

REYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: 27th April 2023 at Reydon Village Hall

Present Chairman Cllr Pam Cyprien, Fiona Taylor, Kalvyn Friend, David Panther, Maddie Senior Philip O'Hear, Brian Bailey and Laurence Vulliamy

In Attendance Clerk, Julie Jordan and 31 members of the public
Matt Gooch – Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Rev Alan Perry

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

2. **MR BUS – Cathy Ryan**

Cathy reported that 2022 was the first full year of operation since it was purchased. The bus continues to have major mechanical issues, vandalism and covid have all affected the service since it started. They are now considering the purchase of another bus as the current one is not really suitable for short urban runs. There were now 11 volunteer drivers and moving into the new summer the bus will be available on whole days on Mondays and Thursdays. In the winter months they were averaging 3 passengers a day and in the summer 6 mostly picked up from the camp site. A total of 1044 passengers travelled last year plus 4 dogs.

Out of town shopping trips had been tried, they were poorly supported and community hire was also available

She added that the bus is very much underused and is under constant monitoring. It is however cost neutral thanks to sponsorship, donations and fares collected. She warned that if people did not use the bus, they may lose it.

There were a number of questions regarding this

It was suggested local schools may use the bus; this was reiterated by Matt Gooch from the SWT who reported that the organization often had problems with getting transport to the wildlife sites.

A suggestion that the bus could go the local stations, Cathy replied that it is very difficult to change the route of the bus as it cannot compete with any other companies

There was also a suggestion that the bus could be used by the surgery, it was pointed out that it does and that it is where it is parked at night.

Finally, Cathy said if anyone was interested in hiring the bus and driver e mail Mr Bus on sbcfund326@gmail.com

3. **Speaker – Matt Gooch – Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

Matt Gooch introduced himself as the Site Manager for the North Area of Suffolk, he came with Jamie who maintains the local reserves. The Hen Reed beds at the moment were having a lot of machinery work done; this was to improve the reed beds. Although they looked a bit of a mess at the moment this work would allow for new regrowth and help with water flow. He reported that the bitterns were a great success there, a pair of herons were nesting in the trees and marsh harriers were frequently seen. As they were so familiar in this area it was easy to forget that these are quite rare birds. The ponies were now back, and soon the cattle will be there, they are all excellent vegetation managers.

The only worrying thing that had happened recently was that an American mink had been caught on the site. These are detrimental to local wildlife and Mr Gooch asked that any sightings of these are reported.

Reydon Wood

Mr Gooch reported that there was a lot of coppicing work ongoing, this rejuvenates the trees and is very necessary for ground flora. There had been some hedging planted and this was currently fenced off to prevent deer from eating them. He explained that deer stalking is active on the site, particularly for muntjac. He reported that dogs do cause problems. Finally, he praised the community team who has done a lot of work in the wood.

4. Receipt and Acceptance of Apologies for Absence

Councillor Cracknell, Councillor Gregson and County Councillor Ladd

5. PRESENTATION OF THE REYDON COMMUNITY AWARDS

**The following awards were presented by the Chair of the Council and the Rev Alan Perry
Christmas Lights Committee**

No-one can quite recall when the Reydon Lights Committee was formed, but Christmas lights have been a constant feature of our Christmases, every year since, we think 1978. It all began at Reydon Corner and since then the fundraising committee of 8 volunteer members have been responsible for heart-warming and dazzling displays all over the village . . . not just at the iconic Reydon Corner, but at Jubilee Green where the massive village Christmas Tree is, at the Village Hall, outside Boydens, Barbrooks, and The Randolph and on the Halesworth Road at The Drive. Reydon's Christmas lights are envied by many local towns and villages.

Every year fundraising begins just as soon as the lights have come down. Costs are always rising, it seems, and to give you an idea of how much money is raised, then each year there is not much change from £10,000!

