

Reydon Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting held in the Village Hall on 23rd November 2023 at 7.30 pm.

1 Present and Opening

Present:

Acting Chair, Cllr Fiona Taylor, Cllr David Panther, Cllr Philip O'Hear, Cllr Dominic Knight, Cllr Laurence Vulliamy, Cllr Linda Coe, Cllr Dexter Kirk, Cllr Kalvyn Friend, East Suffolk Cllr David Beavan and SCC Cllr Michael Ladd. Clerk – Ann Dobson.

1 member of the public.

The Acting Chair, Cllr Taylor, welcomed everyone to the meeting which began at 7.30 pm.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Pam Cyprien, Cllr Maddy Senior and Cllr Sarah Jerman.

3 Public Forum

Sue Albone, representing Waveney Hygiene Bank, gave an account of their work as part of a national charity set up to provide hygiene products to those in need. She explained there were public donation points in many of the local towns including Reydon and Southwold and that the donations were collected and distributed to approved community partners which included Reydon Pantry. However, with the current cost of living crisis donations were fewer and there was a need for extra funding to enable the Hygiene Bank to buy products to keep up the stock. She asked the Councillors if the Parish Council could help with any funding and it was agreed this would be discussed later in the meeting.

Cllr Beavan gave his report. He said that the issues with Potters Bridge were ongoing and a long term solution needed to be found. Currently the Environment Agency were clearing the outfall and this needed to be kept clear. He went on to say that a Strategic Plan for the next four years had just been set by ESC and the four themes were Environmental Impact, Sustainable Housing, Tackling Inequalities and a Thriving Economy. He said it was important to close the gap between the rents charged by private landlords and housing benefit. He also said it was a priority to ensure that homeless families could be properly housed rather than put up in B and B accommodation. Cllr O'Hear said that the Parish Council would need support from ESC to ensure that enough affordable housing would be part of the Copperwheat development plan.

Cllr Ladd gave his report. He said that there were currently two consultations underway – the Suffolk County Council Budget Consultation and the Library Services Consultation as the current contract was coming to an end. He also said that a considerable amount of work had been undertaken as a clean up operation as a result of the recent storms and the Council had agreed to spend an extra £1 million pounds to investigate the reasons for some of the flooding in the County. Comments were made by several councillors to Cllr Ladd re the priorities, ie, flooding in Quay Lane and the Potters Bridge situation but Cllr Ladd made the point that flooding of people's homes had been the priority over the last few weeks although everything else was being worked through too.

4 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Taylor declared a possible conflict of interest in budget discussions as a Trustee of Southwold Arts Centre.

5 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Meeting were proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to be authorised by the Chair and duly signed.

- 6 Matters Arising from the Minutes**
All matters still outstanding were to be followed up under their respective headings later in the meeting.
- 7 Clerk's Report**
Crimes – September 2023
Reydon- 4 (2 anti-social behaviour, 2 violence and sexual offences). Southwold – 18 (11 burglary, 2 criminal damage and arson, 2 violence and sexual offence and 3 others)
Internal Controls, Standing Orders and Freedom of Information etc, were unanimously approved by the Councillors.
The dates for the 2024 Meetings were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would send round the final dates, bearing in mind that two meetings would be necessary in April.
ACTION: Clerk to send the final meeting dates for 2024 to all Councillors.
- 8 LionLink Project**
It was reported that the Public Meeting had been very successful with approximately 170 people attending and 100 forms completed with every one opposing the project.
The Report giving the Parish Council position had been submitted to National Grid and circulated locally, and this had been very well received. A vote of thanks from all the Councillors was given to Cllr O'Hear for preparing this. It was said that RPC was one of the only local Parish Councils to hold a public meeting to discuss this project and to take the views of the local residents. Cllr Taylor suggested a small working group should be formed to monitor developments until the statutory consultation was announced which could be over a year away. Cllr Vulliamy, Cllr Panther, and Cllr Knight volunteered to form this group.
- 9 Highways Working Group (DP)**
Cllr Panther had distributed documents relating to Item a) and b) ahead of the meeting.
a) Nightingale Avenue Waiting Restrictions Update and Funding
Cllr David Panther said that the work involved to improve the safety in this area would be in the region of £12,000 and although SCC would fund most of it, a contribution would be expected from RPC. Cllr Michael Ladd outlined the plan. It was unanimously agreed to give £1,000 from the CIL money towards this project.
ACTION: Clerk to send an email to Suffolk Highways informing them of the contribution.
b) Proposed 40mph speed limit on A1095 from Wolsey Bridge to current 30 mph in Reydon
The Parish Council's paragraphs to go with the Suffolk County Council's report were unanimously agreed to be adopted as the Council's position.
ACTION: Clerk to send this off to Suffolk Highways as a priority.
c) Flooding in Quay Lane
This had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
d) Flooding at Potters Bridge
This had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
Cllr Vulliamy asked if the Speedwatch Team could be reinstated and it was agreed by the Councillors that this would need a Co-ordinator and that a notice could be placed in The Robin as a first step.
Finally, Cllr Taylor pointed out that it was only herself and Cllr Panther who were active Councillors in this working group and Cllr Kirk agreed to join the group.
- 10 Finance Working Group (DxK)**
The Budget for 24-25 was discussed again but it was decided that more time was needed for all the Councillors to study this properly along with the best use of the CIL money. It was unanimously agreed that reserves would have to be used for the rest of this financial year and that the precept for next year would need to be a 0% rise due to the continuing cost of living crisis affecting local residents. The Acting Chair, Cllr Taylor, thanked the Clerk for the work involved in getting accurate CIL figures and explaining to the Councillors.
ACTION: Clerk to send off the Precept Form to the Council and add the Budget and CIL priorities to the next Agenda to be signed off then.

