

REYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: 28th April 2022 at Reydon Village Hall

Present Chairman Cllr Cyprien, Councillors Dexter, Djahit, Taylor, O’Hear, Kirk, Cracknell, Friend, Turner, Panther and Vulliamy

In Attendance Clerk, Julie Jordan, Mike Mayhew and 14 members of the public

1 Opening – Cllr Cyprien welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

2. Speaker - Bill Hancock

Mr Hancock gave a very interesting talk about the local area and wildlife, he noted that the area was changing and nature will adapt to this. This is called “shifting environmental baselines” which he illustrated by referring to the changes that had occurred near the old boating lake in Southwold. The buildup of reeds has means that this now had more reed beds and was attracting a new set of birdlife, reed bed specialists. The ducks and geese were generally moving elsewhere.

Mr Hancock then went on to talk about the special local birdlife including the Nightingales near St Felix School. We are very lucky to have these in the village and there are now at least 2 breeding pairs. In Southwold and Reydon there were 85 Swift nests in the area, these consisted of 70 natural sites and 11 sets of 2 nest boxes which had been put in various sites in Southwold. Swifts do not breed until they are 4 years old, and the average age is 7, they will nest under pantiles and fed on insects. This in itself is a problem as the insect population has declines massively due to modern farming methods. He then went on to give an update on Waters Copse in Southwold this has new path going through it. He went on to explain that instead of deposing of the old wood some had been left and converted into insect and leaf cutter bee houses. It is important to leave some of the natural environment as this is often used by insect and bird life.

Finally, he went on to talk about public footpaths he very much recommended silent moving/using a scythe, this was less damaging than mowing and allowed for a more targeted approach. The Alexander weed can smother a lot of other plants but is a wonderful for pollen and supports a vast number of insects. To control it numbers needs it to be cut down before it flowers so the seeds cannot spread. He suggested that it would be a good idea to try and set up a team of volunteers to help cut back the footpaths in the village.

Following an opportunity for questions it was generally agreed that it would be wonderful to have the old boating lake back. An approach should also be made to Southwold Town Council to try and organise a joined up approach to the footpaths.

2 Receipt and Acceptance of Apologies for Absence – Councillor Bailey

3 Annual Reviews

a) Council Review - Councillor Pam Cyprien (Chair)

The pandemic continued to influence official duties however, together with other Councillors I attended the Remembrance Service and Wreath Laying at St Margaret’s. I was invited to the Rotary Club’s 62nd Charter Dinner which was a most enjoyable occasion and it was very interesting hearing about the work of the Rotary Club nationally and internationally.

Arising from that invitation I also went to an annual dinner hosted by Cathy Ryan and the Rotary Club which annually celebrates International Women’s Day. It was humbling to hear the two guest speakers talk on the work they had done. Pat Atkinson MBE Founder of the Vidval Trust has spent some 30-odd years improving the lot of street elders, those living with leprosy and latterly care for children with cancer. Angela Gorman MBE Founder of Life for African Mothers, has saved hundreds of mothers, bringing life-saving drugs to those women

who would otherwise die from blood loss after childbirth. A horrifying statistic of 1 woman in 11 compared with 1 in 17,000 in the UK.

Another thoroughly enjoyable event was the Southwold & Reydon Society Annual Lunch, with a fascinating and interesting speech from Laurence Vulliamy on his career as a director and producer for the main television companies, working on many significant television programmes. He also spoke of the importance of saying "Thank you" to those who do sterling work as volunteers, perhaps not something of which we do enough.

Our Neighbourhood Plan, to which both the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group led by Philip O'Hear, has given a lot of thought, work and time, was finally officially approved in May last year. This helps to ensure that future developments have to meet criterion agreed by the community. One of our principal policies is that new developments are for permanent residents only and affordable housing should be rented or offered as shared ownership, thereby ensuring they cannot be sold and remain affordable in the long term.

It is now official that both Rissemere Lane East and Mardle Road are designated as Quiet Lanes. Signage to indicate this will be going up very soon.

The Parish Council continued to meet Anglian Water to discuss what they can do to help solve the various problems we have with drainage in the village. We are due to meet them again, hopefully in May, so they can up-date us on the progress they have so far made.

