cllr Adele Coleman, Cllr Chris Dixon.

Approximately 20 members of the public.

1 Opening and Welcome

Cllr Linda Coe welcomed everyone to the Meeting and began by thanking Laurence Vulliamy for organising the evening. She said that Laurence worked tirelessly on producing the script and also all the certificates and frames etc. and, on behalf of the Council, she couldn't thank him enough. There was a big round of applause from all present.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Kim Harvey who was on holiday.

3 Presentation of the Parish Council's annual 'Reydon Stars', for outstanding contributions to the local community, by Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP for Suffolk Coastal, and Reydon Parish Council Chair Cllr Linda Coe.

Cllr Linda Coe said that this Annual Parish Meeting would begin with the presentation of the Reydon 'Stars'. These awards, now in their fourth year, were established to recognise those who have made outstanding voluntary contributions to our community of Reydon. She said the Council was indebted to Mike Mayhew from Southwold Press for designing and printing all the superb certificates.

She went on to say: "To present The Reydon Stars this year we are delighted to welcome the MP for Suffolk Coastal, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter! Since her election in 2024 Jenny has been generous with her time here in Reydon, getting involved with the flooding issues at Potters Bridge and opening our adventure playground on The Reydon Rec. last year. Jenny also contributes, regularly to The Reydon Robin".

LINDA: "Our first Reydon 'Star' this year is presented to a remarkable person, who has been church organist at St Margaret's in Reydon for 30 years and has played regularly at Henstead, and at nearby Frostenden for over 20 years. Her favourite composers are Handel and Fauré, and she even boasts of having her own pipe-organ at home, as you do. If that's not enough Ruth has opened her wonderful garden for charity for the last 25 years, raising over £10,000 for various organisations, including Guide Dogs for the Blind and The Reydon Christmas Lights. Her last event for The Reydon Lights raised over £700 in one afternoon and Ruth recalls – fondly - that she made over 200 scones! Ladies and Gentlemen, please show your great appreciation for RUTH CHAPMAN!"

Jenny presents the Reydon Star to Ruth Chapman.

LINDA: "Our second recipient has had a career in advertising, marketing and chief executive roles in six overseas countries, as well as operating his own retail company in UK. Today he prevents his aging grey cells from atrophying by working for his daughter and son in law as their Finance Director in fashion PR. Dexter and his wife Jane have lived in Reydon for the last 25 years and Dexter has not been sitting still. He served as a Parish Councillor for almost a decade and continues to advise The Parish Council on financial matters. Dexter was the Chairman of the Village Plan, and Vice Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan, a legally binding document used to guide the development and conservation of our locality. Whilst Treasurer of The Southwold Arts Centre, Dexter helped raise over £140,000 for its survival during the difficult COVID pandemic years, with no audiences or income. Finally, Dexter served on the executive committee of The Southwold and Reydon Society for 15 years, becoming both their Chair and President. Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome the unstoppable DEXTER KIRK!"

Jenny presents the Reydon Star to Dexter Kirk.

LINDA: "And now for something completely different. For the first time The Parish Council are recognising a Junior volunteer. Poppy is 8 years old and has helped with The Reydon and Southwold Fridge and Pantry for 3 years, together with her mother Sarah. In fact, to save any blushes, Sarah says 'Poppy does everything I do, except drive the car'. That means collecting donated food from shops, loading it in the car, unloading at The Pantry, sorting it by

different dates, and doing that seven days a week. Sarah adds 'I have a number of children and Poppy is the most helpful of them all. She just loves being helpful'. Poppy has also received two school awards for being helpful, so it's not just us that appreciates her! Ladies and gentlemen, a very warm appreciation and thanks to Miss POPPY JERMAN"!

Jenny presents the Reydon Star to Poppy Jerman.