David Woods

David Woods has been tending Reydon Corner since 2002. He says he began putting out floral tubs and planting trees and bulbs in the grass just as soon as he moved here. Asked if anyone objected, David replied: *"I just did it, whether they liked it or not!"*

In the 1950s David Woods owned 2 garden centres and a flower shop in South London and he used to provide thousands of plants and landscaping for numerous Chelsea Flower Shows. These days, in each season of every year the floral displays on Reydon Corner inspire everyone who passes by, either on foot or in a vehicle. Reydon corner has become one of the most cherished landmarks of the village.

Brian Bailey

Brian Bailey moved to Reydon in 2003. Originally a poultry farmer from Hertfordshire, Brian soon became very involved with the Reydon community. He has been on the Parish Council since 2006 and was the Chairman of the Parish Council's Planning Committee for many of those years. With his speed gun Brian organised and marshalled the local Speedwatch team for 11 years, and still volunteers . . . which these days mostly involves helping moving 'SIDs' around the village . . . (the Speed Indicator Displays)! He is very proud that Reydon now has a new smiley face machine, which greets you with a warm green smile, unless you are going too fast through the Village . Brian also continues to be a tireless driver for The Voluntary Help Centre, taking people who need transport to medical appointments, shopping or to see relatives, and he volunteers at Steam Works, the Southwold Railway project

Roger Cracknell

A former Ipswich schoolboy, Roger Cracknell and his wife Sally moved to Reydon in 2012, to be near Sally's parents, amongst other considerations. Both were teachers and had worked all over England, Roger ending up in Birkenhead as Head of a new Sixth Form College from its foundation in 1988 until he retired. Roger Cracknell has been a Reydon Parish Councillor until this April, and has been the most effective and energetic Deputy Chair, for which we thank him very much indeed. He will be missed. Most recently Roger and Sally have moved away to be near their daughter and small grand-daughter in Yorkshire.

Charlotte Clark

Charlotte Clark is best known of course as the Executive Manager of our wonderful new Library in The Old Hospital, Southwold. But there's a great deal more that Charlotte devotes her time to in the community. A member of the Village Hall management committee since 2016, she helps with organising the annual Reydon Craft and Produce Show, and the celebrated Scarecrow Trail and Treasure Hunt to raise funding for the Reydon Christmas Lights. Charlotte is a Trustee at the Southwold Film Society, and every Monday afternoon Charlotte can be seen surrounded by Rainbows – the youngest division of girl guiding, for girls 5-7 in this very Hall. Where does she get the time!

Anita Barbrook

And finally, Anita Barbrook was the Secretary of Reydon Village Hall through the mid-1970s whilst the fundraising campaign to build a new Hall was in full steam. Together with her husband Ken they both ran the village stores, Barbrooks, and David their son remembers vividly the huge piles of jumble that Anita and Ken would go around the villages collecting, to boost the building fund. Anita worked very closely with Phyllis Martin, Vivienne Clifford, Christine Thompson, Ann Hambling, Doreen Hammett and Ronnie Leach. In 1977 the new Hall was opened by Simon Loftus and the Chairman of the Parish Council then, Mrs Harrison.

Anita remained Secretary of Reydon Village Hall for many years after, and she remembers many Reydon Shows, and entering the Hall into the Best kept Village Hall competitions. They won a second place one year.

But there is no doubt that without Anita's fortitude and perseverance, Reydon would not be enjoying this special facility at the heart of the village!

5. Annual Reviews

a) Council Review - Councillor Pam Cyprien (Chair)

First of all, my thanks to those Councillors who will not be standing for election this year. Brian has provided stalwart service to the Council for many years, both as our Chair of Planning and as Speedwatch Co-ordinator, we will miss his valuable input and Roger who has made an invaluable contribution in Chairing our PROW Working Group and making sure that Anglian Water are kept up to the mark. Thanks also to Leigh and Perry who left the Council last year for family and work reasons.