For the past year or so we have been pursuing finding sites for electric charging for vehicles and I am delighted to report that the Village Hall Management Committee agreed to have four EV points in their car park. Within a very short time of their agreement bays were identified, links to electricity made and the installation carried out virtually free of charge by Anglia Charging. The Bays are now installed and will be up and running very soon. The Randolph and Sole Bay Health Centre are also looking into having charging points.

Again, working with the Village Hall Management Committee, we are looking at having a structural survey of the hall carried out, having a defibrillator placed outside and installing Wi-Fi.

We have obtained grants for combating isolation, these grants enable us to have a new raised bed for the Community Garden, thanks to the Rotary Club this is has now been built, and a bench and picnic tables for the recreation ground.

With many thanks to the Reydon Trust, we are very near to having electricity on Jubilee Green. Both the Council and the Trust hopes that this will encourage more use of the Green for community events.

As I write this planning for our Village Picnic on the Green to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is going very well and we are looking forward to welcoming the Community to Jubilee Green on 5 June.

Sadly, the plans that we had for the WWI pill box have stalled as the owner does not appear to want to work with us in bringing them to fruition, despite many letters and emails sent by Fiona Taylor who leads on this project. We can do nothing further and can only hope that its continuing deterioration, of which the owner has been informed, does not cause any serious problems.

Our Footpaths and Cycling Working Group has been working closely with Suffolk County Council to try and ensure obstructions are removed and footpaths maintained. This has also included remedial work by the Environment Agency. Their Annual Report covers in more detail the work they have done during the year.

The Council has also been focusing on the environment and climate change and what we, as a village can do. To that end we now have a new Green Space Working Group looking at managed re-wilding, tree and hedge planting. This is covered under a separate report.

The Council is looking at ways in which we, as a community, can help Ukrainian refugees who are fleeing the war in their country.

Laurence with help from Fiona has got our first full issue of Reydon Robin off to a flying (sorry!) start. It appears from the reactions we have received that it has gone down very well with the village.

b). Planning Working Group - Councillor Philip O'Hear

Reydon Neighbourhood Plan.

The most significant action on the Planning front in the last year was when East Suffolk Council “made” our Neighbourhood Plan on 21 May 2021. It adds 10 new Planning Policies for any new developments in the village and also sets out 10 Actions which the Parish Council will take in support of the plan. It is based on six Key issues: Housing for Local People, Protecting the Countryside, Protecting Green Spaces and Community Assets, Flood Risks and Erosion, Infrastructure Needs, Design Principles.

Copperwheat Development.

The biggest application for the village in the last year, was the final stage of the Outline Application for 220 new dwellings on the land west of Copperwheat Avenue. This was granted Outline Planning Permission in September 2021. A condition of the permission was the requirement of a key policy from our Neighbourhood Plan that all the new market housing will have to be occupied as principal residences. In addition, the affordable housing will all be affordable rented or shared ownership as required by our plan. This was the first major test of our plan and we were pleased to see it have real effect.

St Felix Development

This scheme now appears to be nearing delivery. The developer, Hill Residential, have submitted Reserved Matters Applications, the last stage before they can actually start on building. Instead of the 69 dwellings permitted in the Outline Consent, they are proposing 55, of which 19 will be affordable (rented or shared ownership). The Parish Council has engaged with the developer and the school’s new owners to explore how we can prevent further damage to the County Wildlife site by the creation of a dog walking area and widening of paths in areas where nightingales’ nest. This was a required condition of the Outline Consent aimed at keeping the new residents away from other important wildlife sites but has always been seen as a very bad scheme by those who know the area. Hill Residential are asking the Planners to agree a modification of this condition.