LINDA: "The next Reydon Star is awarded to another remarkable woman who has taught Art all over the world, and in Reydon for at least the last twenty five years. Lesley attended Southampton Art College when she was fifteen, and after that trained to be a school teacher. She met her husband who was a violinist with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and she accompanied him on many foreign assignments before retiring and settling in Suffolk. Lesley joined The Reydon Art Group and The Southwold Art Circle, and ran both for more than 20 years before retiring at the age of ninety! She also joined the Waveney Branch of Cats Protection as fundraiser for Southwold and Reydon, and when that branch closed Lesley joined the Framlingham and Saxmundham branch and has continued to raise funds for them, organising many fundraisers in this Village Hall. Lesley enjoys her beach hut, and still attends classes at The Reydon Art Group. Ladies and gentlemen, show your appreciation for the indomitable LESLEY FISHER"!

Jenny presents the Reydon Star to Lesley Fisher.

LINDA: "Our final individual award goes to a man who is so busy helping others that he thinks about going back to work for a rest! Ridley moved to Reydon with his late wife Shirley 30 years ago and has volunteered for so many local organisations. In no particular order Ridley has been driving for The Voluntary Help Centre, taking people to hospital for 10 years; he worked on the Reydon Village and Neighbourhood Plans – saying he especially enjoyed interviewing farmers. He has been both Chair and President of The Southwold and Reydon Society, and is the current Chair of The Southwold and Reydon Choral Society. Perhaps Ridley's most noticeable work has been as a Trustee of The Southwold Arts Centre. For the last five years Ridley has made tea, served drinks, tidied chairs . . . and has done all the publicity for The Arts Centre, in every medium. In the words of our dear colleague and former Parish Councillor, Fiona Taylor 'Rid adores a bit of laminating'. However, it's all about harnessing the power of Social Media. Ridley claims to have 150 local organisations to hand at the touch of a button on his phone, and his publicity machine has been so effective for The Southwold Arts Centre, a superb, independent resource, serving our communities. Ladies and gentlemen, please show your appreciation for the wonderful RIDLEY BURNETT"!

Jenny presents the Reydon Star to Ridley Burnett.

DAVID PANTHER TAKES OVER: "Thank you Linda! This last Reydon Star Award goes to a remarkable team of local volunteers. It's my pleasure to deliver this special citation because my colleague Linda Coe is also Chair of this superb local initiative - The Reydon and Southwold Community Fridge and Pantry! Next month it will be three years that The Fridge and Pantry have been working so successfully, collecting and re-distributing food and other consumable items to the community, that would otherwise be consigned to landfill as 'waste'. To date it has been estimated that over 1,500 collections have been made from local shops and supermarkets. That is a total of 35,000 kilograms of re-distributed food, the equivalent of a staggering 84,000 meals! If that is not surprising enough - a remarkable 91,400 kilograms of Co2 have been saved from going to landfill or incineration! Our sincere thanks are due to the 25 volunteers who staff the Pantry three times a week, and the 12 drivers who collect food and other items seven days a week. Without their dedicated efforts together The Pantry simply could not operate. Ladies and gentlemen to collect The Reydon Star, on behalf of The Reydon and Southwold Community Fridge and Pantry, please welcome SARAH JERMAN and our Volunteers"!

Jenny presents the Reydon Star to Sarah Jerman and the Pantry Volunteers.

LINDA: "Thank you David, and congratulations to all this year's nominees. We will shortly be having a short break, but to round off this year's awards presentation I am delighted to invite our MP, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter to say a few words".

Jenny began by saying a huge well-done to all the recipients of the awards and she thanked everyone for inviting her to present them. She said that it was the first time she had heard of a Parish Council awarding 'Stars' and that volunteers within the community were very important. She also said that Parish and Town Councillors gave up a good deal of their time for their community and that they were very important to recognise. Jenny said that she would be holding a Coffee Morning in Reydon very soon and that she hoped as many people as possible would attend.

A full report from Jenny for the Meeting had been sent in advance and this is attached to these Minutes.

There followed a short break for refreshments before the Reviews and Reports took place.