Last June we had a relatively successful event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. I say 'relatively,' I like to think even more people would have come if the weather had been kinder. Linked to the Jubilee, Fiona and I attended the final Assembly before the summer break of Reydon Primary School to hand over the Jubilee Coins for the children. It was a lovely occasion with the children singing two or three of their favourite songs. In a little over a week, we will be celebrating the King's Coronation event. Thanks to Fiona's sterling work we are having, amongst other things, a standing falconry display (Avian flu permitting), archery and a circus workshop. Something for everyone.

Last year the Parish Council agreed to the ESC proposal to have a consultation regarding joining with Southwold Town Council. We felt that there were many issues that the two Councils had in common and to be one Council may be a benefit to both our communities, if the residents agreed. Sadly, STC did not want to have such a consultation. It would be good to think that after the elections, there may be an opportunity for the two Councils to work together over matters that we have in common.

Because of concerns raised at the 2021 Christmas Lights Switch on, we installed two street lights on Jubilee Green in time for last year's switching on of the Christmas tree. I think this made a difference to safety on an otherwise rather dark area for what I feel will be an ever more popular community event.

This year, thanks to Jess and Maddy the Council has put together a leaflet giving information about the help that is available to those who are struggling with the cost of living with a view to updating if necessary. By the time this is read, our Community Fridge and Pantry at the Village Hall will be up and running. This has taken a lot of work from Jess, Maddy and Laurence.

As our Representative on the Village Hall Management Committee, Laurence has worked tirelessly for the past few months to set up a new Management Committee which was caused by the retirement of Anita Freeman. It was not entirely straightforward but there have now been two meetings and we are getting to grips with what needs to be done. Thank you, Laurence.

Proclamation, St Felix's Prize Giving, Southwold's 'Beating the Bounds', the last night of the R & S Pantomime Cinderella – which was hugely entertaining and lovely to see back after so long, presented the prizes at the Reydon Show and attended early this month the Lion's 49th Charter Lunch which was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

Apart from all the projects we have in mind for the coming year, the two main foci will be renovating the village hall in time for its 50th birthday in 2027 and making the Recreation Ground more usable for a wider age range.

We have a busy time ahead and although we do have two new Councillors who will be joining us next month, we still have two places to fill.

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

Planning Applications

The Planning Working Group considered 44 Applications from May 2022 up to April 2023. Most of these were for extensions and/or adaptations to existing properties although a few were for new properties and/or replacement dwellings. Based on the Planning Group's monthly reports, the Parish Council recommended approval of 33 of these applications and rejection or further consideration of 11 applications. In almost all cases where refusal or further consideration was proposed, the reason was a negative impact on neighbouring properties or overdevelopment of the site. Where appropriate, we asked for the application of policies from our Neighborhood Plan, most often RNP10 (Design Principles) and RNP4 (Principal Residence Requirement for new properties)

Permission Gained on Inaccurate Plans

One troubling case arises from a scheme to extend a house with a small upper floor addition. Originally, the Parish Council objected to this application as it extended the property beyond the building line of the upper floor of its close neighbour. The Local Planning Authority (East Suffolk Council) nevertheless approved the scheme because the plans showed that the protrusion beyond the adjacent building was around 0.5m. As it has been built, however, the new upper floor room extends 2m beyond its neighbour, affecting the amenity, light and privacy of that dwelling. This has happened because the submitted plans showed the position of the adjacent house incorrectly. As a result, the new room when built according to the dimensions on the plans, extends 2m beyond the neighbour rather than 0.5m. The scheme's architects are trying to gain permission for what has been built but this is being contested by the neighbour and it is one of the applications for which the Parish Council has recommended refusal. We hope that the Planning Authority will agree with us. However, we are also concerned about the wider implications of this case. How can a permission be allowed to stand when it is based on incorrect drawings? We rely on the plans submitted with an application to make our judgement on each scheme – as does the Planning Authority. If incorrect plans are submitted, the whole process is undermined.

Copperwheat Development.

