

Reydon Parish Council

Ann Dobson – Clerk to the Council

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Minutes of the Meeting held in the Village Hall on 22nd February 2024 at 7.30 pm.

1 Present and Opening

Present:

Chair, Cllr Pam Cyprien, Acting Vice-Chair Cllr David Panther, Cllr Philip O’Hear, Cllr Laurence Vulliamy, Cllr Kalvyn Friend, Cllr Dexter Kirk, Cllr Dominic Knight, Cllr Sarah Jerman, Cllr Linda Coe. East Suffolk Cllr David Beavan. Suffolk County Councillor Michael Ladd.
Clerk – Ann Dobson. Several members of the public.

The Chair welcomed everyone, especially the new Councillors to the meeting which began at 7.30 pm.

2 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies – all Councillors were present.

3 Public Forum

There were several members of the public present, and their main concerns were Potters Bridge, Quay Lane and the planned housing developments with their impact on the infrastructure of Reydon.

With regard to the petition for action on Potters Bridge started by a local resident, this now had 4,000 signatures and the resident was due to meet with Dr Therese Coffey on 23rd February to discuss the situation. Another resident said he had contacted the Environment Agency regarding the upstream side of Potters Bridge as he felt this was contributing to the flooding but the EA did not think this was the case.

With regard to the Quay Lane flooding, Cllr Panther said that this was not straightforward as it was silt and sand on the road and slurry from the pig farm etc, that was contributing to the problem. As there were no domestic properties in the area of the flooding, it was not high priority for Suffolk County Council although they were aware and the Councillors assured the public they were doing all they could to push this forward.

With regard to the Copperwheat housing development and concern over access points for construction vehicles, Cllr O’Hear assured the public that a meeting would take place with Orbit Homes before the reserved matters were finalised and that this would be discussed.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to arrange an appointment with Orbit Homes and their representatives to discuss the reserved matters before they were finalised.

Cllr Beavan:

Cllr Beavan said that there had been a Potters Bridge meeting on 14th Feb between the Environment Agency, Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, and Cllr Panther had attended to represent Reydon Parish Council. At that meeting short, medium and long term strategies were discussed. In the short term, the landowner had obtained a licence to clear the outfall although this was being closely monitored. The medium term proposal included real time depth warning signs placed at Wrentham and Reydon, so that small vehicles would know they were not safe to go through and large vehicles could still proceed whenever the flood water rose. There was also the need to protect wildlife. Farmers should be encouraged to extract excess rainfall from the River Wren to store in irrigation reservoirs. The long term solution would be ensuring that there was good access to get in and out of Southwold and Reydon by the most viable road network. In addition, SCC still had plans in place to do a full inspection of the bridge during 2024. Cllr O’Hear said that he felt the EA had taken far too long over the Potters Bridge issue and that it was a massive undertaking to keep the outfall clear so how would the landowner do it? Cllr Kirk said that he didn’t feel there was much incentive for the landowner to keep the outfall clear and that the machinery being used was too small for the job. It was felt that EA needed the permanent right of access themselves. Cllr Panther was thanked for attending the meeting on behalf of RPC.

Cllr Beavan went on to say that East Suffolk Council had passed their budget the night before and this would add £5 to a Band D property.

Cllr Ladd:

Cllr Ladd started by saying that with regard to Potters Bridge he wanted to reassure everyone that the Environment Agency would clear the outfall if the landowner didn't keep to the 7 days that he was given to do this each time.

Cllr Ladd went on to say that the Budget Meeting had taken place and the allocation was £752 million for the year. Again, this would necessitate a small increase on Council Tax.

He said that the Sizewell C Project would see £250 million made available to Suffolk communities to mitigate the impact on residents, businesses, the environment and infrastructure and the Council was also ensuring that as many construction materials as possible would be delivered by rail and sea to reduce the number of lorries on the rural roads.

Finally, Cllr Ladd reported that a fake university website had been shut down by Suffolk Trading Standards and that the public also needed to be aware of fake TV Licensing emails.

The Chair, Cllr Cyprien, thanked everyone for their reports.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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 – December 2023

Reydon- 2 – (1 violence and sexual offence, 1 criminal damage and arson)s. Southwold - 5 (1 burglary, 2 other theft, 1 public order, 1 other).

JustGiving donations – It was reported that one donation for Southwold and Reydon JustGiving

E-on Communications – The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had been receiving bills for an account that no longer existed. She said that this was being handled by E-on and a satisfactory outcome should be achieved with the account already being written off. The Clerk also told the Councillors that a new fixed deal had started for the electricity at Jubilee Green and that this would be slightly cheaper..