Reviews:**Council Review – Cllr Linda Coe, Parish Council Chair**

“To some people it will be something of a surprise to see me sitting here, rather than Pam Cyprien. At our May meeting last year, Pam decided to stand down as Chair of RPC after several years of sterling work and I am very happy to be able to take this opportunity to officially thank her for all the marvellous work she did and continues to do for Reydon and for Reydon Parish Council. She is an extremely hard act to follow, but I’m trying my best, Pam. Since I have taken over the role as Chair, I have been able to represent the Council and Reydon at various events, such as Southwold’s Civic Service, laying a wreath at St Margarets Remembrance Day service, the Southwold and Reydon Society’s annual lunch, the Sole Bay Lions annual lunch, the opening of the Men’s Shed to name a few. I recently met a Councillor of another Council. Their main comment was that there were too many councillors who attended the monthly meetings but said nothing and did nothing. Nothing could be further from the truth with Reydon Parish Council. I can honestly say that every Councillor is so involved in all aspects of Reydon life; no-one sits back and it makes for very interesting meetings. It is not my brief to tell you what each of our Committees has been up to this year...that is for them to tell you, but I will mention how excited we all are about the Pillbox Restoration project. We are also at the early stages of developing an independent building for the use of the Community Pantry. We have also continued the work on developing the recreation park areas and on the less exciting ...but no less important...work such as planning applications, maintaining footpaths and overseeing our local highways. Mentioning highways leads me nicely into thanking Gillian Graham who not only keeps our roads litter free but also maintains our bus shelters. It makes wandering around Reydon a pleasure rather than a depressing event. As I thank Gillian, there are many more people who deserve our thanks. Thanks to all our Councillors who spend hours of their time working to improve our living experience here in Reydon...you’re a pleasure to work with. There are also people heavily involved in the work of RPC, such as Ben and Geoff Cooper, Nic Elvin and also Philip O’Hear and I would like to extend our thanks to them. And finally, Ann, our Parish Clerk and RFO ...she is a marvel. Knows most things, and that which she doesn’t know, she finds out very quickly. I for one couldn’t do this job without you, so very grateful thanks from all of us, Ann. Thank you everyone.”

Planning Committee – Cllr Dominic Knight

“It has been a year of steady activity for the Planning Committee, where we’ve worked hard to balance the constant pressure for growth against the vital need to protect our village’s unique character. Between last May and this April, we’ve reviewed a total of 34 applications involving 32 properties. That’s almost identical to what we saw in the previous two years, which really highlights the persistent development pressure within our parish. Of those, we recommended 27 for approval – although three came with specific conditions – and we lodged objections to seven. The majority of applications continued to be for domestic improvements, including single-storey extensions, porch additions, internal alterations, and unique proposals such as the change of use for an indoor Padel Court. However, the Committee also addressed more complex proposals involving retirement living, glamping pods and renewable energy infrastructure (solar PV). It should also be noted that, like last year, the rate of application has been highly irregular. Things went remarkably quiet in the second half of last year, leading us to cancel several meetings, but there’s been a very sharp pick-up since January. This may be a reflection of general economic uncertainty and caution induced by tax changes brought in by this government. A few specific applications have taken up a fair amount of our time:

- The application for nine executive glamping pods just off Lowestoft Road caused a good deal of public concern. The Committee maintained a firm objection due to a potentially dangerous site entrance, the potential environmental impact and concerns over sewer capacity. Ultimately, East Suffolk Council refused the application.
- Then there is Teal Close. This is a re-application for 36 retirement apartments and it remains a major worry for us. We’ve kept up our objections based on overdevelopment and a lack of parking, not to mention the likely impact on light and local amenity, and the nearby Sole Bay Health Centre.
- The Easton Bavents saga continues. We maintain our reservations regarding the repeated application for four replacement dwellings for ones that have been or will be lost to coastal erosion. In our view, the proposal represents an unjustified intensification of development within the open countryside. It fails key comparability tests, overlooks viable alternative sites and contravenes landscape protection policies. By failing these statutory duties, the development threatens the integrity of the National Landscape and risks the local rural economy through the loss of high-quality agricultural land– setting a troubling precedent for future coastal development. Following our robust opposition at the ESC Committee meeting in January, the re-application was rejected; however, the applicants have now appealed to the Secretary of State. We have already submitted our formal representations to ensure our position is heard. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who have contributed their time and expertise to this complex issue.