The biggest application for the village in 2021-22, 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. As we reported last year 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. However, since then no-one has come forward with a further application (Reserved Matters) to gain full planning permission. We are aware of a pre-application discussion with the Planning Authority but the developer, a Housing Association, subsequently withdrew from the scheme.

St Felix Development

By contrast, the plans for housing and replacement playing fields and new changing facilities now appear to be nearing delivery. The developer, Hill Residential, has secured full planning permission for 55 houses, of which 19 will be affordable (rented or shared ownership). The Parish Council has engaged with the developer, the school's new owners and the planning authority to explore how we can prevent further damage to the County Wildlife site through the creation of a dog walking area and widening of paths in areas where nightingales' nest. Sadly, we are yet to hear how this issue has been resolved although we have been assured that it has. More recently Hill Residential have submitted an application to alter one of the key conditions set by the original outline planning permission requiring that the replacement playing fields and new changing facilities are in place before work can start on the housing development. Instead, they are asking permission to develop these two aspects in parallel. The Parish Council has objected to this as the original condition is a key safeguard to ensure no loss of community facilities. As yet, the Planning Authority has not determined the new application.

Consultations

In addition to considering applications, the Planning Working Group keeps an eye on consultations, usually from the Local Planning Authority, about changes or developments in the policies which are used to determine applications. In the last year, these have included issues including Short Term Holiday Lets, Coastal Adaptation, Small Scale Housing in the Countryside and Healthy Environments. Where these are relevant to Reydon, we ask the Parish Council to authorise the Planning Working Group to respond, normally via an on-line process. In these cases, there were no major concerns.

In April, however, a major government consultation was launched on proposals to create a new use class for residential properties: C5 Short Term Lets. This is a response to concerns that in some areas growth of short term lets is hollowing out communities in some coastal areas and national parks. It sits alongside another consultation on plans to create a register of short term let properties. If the proposals are implemented, change of use from residential dwelling (C3) to Short Term Let (C5) would be permitted development except where the Local Planning Authority has determined that this change should require planning permission. In addition, the proposals would allow letting of C3 dwellings for up to 30 days in a year.

In the view of the Planning Group, the proposals for a C5 class and the ability of a Planning Authority to require planning permission are welcome changes. They would, at least to some extent, address the demographic issues highlighted in our Neighbourhood Plan caused by

c). Green Spaces Working Group - Councillor Fiona Taylor

Planting

Last year we planted an oak tree on Jubilee Green as part of the Treebilee, a countrywide project to plant trees in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee.

We also planted, with the help of an amazing group of volunteers, 240 saplings on the Recreation Ground to create a wildlife hedge and a copse. The saplings seem to be establishing well.

This year, we have applied for daffodil bulbs from East Suffolk Council under its 'East Suffolk Blooms' scheme – in fact, we've applied for three bundles of 500 bulbs each. If we are successful in our application for some or all of these bulbs, they will be delivered in the autumn for planting.

They can be planted on land owned by the Parish Council, or on land owned by East Suffolk Council or Suffolk County Council. We have thought of planting them on the Rec, on Jubilee Green and (working with the Village Hall Management Committee) around the Village Hall. But we would welcome ideas for other areas of public land around the village that could be planted with the daffodil bulbs.

Jubilee Green

This is proving to be a wonderful focal point for village celebrations and events, such as Brass on the Grass, the Christmas Lights Switch On, and our village picnics – last year to celebrate the Jubilee and this year the Coronation. We hope lots of residents will be able to attend this year's event, the Coronation Big Picnic, on Sunday 7th May.