End of financial year preparations – The Clerk said that she would be circulating the Asset Register to the Councillors once it had been updated ready for the end of year accounts and the internal audit.

Reydon Stars – The Clerk reminded the Councillors to send any more nominations to her by the end of February.

8 Proposal to create an Infrastructure Working Group

Cllr Vulliamy explained the thinking behind the proposal to form this group. He said that with the possibility of a further 300 homes being available in Reydon over the next 5-10 years members of the community and many of the Parish Councillors were very concerned about whether the village could cope with these developments. Assuming each home had up to four people and possibly two cars that would be possibly an extra 1200 people and 600 vehicles. He went on to say that whilst he was sure that nobody wanted to stifle healthy economic development, he felt the Parish Council should at least be satisfying themselves and the residents that Reydon would be able to cope. Cllr Vulliamy said they deserved to know exactly what facilities would be provided and where they would come from. For instance, fresh water, foul water disposal, power, school places, health centre provision etc.

All the Councillors were unanimously in favour of forming this group with a view to addressing the above.

Cllr O'Hear suggested that a housing group would also be a good idea to consider shared ownership and

how many local residents were needing social housing. Cllr Vulliamy said that this could form part of the Infrastructure Working Group, ie, the two could be amalgamated. Cllr Friend said he was disappointed that the Green Lane development may not go ahead but Cllr Coe said some people were feeling swamped by all the new housing being proposed. It was agreed that it would all become a lot clearer when this group was formed and a meeting had been arranged with Orbit Homes as this was the largest development being planned. Most of the Councillors said they would like to be part of this group and so the Chair said she would come up with a plan on how this would work and a preliminary meeting would be arranged.

ACTION: Chair to notify Clerk re planning a preliminary meeting.

9 Potters Bridge

Potters Bridge in general had already been discussed at length earlier in the meeting but Cllr Panther gave a brief account of the meeting that had been held the week before. He felt that progress was definitely being made on this and that although the flooding would never totally stop, he felt reassured that Potters Bridge was not going to be abandoned. He felt that the original joint letter discussed previously was not necessary at the moment as everything was moving in the right direction with the short, medium and long term strategies. Cllr O'Hear said, however, that Southwold and Reydon Society had written to Wrentham, Southwold and Wangford Parish Councils regarding a joint letter to Dr Therese Coffey but had so far not had any response.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to follow up with the three Councils to see if they wanted to send a joint letter.

10 Proposal from Southwold & Reydon Society re joint Highways Working Group

Cllr O'Hear said that it was thought by the Southwold & Reydon Society that a joint Highways Working Group with Southwold Town Council would make sense as most of the time they were the same roads being discussed at the individual meetings and this could therefore benefit both communities. It was agreed that the Town Council would be approached as a first step.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to contact Southwold Town Council so that this could be discussed at their next meeting.

11 Conveyancing for Pillbox

Cllr Vulliamy explained the background to this, in that the landowner had donated the Pillbox to the Parish Council on the understanding that the PC would pay for the conveyancing. A quote for £500 for each transaction had been obtained, ie, £1,000 plus VAT, and the Councillors unanimously agreed to go ahead with this. Cllr O'Hear said that he felt it would be really good for the village to have ownership of the Pillbox and once the conveyancing was complete, grants for its renovation could be investigated. A vote of thanks was unanimously given to ex Cllr Taylor and Cllr Vulliamy for all their hard work on this.

12 Highways Working Group

Cllr Panther began by saying there had been a meeting of the Highways Working Group. With regard to Quay Lane and Potters bridge, these had already been discussed earlier in the meeting. He went on to say that the 40mph speed limit proposal for the A1095 had not gone ahead as it was said the proposal did not meet the criteria and there was no right to appeal which was disappointing to all.

A speed survey around the junction with Old School Lane/ Green Lane was to be carried out. Cllr Ladd and Wayne Saunders would check to see what data from previous surveys were available for comparison. If speeding was indicated to be an issue the area would be surveyed to see if there was a suitable location for a SID pole.

With regard to the Nightingale Avenue proposal, Cllr Panther said this was progressing although it did depend on the response to the formal public consultation. The priorities at the Nightingale Avenue and The Drive junction were also being looked at but as most traffic turned right, it was thought that it might be more dangerous to change than leave as is.

Cllr Panther said that he had mixed feelings re a joint Highways Group, as he pointed out that the Town Council held a Committee Meeting with delegated powers rather than the Reydon Working Group, so the Town Council would need to agree to a downgrade with each referring back to their full Council.