Regarding the other major development in Reydon, it's been confirmed that the proposed temporary haul road for the Copperwheat site won't be going ahead. Consequently, we will need to be highly vigilant in monitoring construction traffic throughout our village. We are also closely tracking the project's start date, as that will affect everything from local infrastructure to the timing of the CIL payments from this development that will go into the community pot for local projects.

The Council is also working to clarify the St Felix Community User Agreement regarding the school's leisure facilities. Following a productive meeting with the Head in March 2026, we are seeking formal assurances to ensure the individual community access promised in 2021 is fully realised.

The Committee continues to rely on the Reydon Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that new developments respect the character of the village. With the regional landscape shifting rapidly, and Suffolk's housing targets potentially doubling under new government frameworks, our Plan has become an essential shield – particularly as the Call for Sites process is likely to herald further local development. We are also mindful of the rising demand for accommodation linked to the Sizewell C project. We have significant reservations regarding the conversion of domestic outbuildings and garages into worker lodgings; indeed, we have already objected to one such application. While we recognise the need for worker housing, we are determined to protect the integrity of our residential streets and prevent them from being subsumed by temporary accommodation. Our priority remains the provision of affordable housing for local families, in line with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Finally, while it was confirmed last year that LionLink will be routed via Walberswick, we cannot afford to be too complacent. With numerous offshore projects still requiring landfall, this issue may yet resurface for Reydon and its immediate area. We must remain vigilant and continue to make the case for a more coherent and joined-up renewable energy policy for our area and for Suffolk as a whole.

Keeping abreast Committee members and the Clerk have regularly attended the East Suffolk Planning Fora and SALC training sessions. One of our number also attends ESPA meetings. This has been vital in navigating the new growth-focused national policies and the ongoing shake-up of local government. By working this way, we can navigate future planning shifts together and ensure our community remains resilient.

To end, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members and our Clerk, Ann Dobson, for their tireless work in handling these often technical and contentious issues."

Green Spaces Working Group – Cllr Mike Medland

"Over the past year, the Green Spaces Working Group has made strong progress in improving and maintaining our community spaces, with a particular focus on the Recreation Ground, allotments, and village environment.

A major highlight was the official opening of the new Recreation Ground playground in May, which has been very well received by residents. Since then, we have continued to enhance the site with new goal nets, fencing, and ongoing maintenance to ensure safety and quality. Additional improvements currently underway include surfacing works near the basketball area and general upgrades funded through the Council Infrastructure Levy.

We have also taken steps to improve the wider village environment. This includes installing new planters at Reydon Corner, planting wildflowers and spring bulbs, maintaining hedging, and supporting biodiversity initiatives in collaboration with the Tree Warden.

At the allotments, the focus has been on addressing practical issues such as high water usage, infrastructure repairs, and improved management. Measures introduced include tap replacements, fitting locks to reduce water waste, and closer engagement with allotment holders through meetings and communication.

Bus shelters across the parish have also been improved, with refurbishment works, new seating, and the introduction of a regular cleaning schedule to keep them in good condition.

Looking at this year, the group has begun with some minor improvements at the Recreational ground whilst exploring some larger projects for the future.

Overall, the past year has been one of steady improvement, investment, and planning for the future, ensuring our green spaces remain safe, attractive, and well-used by the community."

Highways Committee – Cllr David Panther

"RPC Highways Committee meets approximately every six weeks. Meetings include our SCC constituency Councillor, Michael Ladd and a member of the community highways engineering team. We thank our SCC members for their advice and support.

Although the last winter has been particularly wet, with substantial rainfall, carriageway flooding has not been a significant local problem. Natural England installed overflow pipes that carry water from Potters Bridge marshes to the beach at the southern end of Benacre Estate. These pipes have maintained more stable water levels on the marshes.

Flooding at Potters Bridge was minimal this winter. Following the failure of the remote water level sensor at the bridge a new monitor was installed by Councillor David Beavan. Purchase of the new sensor was funded from his localities budget by Councillor Michael Ladd.