Recreation Ground

This is the main focus for the working group at the moment. We want to improve the facilities on the Rec to make it a space that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. We are very aware that currently there are not many activities for older children and young adults, and this is something that we want to address. We are in the process of contacting suppliers to get ideas for a scheme. A major part of this could be a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), a fenced area with an all-weather surface and goal post units for games such as football and basketball. There is a vast range of options for other play equipment, such as an aerial runway, climbing wall, mega swing, trampoline, climbing tower, cycle track – the list is endless and is only limited by funds. Our plan is to gather information on some of the options available and then seek feedback from the village to find out what people would most like to see on the Rec. We will then finalise the design to provide a scheme that can be costed and then funding can be sought. It will be quite a long process, but we hope that we will end up with a fantastic leisure and play facility that can be enjoyed for years to come. We are also looking at the allotments on the Rec, to consider how best they can be managed. Our wish is also to be able to establish a Community Allotment, where people can get together to grow fruit and vegetables, some of which can then go to help supply our Community Pantry here in the Village Hall.

d). Highways Working Group – Councillor David Panther

Highways working group review 2023

The highway's working group has been engaged with numerous initiatives over the last twelve months. We engaged with SCC Highways regarding our concerns with safety on the Halesworth Road, especially with regard to access to the new housing development on the St Felix playing field. We have data from several traffic surveys completed by SCC and the Suffolk Safe Camera Team. Analysis of these surveys indicates that compliance with the 30mph speed limit is particularly poor on Halesworth Road close to the access point for the new housing development. The surveys also indicate that the volume of traffic has increased in recent years. Unfortunately, at the planning stage, SCC did not consider the new access road to be a hazard. For this reason, there is no requirement for the developer to contribute to any traffic calming or other safety measures. RPC disagrees with this assessment and we are working closely with our County Councillor and the Highways Community Liaison Engineer to improve safety on this stretch of road. At our request the Safe Camera Team conducted their own survey on Halesworth Road and agreed that there is a need for enforcement of the speed limit and should be deploying the mobile speed camera to that end.

SCC have deployed one of their Automatic Number Plate Recognition Cameras on the Halesworth Road. We await data from that exercise to further inform us regarding compliance with the speed limit. There will be further deployment of this device at regular intervals.

With the help of a grant from our County Councillor Michael Ladd we have purchased a new 'smiley face' speed indicator device (SID) to encourage compliance with the 30 mph speed limit. We have ambitions to acquire further, similar SIDs to deploy at the entrances to Reydon on Wangford and Lowestoft Roads. We are working with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) and SCC Highways to improve safety for pedestrians crossing Wolsey Bridge from the Hen Reedbeds car park to the Wolsey Creek footpath. These improved safety measures include new signage, road markings and clearing of vegetation to improve visibility for both pedestrians and drivers. SWT are coordinating works with SCC in order to minimise the cost and inconvenience caused by the works. We are to receive a further grant from SCC towards the cost of these works.

Further to our concerns about speeding vehicles at the entrance to Reydon along the A1095, and for improvements to the safety of pedestrians crossing the road, we are collaborating with SCC Highways to investigate the possibility of creating a 40 mph buffer zone starting West of Wolsey Bridge. We have also requested that SCC Highways investigate means to prevent recurrence of flooding on Halesworth Road adjacent to the junction with Shepherds Lane. We understand that this work is in hand. Due to a lack of volunteers the community speed watch team is not operating at the moment. We continue to try to find volunteers to reinstate the team.

e). Community Pantry – Councillor Maddie Senior

Councillor Senior reported that one third of food produced in the UK is wasted and as a Parish, in conjunction with Southwold Town Council we collectively decided to open the community pantry and fridge to address some of that wastage and ensure a more sustainable outcome for our community and planet.

Consequently, the Reydon and Southwold Pantry opens on the 28th April at the Reydon Village Hall. The opening is a result of a lot of support and hard work from our wonderful team of volunteers.

We would like to thank the following for their support and donations.

The Reydon Village Hall committee who has been super supportive and accommodating without whom this project would not have got off the ground.

East Suffolk District Council, Suffolk County Councillor, Our Ward Councillor, Reydon Parish Council, Southwold Town Council, Reydon Trust, Adnams, Durrant and Sons, Sole Bay Waste Company, Southwold Press and Kessingland pantry for sharing their lessons learned.