Monthly Planning Reports

The main work of the Planning Working Group is to review all planning applications for Reydon and recommend how the Parish Council should respond to them. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee and the Local Planning Authority (East Suffolk Council) is required to consider our views before making its decision. Our monthly reports to the Parish Council set out our recommendations and, where appropriate, our proposed detailed responses. Mainly we recommend approval where the proposal is in keeping with its surroundings, does not impact unnecessarily or negatively on neighbours and is designed to meet the needs of the residents. Where we feel the need to recommend that an application is refused, we give our reasons and quite often ask that the Local Planning Authority explores modifications with the applicant which we feel would make the scheme acceptable. Where a policy from our Neighbourhood Plan is relevant to the application, we, of course, point this out and ask the Planning Authority to ensure that it is a requirement of the permission if it is granted. Councillor O’Hear added that so far, the plan seems to be working well the Copperwheat Ave development was using the design principles, however it is important to make sure that there is sufficient housing for local people bearing in mind that 30% of houses are second homes in Reydon.

c). Green Spaces Working Group - Councillor Perry Djahit

The green spaces working group was formed in early 2022 to coordinate

Enhancing the green spaces within the village for the use and enjoyment of the community

Encouraging rich biodiversity whilst enhancing their visual appeal

Involving children and young people to support within the development of our green spaces

Following feedback from the community last year via social media - a successful grant application to the East Suffolk Community Partnership has provided funds to purchase picnic benches and benches to be installed at the recreation ground

The Parish Council has also been given a ‘talking bench ’(it doesn’t actually talk) but aims to bring people together who may be isolated and encourage conversation, part of an East Suffolk initiative to provide spaces for people to meet and talk, to avoid isolation. Following a review of potential sites for the bench, the village hall green was identified as an idea spot and this was agreed by the village hall management committee.

Last December around 300 bulbs (daffodil, tulip and crocus) were planted around the village, including at The Recreation Ground, on the Halesworth Road junction with Lakeside Park Drive, and at the island at the junction of Lowestoft Road and Covert Road. Over the next year the Parish Council plan to enhance our green spaces and verges further. Councillor Taylor has successfully secured hedging and tree packs which will be delivered later this year. Areas around the village have been identified to be managed more conservatively, being mown less often where it is safe to do so. This includes:

The recreation ground

allow areas of the recreation ground to go unmown

Area near the shed / saplings to be rotavated and seeded with wild flower mix

Jubilee Green – Increase existing area of wildflower, using wildflower seed mix

Halesworth Road junction with the Drive – agree one or 2 of the quadrants to be mown / rotavated and seeded.

Rissmere Lane East, Mardle Road, Quay Lane - convert to 'wild verge' having only conservation cuts in line with plant life guidance.

We would love to hear from members of the community with suggestions of where else in the village we could adopted a 'wilder' management plan

d). Queen's Jubilee Planning Working Group - Councillor Fiona Taylor

Pam and I have been working on plans to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee since January, when we first came up with the idea of a village picnic on the aptly named Jubilee Green, to be held on Sunday 5th June.

This is the day when people across the country are being invited to sit down together to take part in the Big Jubilee Lunch.

Since January, we have enlisted the help of a number of members of our local community and the plans have developed into an event where people can bring a blanket and a picnic, dress in 1950's style, and enjoy an afternoon of competitions, refreshments, stalls and entertainment on Jubilee Green. Our basic idea, though, has remained the same – to have an afternoon where our local community can enjoy celebrating together.

The event will take place from 12:30pm to 4:00pm on Sunday 5th June.

Another major part of the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee is the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, to encourage the planting of trees to create a living and long-lasting memorial. The Parish Council was gifted an oak tree, which has been planted on Jubilee Green. We have also successfully applied to the Woodland Trust for free tree packs to provide a copse area of silver birch, rowan and wild cherry trees and also hedging, all for the Recreation ground in the village. These will arrive for planting in November 2022.

e). Footpaths and Cycling Group - Councillor Cracknell

There is no doubt that regular exercise, particularly walking, is a great boost to mental health as well as physical wellbeing. Reydon is fortunate in having easily accessible local Footpaths that can offer wonderful opportunities for walking in the fresh air and sunshine and also have terrific views. There are also a number of Bridleways suitable for horse riding and cycling across the parish.

Reydon Parish Council's Footpaths and Cycling Working Group is trying to ensure that local Footpaths remain open by walking them regularly and reporting concerns such as fallen trees, missing signage and damage to the surface caused by vehicles. Incidentally anyone can report a problem with a Footpath or Bridleway by accessing the on-line reporting tool on the Suffolk County Council website, www.suffolk.gov.uk, (go to Roads and Transport, report a Highways issue and scroll down to Public Rights of Way) or by calling 0345 606 6171.