- 11 Green Spaces Working Group (FT)**
The allotment quote had been broken down but it was generally thought that all the work should really be carried out as the allotments did not look good and needed this work. It was discussed whether this could come from CIL money and this was deferred to the discussion in December on CIL. Cllr Taylor said that she planned to hold an allotment meeting in the New Year with the plot holders and that the Clerk would attend this meeting too.
The Litter and Dog Waste Bin Policy had been circulated prior to the meeting and this was acknowledged by the Councillors.
ESC had been contacted to ask if they could arrange for litter picking to take place on part of the Lowestoft Road that was too dangerous for the RPC litter picker to work on, but the reply had come back to say that they could not accommodate this but the RPC litter picker should definitely not work anywhere that put her in danger. This was acknowledged by the Councillors and the Clerk confirmed that she had already said this to the litter picker.
- 12 COLC and Community Pantry Working Group (MS and LC)**
COLC and Community Pantry
Cllr Senior was not able to be present at the meeting but had prepared a report in advance and Cllr Coe gave a summary to the Councillors. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the full report to all the Councillors. A highlight was that attendance figures were going up in the local schools as a result of the hot school lunches that were being made available to all.
Funding remained an issue but the possibility of a Go Fund or Just Giving page and a recent grant application should help with this along with potential fund raising at Latitude next year.
Cllr Coe said that the new Pantry hours were working well.
Waveney Hygiene Bank
It was unanimously agreed by the Councillors that this was a very worthy cause for funding and that £500 should be donated by Reydon Parish Council to the Waveney Hygiene Bank as a one-off contribution. It was also agreed that the Reydon Robin could be used to publicise this worthy cause.
ACTION: Invoice to be sent to RPC Clerk who would then arrange payment.
- 13 Reports from Councillors or from other Working Group Meetings (PC)**
Pill Box at Might's Bridge
Cllr Taylor, reported that the Pill Box was now filled with soil and she asked the Councillors if they agreed in principle to the transfer of ownership to the Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed and Cllr Vulliamy was currently looking into the legal fees involved for this to happen.
Cllr O'Hear asked for a vote of thanks to Cllr Taylor, Cllr Vulliamy and Cllr Panther for all their work so far on this and all the Councillors agreed.
- 14 Village Hall (LV)**
Cllr Vulliamy reported that it had been a very successful AGM and that it was heartening to see many members of the original 1960s and 70s fund raising committees. The Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund was launched by Simon Loftus who opened the Hall in 1977. Cllr Vulliamy said they were now waiting for Gift-Aid to be approved by HMRC and then fund raising would begin in earnest. Cllr Vulliamy thanked the Parish Council for considering donating to the Village Hall and for also considering the use of CIL money for this purpose in the future. In January new infra-red heaters would be fitted along with new switchgear outside and the bar area would be converted at the same time into a secure meeting room for hire. The Reydon Village Hall Treasurer and Cllr Vulliamy were to meet with The Reydon Trust to present the case for a grant to pay for the new heating in the sum of £12,605 + VAT. Cllr Vulliamy raised the question of a temporary loan to bridge any gap but it was decided to see what happened at the meeting first.
The floor had been revarnished but was bubbling up and getting scratched so the contractors were going to come back and re-do it. This meant loss of revenue twice, once to put it down and again to re-do it.