13 Finance Working Group

Councillor Kirk said there was still some confusion around the CIL money and he went through the various proposed projects for this. £1,500 for the Pillbox, and £5,000 (in the next financial year) for Reydon Village Hall, plus £2,000 for Highways were all agreed unanimously by the Councillors as was approval of the Budget for the forthcoming year.

14 Green Spaces Working Group

It was reported that the community allotment had been cleared and that ex Cllr Taylor would be handing over to Cllr Cyprien all her allotment information that she had gathered when taking ownership of this project. Cllr Birch was asked by Cllr Cyprien if she would join the Green Spaces Working Group as she already was an allotment holder and she said she would. Cllr Jerman also said she would join. One of the tenants had asked whether the Council would be prepared to mend the fences around individual plots but it was agreed unanimously by the Councillors that this was the plot holder's responsibility.

ACTION: The Clerk said she would contact the tenant and advise him of the situation.

It was suggested that the play equipment needed to be upgraded at the recreation ground and that grants could be researched to this end. Most urgently, the second baby swing needed to be returned (it had been taken down for repair) and Cllr Friend said he would investigate this.

A concerned resident had mentioned the condition of the play equipment at Barn Close and the Clerk had contacted East Suffolk Council but had not received a reply. The resident said that Orbit Homes had mentioned upgrading this in the original plans for Copperwheat so the Clerk said she would mention this to them when fixing up the meeting.

15 COLC Working Group

Reydon Pantry – Cllr Coe reported that Jess Gregson would be standing down completely from the Pantry with Cllr Harvey stepping up to assist Cllr Coe with the admin and Cllr Jerman would be continuing as driver co-ordinator. Numbers continued to be around 50 each Friday with new clients still arriving each week. All the volunteers now had identifying lanyards and internal doors were being locked between sessions. A charity donation of £200 had recently been received and a JustGiving page launched to accept more donations. Cllr Coe said that The Pantry continued to work with the local foodbanks, Saxmundham Pantry and the Hygiene Bank. Following the recent CAS Workshop she said she was actively looking to apply for any relevant grants.

Southwold Food Bank – Cllr Coe said that this was continuing to expand with approximately 42 registered users, although this catered for more than that number as many were families. ESC had donated microwaves, slow cookers and air fryers which were being distributed to food bank customers and they were also holding monthly sessions at the Food Bank to ensure each individual was accessing their correct benefits. More equipment was hopefully coming and more fund raising would be needed including a request to Reydon Parish Council for £500 for a new oven. Cllr Coe said that Reydon Parish Councillors were more than welcome to visit.

Feed All Children – Cllr Coe reported that there were sufficient funds left from the £25,000 raised to continue the pilot school meals project until the end of the Spring 2 Term. She said that in total this scheme now supported 151 eligible KS2 and pre-school children with free school lunches. Fund raising was to begin again in the summer ready for October 2024 and Cllr Coe asked that Reydon Parish Council plan to make a donation to the fund in the future. We plan to begin fundraising again in the summer for October 2024 and would be grateful if RPC could plan to make a donation to that fund in the future. Finally, Cllr Coe reported that Cllr Jerman was working alongside others to look towards volunteering again at Latitude AIR hubs to raise fund for this project and there were many volunteers ready to assist with this.

16 Reports from Councillors or from other Working Group Meetings

There were no reports from other Councillors. The Chair, Cllr Cyprien did say that more volunteer Councillors were needed for some of the Working Groups where numbers had become depleted.

17 Village Hall

Cllr Vulliamy reported that the new infra-red heating system was up and running, facilitated by a grant from the Reydon Trust. This was expected to provide an energy saving of between 35% and 40%. He said the meeting room was currently being decorated and would be called The Loftus Room to reflect the generosity of the Loftus family who donated to the Parish the land the Village Hall stood on as well as other parts of Reydon. Cllr Vulliamy said that the fund raising events were going well with a Ceilidh planned for 8th March, a Beetle Drive on 23rd March and Bingo on 5th April. These events were all to raise money for the Hall's Golden Anniversary Appeal fund. Finally, Cllr Vulliamy said that they were still looking for members to join the management committee, especially those with lots of enthusiasm for social media and good organisational skills. Anyone interested could contact him directly.

18 Reydon Robin

There was nothing new to report this month.

19 Website

Cllr Knight said that he had reviewed the Google Analytics since the launch of the new website in January and the figures he quoted were considered by the Councillors to be very encouraging. There had been very positive feedback too.