A structural survey of Potters Bridge is scheduled for April 2026. Repairs to the carriageway surface are planned.

Quay Lane has been open to traffic throughout the winter. The previous gully cleansing, coupled with less silt washing onto the lane from the adjacent fields seems to have successfully prevented flooding. Carriageway cleaning also helped.

The PC owns several Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). These devices are frequently moved around the road network in order to optimise effectiveness. Great thanks are due to Rebecca and John Clatworthy for their commitment to charging the batteries and rotating the devices around their locations.

The Automatic Number Plate Recognition speed camera (ANPR) has been deployed at the Eastern End of Halesworth Road on several occasions. 90 per cent of vehicles that triggered the device were travelling at 30 to 34 mph. 9 percent of vehicles were travelling at over 35 mph. Around 1 per cent were travelling at over 40 mph. The fastest vehicle was travelling at 44 mph.

A further traffic survey is timetabled for July in order to collect further data to inform possible speed reduction measures on Halesworth Road.

The Highways Committee continue to challenge SCC Highways and the Local Planning Authority regarding road safety conditions linked to new housing developments. There are three roads leading to Reydon from the A12. We are dismayed that traffic calming measures are to be imposed on the road with the best record for compliance with the speed limit, yet we are repeatedly told that traffic calming is unnecessary on the road where compliance is worst. We also continue to be dismayed that when planning applications for new developments are considered access arrangements for both construction vehicles and occupants of completed sites are not considered in the initial evaluation. Difficulties and constraints frequently come to light only after planning permission has been granted.”

WW1 Pillbox Group – Chris Dixon

“The Pillbox group formed to save Reydon’s historic WW1 Pillbox on Mights Bridge following its purchase from the original landowner by the Parish Council. The group chaired by Laurence Vulliamy and more recently Philip O’Hear decided it would be restored and made accessible as part of a history trail of Reydon. Once restored the Pillbox will be maintained by Reydon Parish Council.

In Its restored state, the Pillbox will have a viewing window onto to a display which recreates how it would have been used. Groups of people will be able to book for access to the inside. There will be a footpath around the outside with a handrail as it is on a steep bank. There will be an information board outside giving details about the Pillbox and a QR code to additional information on the Parish Council website and to the rest of a historic trail around Reydon.

The Pillbox project has a lot of interest from the local schools. Southwold Primary School want to be involved in planting poppies around the Pillbox when it is restored.

Since last October the soil has been removed from inside the Pillbox by the Community Payback team and replaced by Acrow props. Cooper and Denny who are actively involved in this project, have also installed security fencing.

Following a presentation to the Parish Council by Laurence Vulliamy, Pam Cyprien and Georgie Glen, the Parish Council has given £12,000 towards the project. A further £5,000 has been donated by the Reydon Trust. Applications have been made to Adnams Community Trust and the Heritage Lottery for money to get the conservation work started. The group has also looked at other fund raising ideas and will be having a quiz in July as part of its fund-raising campaign. Another £3,000 will enable the restoration work to commence, so a ‘Go Fund Me Page’ was started but this was unsuccessful as we did not realise it had to have a named person and bank account for this to work. We now have a logo which shows a completed Pillbox with poppies at its base.

The group has also looked at how to retrieve the Pillbox blocks that were thrown down the steep bank and into the muddy water by vandals. We have made requests of several organisations for help with this but are still awaiting their reply. Without being able to reclaim the blocks we will have to have replicas made.

There is a robust project plan in place and much work to do by the end of this year.”

Laurence Vulliamy, as the founding Chair of the WW1 Pillbox Group had also prepared a report as below:

“After several unsuccessful attempts over the years by other groups, Reydon Parish Council finally acquired the World-War One Pillbox at Mights Bridge in 2024, together with a metre of land around it. The then landowner, who lives in Southend, was told by East Suffolk Council that unless he made it safe, it would be pulled down and disposed of at his expense. Since then the Pillbox Steering Group have considered all the options for the building’s future, and finally decided that the best use of it would be as a ‘Living History’ experience. It is urgent, as after many years of neglect the building is in poor shape and needs urgent and careful restoration. We believe our Pillbox is rare amongst WW1 monuments. It is small, circular and constructed with specially cast bricks and a very thick concrete roof, designed specially to resist blast. It was built in a strategic place to guard both the seaward marshes and the vitally important road in and out of Southwold and its strategically important harbour.