It was discussed that the notice board outside the Hall was in a very poor state but it was not thought to belong to the Parish Council. It was agreed to look into this further.

ACTION: Cllr Vulliamy to report back on the relevant points above.

15 Reydon Robin (LV and DomK)

Cllr Vulliamy said that the Reydon Robin had been going for two years now and that with regret the next edition would be his last as he was spending a lot of his time on the Village Hall. He said that Cllr Knight had agreed to take over as Editor although he would be available, with Cllr Taylor, to edit an edition from time to time. They had discussed with the Chair the importance of keeping its editorial independence. The next edition would concentrate on volunteering and the Robin would be launching a Volunteer Register of where help was needed most in the community. He hoped this would make it simpler for potential volunteers to choose where they wanted to help.

Councillor O'Hear asked for a vote of thanks to Cllr Vulliamy for making the Reydon Robin such a success and to Councillor Knight for agreeing to take over, and also to all the volunteers involved. This was unanimously agreed by all the Councillors.

16 Website (DomK)

Cllr Knight reported that the new website had gone live on 6th November and that he was taking over the running of the site. He said it would be good to launch it formally in January. It was agreed to consider an 'official' launch at the next meeting. Cllr Knight said he would also be looking in to Google Analytics so that visitors to the site could be tracked. Cllr Knight was thanked by the Cllr Taylor and all the Councillors for agreeing to take this on.

ACTION: Clerk to add the possibility of an official launch to next Agenda.

17 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from a resident enquiring about the dog bin that was going to be fitted in Elliot Avenue. Cllr Friend said he had one ready to go and would advise the Clerk when this was fitted so that she could inform the resident and also ESC for emptying.

ACTION: Cllr Friend to liaise with Clerk.

18 Planning

The updated report and the original report from the Planning Group had already been circulated.

Planning Decisions:

Variation of Condition(s) 9 of Planning Permission DC/22/2521/VOC – Variation of Condition No 11 of DC/16/3239/COU – Change of use to provide 4 No Rental Units, storage/restroom/office for Suzie's Café/Nick Haward (Southwold) Limited and a new joinery shop in rear section of existing unit – Unit 3 Exchange House, Fountain Way, Reydon IP18 6SZ Permitted

DC/23/3742/FUL - Conversion of the garage into habitable annexe including a bay window to the front and a small extension to form a lounge area at the rear – 57 The Drive, Reydon IP18 6PN Permitted

Discharge of Conditions 3, 6, 9 and 11 of DC/23/1858/VOC – Proposal: Variation of Condition No. 2 of DC/21/2763/FUL – Construction of two new dwellings – House A, three bedroomed dwelling and House B, two bedroomed dwelling – modify the designs of both buildings to create better quality accommodation – plan showing tree and hedge treatments and drainage submitted – Land adjacent 30 Wangford Road, Highfield Court Reydon IP18 6RU Permitted

New Applications for Consultation:

DC/23/4317/FUL

Construction of new two storey dwelling and four new parking spaces on land adjacent to No 32 Jermyns Road, Reydon IP18 6QB

RPC to recommend refusal on grounds of overdevelopment of a small site, loss of garden habitat and difficult vehicle access and cramped parking spaces.

DC/23/2454/FUL: Retrospective Application - Single storey side and rear flat roofed extension. Rear first floor pitched roof extension: Doreens Cottage, 3

Bridge Road, Reydon, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6RR

This application now had corrected drawings which showed how close the first floor extension at No3 was to No2. As the deadline for responses was 21 Nov, the following was submitted reinforcing the previously agreed position.