Our objective is to promote leisure walks around the area using the network of paths, all for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. We have met the Suffolk County Council public rights of way officer to discuss footpath maintenance. We are planning some promotional material, and are seeking to improve the network. We recently liaised with the Environment Agency and their contractors to repair damage to paths caused by flood prevention work on the banks of the Blyth Estuary.

Our work is ongoing. We still have to survey half the network in the Parish and are trying to improve the network where paths require walkers to walk along roads, and we are seeking landowner co-operation. We know that at some times of the year paths become overgrown, but note that the resources of the county council only allow two cuts per year. The same resource issues have meant that problems reported with paths and

bridleways have to be prioritised and there are sometimes substantial time delays before work can be carried out.

4. Reports -

a) **Reydon Estates Charity – Councillor Leigh Taylor**

Councillor Taylor gave a short report where she stated that she had attended one meeting and it had been decided that as all the property assets had now been sold the remaining funds should be divided between other local charities and the Estates Charity would close. This is now in the hands of the Charity Commission

b) **Reydon Playing Fields Charity**

There was no report

c). **Reydon Trust - Mike Mayhew**

At the beginning of Covid-19 outbreak, the Reydon Trust saw an increase in applications from families requiring support. This was augmented in a variety of ways, from food vouchers to be used in one of Reydon's shops, white goods and flooring for the home, carpeting for tenants in social housing in the area or help from the local food banks, either in town at the VHC or the Lowestoft Food bank, which Flic from the VHC has access to. Last Christmas the Trust gave all primary school children in Southwold and Reydon a Christmas card and £10.00 book token.

Again, we have made a substantial grant to the Reydon Pavilion build project. The Trust had previously helped this group, providing funds to purchase the land for expansion and provided funding towards the building work. It is hoped this project will be completed during the year.

Also, during the year, we have provided funds for an electric supply to Jubilee Green,

A grant to Southwold tennis club to enable them to get match funding for a new pavilion.

A number of Reydon private individuals have been helped with financial support to enable them to further their education.

We also supported Restitute, a charity run by a local person that covers the whole of Suffolk, it offers support to family's surviving sexual abuse or violence. These introductions come from the police or social services.

The Trust has been asked by individuals for grants to pay off personal debt. This we do not do.

Also, we have helped the Suffolk Wildlife Trust to fund bike stands at Reydon Wood, these will be used by many people from our community.

The collapsing world economies from Covid-19 and now the War in Ukraine is an ongoing concern to the trustees, the capital is invested with the CCLA, who have again done a good job managing to increase our capital to £1,100,000. This is on deposit which allows us to spend about £30,000 in the parish of Reydon on need, hardship or distress.

Mr Mayhew added that the VHC is currently desperate for volunteers particularly drivers but also help in the kitchens to prepare the monthly lunches held at the hall

d) **Sole Bay Care Fund/Mr Bus - Cathy Ryan (Read by the Clerk)**

Sbicare fund is supporting many people at this time in so many different ways.

The key work we are doing is end of life care at home, respite care at home for those with dementia and complex conditions, and some pop in welfare checks for those whose families or carers are unable to visit because of COVID. We have provided many short support care packages, when people have been waiting long times for Ambulances as well.

Our singing group for those living with dementia has started again on the last Tuesday of the month, and I am hoping to try and get a singing group together for those with lung and breathing problems. It's under discussion at the moment and we are creating a list of those interested, when we get six, we will start.

We also support and finance the 'walk and talk' group which meet every Tuesday there are about 15 in the group at the moment, they meet for a walk some only go short distances, others longer, but then all meet for coffee. It's a great support for those who are alone and helps with fitness too.

The Charity is still in a very sound position financially.

Mr Bus continues but numbers using the service varies. We are still waiting for the change in license as we are altering the routes slightly to make the journey more efficient getting in and out of town. We will be back running a full day from May 1st, providing we can publish the new timetable. Tuesdays, Saturday afternoon and Sundays it does not run. However, in the Winter months we will only run in the mornings. There will be a spring summer timetable and an Autumn/Winter timetable. We have had another? act of vandalism a back tyre was

possibly knifed. Sadly, nothing on cctv. But the police have been made aware. We still need more drivers and some bus buddies, to help with people getting on and off. We have provided a couple of community outings, where local groups have hired the bus and driver...on the days the bus is not running. Hopefully we can run a few outings for the community during the summer too.

e) Village Hall – Laurence Vulliamy

Now in its 45th year, Reydon Village Hall is thriving, thanks to The Village Hall Management Committee led by Anita Freeman. Bookings have fully recovered after the pandemic and the Hall continues to be a valuable and popular facility in the community.