Many local shops are supporting us by donating short life food to distribute to the local community and in particular we would like to thank Tesco Southwold, Co-op Southwold, Little Gems, Emerdale Farm Shop, Old Hall Café, Booker Lowestoft and Barbrooks

Leah O'Shea one of our volunteers has been busy designing, printing and distributing posters advertising the opening in local shops and generating much social and local media for this initiative.

6. Reports -

a) Reydon Trust – Mike Mayhew

This year the Trust was fortunate to receive an extra income stream from members of St. Margaret's Church congregation. These parishioners were happy to pay over to the Trust monies from their heating allowance that they felt they could afford to gift away. This was ring fenced and used for those less well off in the community, given as grants towards heating.

The Reverend Alan, a Reydon Trust Trustee, and our parish Vicar, attends Reydon Primary School to take assemblies and to contribute to teaching and has made good contact with the teaching staff there. This has created a communication channel between School and Trust enabling the Headteacher of the Primary School to alert The Trust via Rev. Alan, of those in need of help.

The Primary School itself was in receipt of grant aid from the Trust for its Eco Committees Woodland Area in memory of a staff member. Also, for a litter picker for collecting litter around the village and funding for a school trip.

Last Christmas the Trust gave all primary school children in Southwold and Reydon a Christmas card and £10.00 book token.

The trust contributed towards the Marguerite Club's Christmas outing. Helped fund new wheelchairs for Kate Stevenson's wheel chair loan scheme in the village, and again, private individuals have received financial help for them to further their education. The new community kitchen initiative to be developed at the Village Hall was also supported.

A grant to Southwold Tennis Club to enable them to get match funding for a new pavilion is still being held, and also held is a grant for the new skate park.

The Trusts forward commitments mean that at present it has limited funds to help the Reydon community. 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 £30,000 per annum enabling us to use this in the parish of Reydon for need, hardship or distress.

b) Reydon Playing Fields Charity

There was no report

c). Reydon Village Hall – Councillor Laurance Vulliamy

Reydon Village Hall is under new management!

At the beginning of March, the outgoing Chair, Anita Freeman handed over the reins to myself and Pam Cyprien.

Reydon Village Hall was opened in 1977, the late Queen's Silver Jubilee Year, after a long, and I should say tough fundraising campaign. The Hall was built on a shoestring but has been looked after

Yet, I think we all agree that well now it needs some tender loving care to make the facility brighter and modern . . . to take us into the next decades.

The handover had some unexpected problems. For example, our Accounts at Barclays have been frozen. For the record we have been trying to change the signatories on our accounts since early March. The mandate team at Barclays did not recognise the outgoing Chair's signature - giving us leave as officers to take over the accounts, so, we had to start all over again only two weeks ago. Not helpful!

Apart from the long-overdue facelift of the Hall, both inside and out, we are looking for grant assistance to install more efficient infra-red heating, LED lighting, to improve the acoustics, install state of the art overhead projection + digital sound, with a screen fit for purpose, and to upgrade our insulation, both thermal and sound. We are delighted to be hosting the Reydon and Southwold Community Pantry, a very innovative Parish Council initiative to help our communities. We have just fixed up six new Swift Boxes and the bird caller will be turned on 1st May, neighbours allowing. We also plan to build a Parish Office on the back of the Village Hall, as Reydon Parish Council has no Town Hall, even though Reydon has over 2500 villagers.

But the Hall still has to attract an increased number of hirers through the doors, and to appeal to a wider variety of clients, otherwise it will not survive. We have the capacity for more hires but we have to make ourselves a brighter, far more attractive facility for people to want to come to, to exercise, learn, and enjoy a new and interesting range of community events.

We have a fine new management team. Huge thanks must go to Dorcas and Ray Rogers, who have begun to digitise our bookings diary, our invoicing, issuing contracts where there were none, and modernising the Hall's administration system.