As war was declared in 1914 one of the most serious threats was from enemy invasion along the East Coast. No-one wanted to live under a foreign dictator. One hundred and twelve years later the Pillbox still sits there as a calm

reminder of that very unwelcome possibility. As so many of the specially made concentric bricks have been thrown in the Creek by helpful vandals, the Steering Group decided to turn the biggest hole in the wall into a viewing window, using specially toughened laminated glass. Inside visitors and guided school groups will be able to see a re-enactment of a garrison occupying the building, with their .303 rifles, maps, tea mugs and binoculars all out to be seen, as if the building was in daily use. Nearby signage will put the history bang into context, describing the dangers of invasion, and what the Pillbox was actually built for. The building will also be the centrepiece of a new Reydon Historical Trail, taking in many fascinating, but little known features such as the mediaeval village of Easton Bavents, lost to erosion, the once tidal Buss Creek with reportedly the remains of a Viking ship in it; Reydon Quay, said to be busier than Southwold Harbour in its day, and The Victorian Blyth River Navigation to Halesworth.

Work on repairing the building is about to begin. To date we have raised over £27,000, including a generous donation from Reydon Parish Council of £12,000 and £5,000 from The Reydon Trust. Thank you!

The Steering Group is working very hard to raise awareness and of course, more money. Recently we have had broadcast opportunities on BBC Look East and BBC Radio Suffolk. We have the eminent national archaeologist and historian Francis Pryor as our Patron, and local military expert, Col. Giles Stibbe from The Household Cavalry is on hand to advise, together with local actor Georgie Glen who will help with further public engagement when the time comes. So, we are setting the pace! If you'd like to be part of our exciting project, please contact Ann, our Parish Clerk."

Community Pantry – Linda Coe

"The Community Pantry continues to go from strength to strength. What was originally perceived as a need for possibly a few months has developed into a regular and well used facility, helping anyone in the community who chooses to visit in order to maintain food sustainability and keep perfectly good food out of the landfill sites.

Our team of drivers, organised by Sarah Jerman, collect every day from Bookers in Lowestoft and every evening from Tescos and the Coop in Southwold. These donations are supplemented by twice weekly donations from the Cornish Bakery, KFC from their outlet in Lowestoft and hygiene items from the Hygiene Bank which works out of the Lowestoft Foodbank. Other items come in on an ad-hoc basis...particularly in the summer months from local allotment holders with excess produce.

Our volunteers work in pairs in the Pantry for 3 hour shifts and 21 have very recently undertaken and passed their Level 2 Food Hygiene training, with certificates to prove it. They come from all walks of life but all feel that it is so worthwhile. They volunteer for whatever shifts they can but it is amazing to see how they all come forward to help out if there is any form of problem...a real mini community in itself. My thanks to all of you.

All of this is organised by myself, Sarah and also Kim Harvey...who is presently on holiday, with a new addition to our administrative team, Lynn Nicholls. Everyone has a really important role to play and is hugely valued.

It is hoped that we will shortly be moving to a new purpose built Pantry but these plans are at a very early stage at the moment. A case of watch this space.... but evidence, we feel, of the need experienced by the whole community.

Thanks again, to all of our volunteers...the Pantry genuinely couldn't run without you. From all our drivers bringing all the goods in to all the volunteers manning the shelves....immense gratitude."

Footpaths Working Group – Chris Dixon

The Footpaths Working Group has now been working together for one year.

The purpose of the group remains the same as we stated last year e.g:-

Looking at footpaths defined as Public Rights of Way (PROW).

Identifying accessibility, maintenance and health and safety issues.

We will regularly monitor footpaths with assistance from groups, landowners and individuals who use them.