Reydon Parish Council wished (a) to reiterate its objection to this application as submitted on 22.09.23 and (b) to add that the amended (and hopefully now correct) drawings submitted as part of this application showed that the first floor extension of No3 was even closer to No2 Bridge Road than indicated previously. This reinforced all the points made in the Parish Council's previous response and gave further weight to the Parish Council objections. We urged the LPA to reject this application.

RPC was asked to note and endorse the response made by the Planning Group.

DC/23/3921/CLP: Certificate of Lawful Use (Proposed) – Extension to rear of 30 Kingfisher Crescent within limits for permitted development.

This was an application for a modest single storey rear extension which did not appear to require planning permission but the architect was seeking a certificate to this effect from the LPA. The extension would go beyond the building line of No 28 but not that of No 32 or other nearby properties.

RPC was asked to confirm it had no objection.

All the above was approved unanimously by the Councillors

The Planning Group had also met with Orbit Homes regarding the Copperwheat Development. They were told it would provide 220 houses made up of: 44 affordable rented (at 80% of local market rent), 74 shared ownership (including 30 developed with new funding from Homes England) with a limit of 80% "staircasing" so that Orbit would retain 20% ownership, 84 open market housing, 11 plots for self-build/custom builds, and 7 plots for East Suffolk to offer to replace dwellings lost to coastal erosion. It was agreed that Orbit would hold a consultation/information event at the Village Hall later this year or early next to ensure residents are fully informed about their plans.

One concern was the extra pressure on the NHS and it was agreed that Cllr O'Hear would liaise with Cllr Beavan and compose a letter to send to the NHS to ask how this would affect the health facilities in Reydon.

ACTION: Cllr O'Hear and Cllr Beavan to decide on wording and forward to Clerk for sending on.

19

Finance –

a) Invoices paid

Clerk Salary and Expenses October	£528.06
Poppy Wreath (paid to Cllr Cyprien)	£40.00
Repair and refurbishment of Chair Ceremonial Chain	£921.22

b) Invoices to be paid

HMRC – Tax outstanding for previous Clerk	£210.00 (to be removed as already paid)
Marcus Knight Interiors – PA System Hire	£125.00
Gillian Graham Oct/Nov Litter Picking	£104.20
IT Services at CAS (website hosting)	£105.00
Martin Nicholls (Emergency Plan Printing)	£63.20
Gail Fisher (Pantry Driving Oct/Nov)	£128.70
Sarah Jerman (Pantry Driving Oct/Nov)	£19.80
Natural Ranks Liverpool – WordPress Website Dev	£600.00
Stamps	£16.00
Sandwich bags etc for Pantry (to pay J Gregson)	£22.99
Southwold Press (Community Pantry Posters)	£25.00
Southwold Press LionLink Flyer	£30.00
Hire of Hall for LionLink Public Meeting	£45.00
Hire of Hall for Reydon PC Meeting 19 th Oct	£25.00

E-on Electricity (d/d)	£23.53
Social and Scribe	£300.00
Wills (grass and leaves, winter bedding, compost)	£403.50
K Seaman (Jubilee Green cutting on 17 th)	£50.00
Clerk Salary and Expenses November (at end of month)	

b) Receipts

Allotment Rents:	£238.00
CIL Money	£12,080.51
Interest:	£165.40
ESC	£109.59 (reimbursement for cart)
Sole Bay Care Fund	£600.00 (for Pantry)
ESC	£280.00 (School Uniform for Primary School)

c) Bank Balances as at 15th November 2023

Treasurers Account	£601.00
Business Bank Instant	£88,525.90

d) CIL Money

CIL Money - £30,323.23 - £2,248.25 to be used by Oct 24

e) Bank Reconciliation and Working Budget

To be circulated to all Councillors with Agenda

All the above financial information was approved unanimously by the councillors.

20 Any Other Business

Reydon Star Awards

Cllr Vulliamy explained that this would highlight outstanding volunteers in the community and he asked that suggestions for suitable candidates should be send to the Clerk by the end of February.

Reydon Emergency Plan

A form had been received from the Council that needed completing so the Clerk said she would fill in what she could and then it could be presented at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to add to next Agenda for approval.

21 Date of Next Meeting

The next monthly Parish Council Meeting would be held on Thursday 14th December at 7.30 pm.

The Acting Chair, Cllr Taylor, closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Reydon Star Awards