The Village Hall leads the way in Reydon having had Electric Vehicle Charging Points installed for the community's use. There are many homes in the vicinity of the Hall with no off-street parking, so if the householders (and visitors) wish to charge their electric vehicles, there are four charging connectors available, to be used simultaneously.

This exciting new facility has been made possible by a grant from Suffolk County Council's Plug-in-Suffolk Community Grant Scheme, and Anglia Car Charging has installed the points quickly and efficiently. The charging points will be fully operational from 28th April.

The Village Hall will soon take delivery of a next generation Defibrillator, which will be installed outside the front door. The Parish Council has shared the funding for this facility, and the Defibrillator will be available day and night for both the users of The Hall and the wider community.

Wi-Fi will also be installed in The Hall within a few months, once the best value provider has been identified. It is hoped that this long overdue facility will ensure that The Hall can be used for committee meetings, small conferences and lectures.

Changes are being made to the exterior of The Village Hall. A full re-decoration of the building will take place later this year and a new radio-controlled exterior clock will go up on the end of the building, facing the main road. A 'Talking bench' is to be installed under the trees in the front garden, designed to encourage residents to speak to each other in an effort to tackle loneliness.

Finally in March the Village Hall Management Committee planted an oak tree, to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. The tree was generously provided by East Suffolk Council, as part of their Treebil

f). Other Reports

Reydon Robin

Councillor Vulliamy reported that the launch had been very successful and together with the enhanced website there is much more information about the village available. If anyone would like an article added to the Robin please get in touch.

Councillor Dexter gave a little more detail about the website and reported on the proposed sensor to monitor water levels at Potters Bridge hopefully this can be linked onto the website.

g). Wangford Quarry

Councillor Panther is a member of the Quarry Liaison Group and although they have not met recently, he had visited the quarry and gave a report on the possible issues that may arise in the future. There had been an application to extend the quarry which was opposed by the Parish Council however an extension in the time permitted to quarry was recommended. Councillor Panther reported that the manager had suggested that in the future there could be a planning application for a southern extension to the site which would be mitigated by a considerable increase in land available for natural habit and nature reserve. They have already started some remediation on the site with a footpath and infilling. There was considerable discussion about this but it was felt that a planning application was needed before any conclusions could be reached.

Mr Hancock said that a quarry site has the possibility of being an excellent wildlife habitat.

5 Matters Arising for Discussion and Questions –

Footpaths - A member of the public said that it was good to hear about the progress made to footpaths but there was also a need for cycle routes as bikes are not allowed on public footpaths and there can often be problems with walkers and cyclists. Councillor Cracknell agreed with this point and said that clearer signage may be needed. There was also a discussion about the dangers of cycling on the main roads from Reydon into Southwold and this is something which will be looked at again. The footpaths group hope to create a map and promotional material to illustrate the footpaths and cycling routes in Reydon. There was then a discussion about bridleways and how it may be possible to work jointly with Southwold Town Council on this kind of project.

Microphone

Councillors were asked to provide a microphone for the next APM as some members of the audience had difficulty hearing.

Governance

A question was asked about the recent discussion document on the Governance of Councils and the Reydon Parish Council suggestion that Southwold and Reydon become on Parish Council. The Chair confirmed that East Suffolk Council has requested a response from Southwold Town Council regarding this and it was stressed that this was just too agreed to a consultation on the proposal. There was a long debate about this with several different opinions being expressed.

Reydon Corner

A member of the public raised the issue of cars being parked on the verges from Reydon Corner to the hall this is damaging the ground. The Councillors were aware of this issue but there was little they could do at the moment as parking generally was a problem with a few of the nearby roads only have room for a car on one side. The best solution was lay-bys but these were very expensive to install, however this may be possible if sufficient infrastructure levy is raised. It may also be possible for SCC to make the verge area no parking all these options will be investigated

6 Close

The meeting was closed at 9.00

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date