We are still in urgent need of a Treasurer and more pro-active committee members. But I would say that with some intelligent marketing and reputational enhancement via social media, Reydon's Village Hall can survive.

f) **Andrew Matthews Trust – Derek Self**

Good Evening. I'm Derek Self, Chairman of the Andrew Matthews Trust which is responsible for the Rest, the four almshouses, in Covert Road, Reydon. The charity's saddest news this year was the loss of one of its residents, Peggy Ballard. Peggy was well-known in town having worked in Mumfords and then managed James Ward for many years. She had lived at The Rest for 12 years.

This year the trustees have been upgrading the heating in the cottages and looking at the power supply. There is no gas to the cottages and for the last 30 or so years the main heat supply has been storage heaters. Whilst these were still working; the cottages were not exactly cosy without a secondary heating source and so we had modern, more efficient, electric heaters fitted in the Autumn. The timing was unfortunate, however, coinciding as it did with the rapid rise in the cost of fuel and the residents blamed the hike in their electricity bills on the new heaters.

Earlier in the year, we began looking at the possibility of solar power. One of the cottages has a larger garden than the other three – it was originally designed as an allotment for the use of all the residents. We thought we could site solar panels there which could generate a supply for all four cottages. In the event, however, it became clear that the solar panels required were too big to sit comfortably within the boundaries of the listed buildings and currently too expensive and generated too little electricity to make it a worthwhile project now, even if the Planning Department allowed us to do it. We were excited by the idea, though, as it seemed forward-thinking and in keeping with the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, so we agreed to look at it again in a few years' time when solar panel technology has advanced.

As trustees, then, we are looking to the future but we also value our history. When Andrew Matthews built the almshouses in 1908 and invited various Southwold worthies to serve as trustees, he and they drew up the "Rules of The Rest". These are very much of their time. One reads "Two persons to occupy each cottage: man and wife; two sisters; or, at the discretion of the trustees, a man and his daughter, the daughter preferably over 40 years of age." Another says "The occupants will not absent themselves from the cottage for more than one day without leave from the trustees." We have moved on since then. However, rule no.5 we do still observe. It reads " On 20th March every year (Mrs Matthews' birthday) each cottage is to receive 5 shillings." Rather than 5 shillings residents now receive £20 – which, now I think about it, may not have kept up with inflation. Anyway, we understand that in order to receive their 5 shillings the residents had to have on display the picture of Mrs Matthews which the trustees had given them. We don't insist on that now although we do have a picture of Mrs Matthews which we could copy for them. Sadly, what we do not have, is a picture of Andrew Matthews himself. We are aware that, presumably looking for space, the Town Council has off-loaded or consigned to the Town Hall basement, some of the historical items it has been given or collected in the past. The trustees are also aware that a portrait of Andrew Matthews hangs, or at least used to hang, in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall and we **did** wonder if the Council would consider giving that painting into the safe-keeping of the charity which bears his name. I'll leave that thought with you.

g). Any other Reports

None

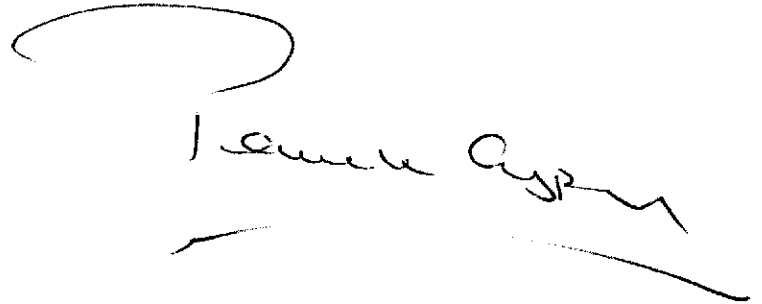
7. Matters Arising for Discussion and Questions –

One member of the public noted that there is currently an appeal with the Planning Inspector against a Principal Residence Clause being applied to larger developments. There was some discussion about this but it was felt that it was too early to see if this clause was having an adverse effect.

8 Close

The Chair, Councillor Pam Cyprien thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55

Signed..... (Chairman)Date



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Cyprien", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large, looping initial "P".