In conjunction with the new SCC Rights of Way Officer we will also be discussing key paths for work by volunteers and new possible footpaths to create circular walks around Reydon.

Looking at revising the current village map in addition to the new walking map proposed by the Reydon and Southwold society. We want a map of the village that identifies key amenities as well as walking routes that can be given to every household and form a welcome pack to people who move to our village.

This year Ben Heather, our Suffolk County Council Public Rights of Way (PROW) officer has joined our group every two months to discuss specific issues.

We have tried to create a joint group with Southwold Town Council, but so far have been unsuccessful in a representative of the Town Council joining us. We do however now have representatives from the Southwold and Reydon Society and the Reydon WW1 Pillbox group.

We have had some successes and some frustrations with some key footpaths. There is a continuing issue with the footpaths 3,4,5,21 and 23 which link from Southwold to St Felix and down to the Halesworth road. Initially it was with cyclists using the footpaths and tearing down signs we erected to address this. Recent metal signs have addressed this issue, but now we have a motorbike using these paths on a regular basis and putting walkers at risk. The Police have been informed but so far have not caught the culprit as there is no regular pattern of time.

Trying to fix the wet section of footpath 3 which is on St Felix land has also been an issue in co-ordinating our aggregate delivery with their workers to lay it.

On a more positive note, the County Council have repaired the bridge where footpath 1 crosses footpath 12. The King Charles coastal path whose route has had to change due to coastal erosion is moving closer to being completed with an optional alternative route when there is a breach and plastic boarding being laid soon on the very marshy bits. Our section should be open within the next nine months.

The Reydon Robin and Parish Council website have given individuals the reporting tool to identify issues with footpaths.

We have now commissioned someone to redraw the village leisure map. This will show all Public Rights of Way, Permissive Paths and Bridle Ways together with all of Reydon's amenities. When completed each household will get a copy and additional copies will be given to estate agents for new residents and in a variety of places for tourists. The map will cover the whole parish and have notes on the back to follow a history trail which includes the WW1 Pillbox and a Nature Trail. There will be QR codes to link with our website for further information. The map will fold to A6 size and open to A3."

Cllr Linda Coe thanked all the Councillors for their Reviews of the Year.

5

Reports:

Sole Bay Care Fund – Anna Hursell (read by Ann, the Clerk as Anna was unable to attend).

"Cathy Ryan stepped down from chair of Sole Bay Care Fund in late 2025 and Anna Hursell was appointed as the new Chair.

Since then, the trustees have taken the time to review how best support our wonderful community by looking at where the funds we raise are used and how we can best meet the gaps we encounter in this current climate.

Sole Bay Care Fund was founded to aid support and care of local residents to meet health and social needs not funded by the NHS or Social services. In the past it has also been able to support a wider range of projects which have aided the community in different ways.

Due to the current increased push for care in the community and the sometimes-limited services in our area which are often at risk of becoming overwhelmed, we feel it is now important to refocus our resources back toward the charity's original cause of offering direct care to those who need it, when they need it.

This has meant that we had to make some sad decisions such as ceasing of running Mr Bus. The costs of running the service had spiralled and were no longer viable for our charity, additionally the service has also been underused. Although this was a sad time, we are now fully focussed on offering helping our residents with care when they need it. Care can be funded for a short period of time in an emergency. This care is offered for no longer than two weeks and enables care to be provided in the patient's home whilst giving time for social services to assess or for the patient to recover enough to be independent. We try to use local care agencies or self-employed carers where possible, although care can be difficult to source at times.

We are also able to offer small pieces of equipment needed in an emergency such as continence equipment, key safes and personal alarms, and we are still funding other small projects which meet our charitable purpose such as 'Walk and Talk' a local walking group which helps with socialising, mobility and mental health but meeting up with others, walking in our beautiful village and town and having a good chat over a cup of tea. We also support 'Stomp' which is run by Tracey Marriot and held at Pitches view, where the residents of Pitches view and the local area are welcomed to seated exercises and games which are enjoyed by all."

Reydon Village Hall – Charlotte Clark (read by Ann, the Clerk as Charlotte was unable to attend).