20 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

21 Planning

The updated report and the original report from the Planning Group had already been circulated. All the comments on the report were unanimously accepted by the Councillors.

Planning Decisions:

Discharge of Condition No 16 of DC/22/0462/ARM – Approval of reserved matters of DC/15/3288/OUT – Outline application to enable improvements to Saint Felix School to include residential development, public open space and associated infrastructure on the former playing field at Saint Felix School. Appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, pursuant to outline permission DC/15/3288/OUT for the development of 55 dwellings – Land South of Halesworth Road Reydon, Suffolk. Application Permitted

DC/23/4219/FUL – To divide into two and build a new two-bedroom bungalow – 14 Windsor Road, Reydon Suffolk IP18 6PQ Application Withdrawn

Discharge of Condition No 11 of DC/15/3288/OUT – Outline Application to enable improvements to Saint Felix School to include residential development, public open space and associated infrastructure on the former playing field at Saint Felix School – Reptile Survey – Land South of Halesworth Road, Reydon, Suffolk. Application Permitted

DC/23/2401/FUL – Phased development, including creation of a new outdoor bowling green, demolition of front part of bowls club building, creation of new side extensions to the bowls club building, creation of new bowls club car park, development of changing facilities, development of eight homes, creation of new vehicular access and alterations to existing vehicular access, demolition of three existing buildings – 50 Halesworth Road, Reydon, Suffolk IP18 6NR Application Permitted

New Applications for Consultation:

DC/24/0256/FUL – Siting of a food and drinks concession formed from converted agricultural silo to serve guests at campsite, together with siting of a covered seating area. Broadside Park Farm, Lowestoft Road, Reydon, Southwold, Suffolk

DC/24/0431/FUL – Small single storey extension and areas of cladding. 40 Kingfisher Crescent, Reydon, Southwold, IP18 6XL

DC/24/0561/TPO – Oak Tree Reduction – small oak tree approximately 6 metres high. Located in the back garden. Large cavity in the main trunk. Would like to reduce the tree by approximately 1 metre to reduce wind sail. 27 Old School Drive, Reydon, Southwold, IP18 6JZ

DC/24/0429/VOC – Variation of conditions 2 and 3 of DC/23/4490/FUL (Single storey side extension to kitchen) – For the proposed elevations to be changed as per the revised plans. 3 Winston Road, Reydon, Southwold IP18 6RA

DC/24/0465/FUL – Change of use of agricultural barn to Petting Barn including cladding southern side of barn. Glamping at Broadside Park Farm, Lowestoft Road, Reydon, Southwold, Suffolk

Result of Retrospective Planning Application:

DC/23/2454/FUL Doreen’s Cottage. The retrospective application for the extension at 3 Bridge Road was considered by ESPC on 13 Feb following a site visit by members of the Committee earlier that day. Speakers from the public included the applicant and their architect, the neighbour, the Chair of Reydon Parish Council’s Planning Group and Cllr Beavan – the last three all objecting. After some debate, the members unanimously rejected the application, overturning the recommendation from the Planning Officer. Subsequently a Decision Notice was incorrectly issued stating approval of the application. Officers then confirmed to all interested parties that this was an error and that the Committee’s Decision should stand. However, it was reported that it was not straightforward to withdraw a statutory Decision Notice once issued. An update on progress would hopefully be given at the next Parish Council Meeting.

22 Finance –

a) Invoices paid

e-on D/D Electricity at Jubilee Green £25.21

b) Invoices to be paid

Pantry Driving £112.05

Lanyards for Pantry £11.70

Redcap Farm Tree Services (Allotments) £5,388.00

Reydon Village Hall – Jan Meeting £25.00

G Graham Litter Picking 4-25 Jan £104.20

Stationery for Pantry £11.25

Clerk’s Salary and Expenses – end of February £615.12

c) Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 31st January 2024

Business Account as at 31st December 2024 £83,524.92

Treasurers Account as at 31st December 2024 £1,893.98

TOTAL £85,418.90

Business Account as at 31st January 2024 £85,874.19

Treasurers Account as at 31st January 2024 £591.10

TOTAL £86,475.19

Receipts 1st January 2024 to 31st January 2024 £2,975.02

Less Payments 1st January 2024 to 31st January 2024 £1,918.73

TOTAL £86,475.19

d) CIL Money

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

e) Working Budget (already circulated)

23 Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

24 Date of Next Meeting

The next monthly Parish Council Meeting was agreed to be held on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7.30 pm. The Chair, Cllr Cyprien, closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.