"It is 2 years since we launched the Golden Anniversary Appeal, the idea being to fundraise between now and 2027 to carry out much needed improvements at the hall. In the last 12 months we have continued our raft of fundraising events, including quiz nights, ceilidhs, bingo nights and beetle drives.

With the money raised and a generous contribution from Reydon Parish Council we were able to completely overhaul the disabled toilet into a suitable modern facility (including a baby change), replace the main hall and Loftus Room lighting and upgrade the emergency lighting, completely redecorate the main hall and fit new blinds and curtains in the main hall. We also had the main hall floor resurfaced, which after some teething problems is now looking splendid.

We also fitted a new CCTV system at the hall and had an overhaul of the fire alarm system. RPC also funded a conditions survey of the hall. We also had the disabled parking bays and no parking areas repainted by the community payback team, as well as them providing the grounds maintenance. And the lovely Stephen Westlake filled in the potholes in the driveway.

7

As well as the many and varied activities that take place at the hall, via those who hire the space, and our fundraising events, we also continued to provide our free community coffee mornings each month in collaboration with Reydon and Southwold Pantry. These see a wide range of people come to partake in hot drinks, pastries or toast plus free hot homemade soup to eat in or take away.

We would like to mark the sad passing of former committee member Irene Robertson, a force of nature who will be sadly missed. Our heartfelt thanks to all the RVH Management Committee, Reydon Parish Council and all the people who have supported Reydon Village Hall this year.”

Reydon Trust – Mike Mayhew

“Hello - My name is Mike Mayhew and I am representing the Reydon Trust.

Each year we get a number of applications from outside the parish. Unless it can be shown that Reydon residents are a large percentage of those in the organisation that will benefit from the Trusts financial support, then the Trust is bound by its constitution and unable to help.

Amongst the many we helped in the last year were:- Southwold Arts Centre, Southwold Golf Club with a grant financed over three years, Southwold Allotment Holders Association Ltd., Southwold Sailing Club, a number of Reydon individuals with support in home furnishings, these items the Trust pays directly to the supplier, Reydon Christmas lights, Reydon Primary School and its children on a residential trip and the local football club.

Again, as in previous Christmasses, the Trust gave all primary school children in Southwold and Reydon a Christmas card and £10.00 book token.

It was apparent in this last year that Sole Bay Care Fund was not so financially active in our community as had been the case in other years. Many of its recipient causes fell short on financial help. However, the need has not gone away, with increased pressure on the Reydon Trust to help. At one recent quarterly meeting, the Trust had applications for help amounting to more than three times the trusts £35K annual income. The Trust helps where it can but at present, feels it is unable to help repeat applicants.

The capital is invested with the CCLA, who once again, have managed to hold our capital value at over £1,000,000 while giving us a return in excess of £35,000 per annum enabling us to use this in the parish of Reydon for need, hardship or distress.”

Cllr Linda Coe thanked Mike Mayhew for coming along and also Charlotte and Anna for sending in their reports.

6 Matters Arising and Any Questions

There were a few questions from the audience:

The Councillors were asked whether the dates of the ANPR being active could be publicised in advance. It was agreed to check this out and Ann, the Clerk, said she would do this.

The Councillors were asked about the King Charles III Footpath and the concrete that had been dumped along the Easton Bavents area. They advised that all this area was being looked into by ESC Planning and that Joe Blackmore from ESC was taking this forward.

The Councillors were asked whether it was possible to know who owns what land on the footpath map for Reydon. The Councillors advised that the ownership of a specific footpath could be requested on the SCC Report It Tool.

Finally, the Councillors were asked about the footpaths around St Felix. Apparently, there was some barbed wire which was considered dangerous on what was thought to be St Felix property. The Councillors said they would look into this. The hedge was said to have been grubbed up on the East side of the new development and when the resident had enquired as to whether this was to be reinstated they were told by Hill Developments that they would be talking to the landscape gardener. Nothing further had been heard. It was agreed that Ann, the Clerk, would contact Hill Developments.

7 The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the Meeting at 8.00 pm