

Reydon Parish Council

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Reydon Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 25th April at 7.30 pm.

Present: Chair, Cllr Pam Cyprien, Acting Vice-Chair Cllr David Panther, Cllr Laurence Vulliamy, Cllr Kalvyn Friend, Cllr Dominic Knight, Cllr Sarah Jerman, Cllr Dexter Kirk, Cllr Linda Coe, Cllr Kim Harvey, Cllr Mell Birch.

Clerk: Ann Dobson. Approx 40 members of the public.

1 Opening and Welcome

Cllr Pam Cyprien welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

All Parish Councillors were present.

3 Presentation of the Parish Council's annual 'Reydon Stars', for outstanding contributions to the local community, presented by Pam Cyprien, Chair of Reydon Parish Council, together with special local guest Geoffrey Munn OBE from The Antiques Roadshow.

Fiona Taylor

Cllr Pam Cyprien: 'Our first award goes to a former colleague on Reydon Parish Council, who in her time with us made an enormous impression, dealing with many different responsibilities so effectively. These included securing the WW1 Pillbox on Might's Bridge for the community, and working to improve our Highways and Green Spaces. A former Solicitor,

Fiona joined the Parish Council in 2019 and has been instrumental in organising many of the Reydon Community's celebrations on Jubilee Green. She became Deputy Chair of The Parish Council before stepping down for family reasons, and is sorely missed.'

Philip O'Hear

Geoffrey Munn: 'The second award goes to an individual who has been almost single handedly responsible for some fundamental improvements to the village. The Parish Council's former Chair of Planning Philip O'Hear, was instrumental in producing Reydon's Neighbourhood Plan, which has given our community direct power to shape the development and growth of Reydon. A former education reformer and Academy head in London, Philip has also served on The Harbour Board, has established the Quiet Lanes in the village and has just recently written the Parish Council's robust response to LionLink, National Grid's disturbing proposals to bring power cables ashore at Easton Bavents, and bury them through our countryside.'

(Award collected by Kalvyn Friend on behalf of Philip O'Hear).

Betty Harmer and Neil Holloway

Cllr Pam Cyprien: 'The next two awards are for services to our beautiful medieval parish church, St Margaret's. Reydon folk are always tickled that St Margaret's is not only much older than St Edmund's in Southwold, it is also the Mother Church of the diocese! Separately, Betty Harmer and Neil Holloway have both devoted much of their time to the church, its history and to improving the facilities.

Betty became Verger over 20 years ago, and then took over the responsibility for the Register of Burials and Cremations for Reydon and Wangford. There are over 1000 graves in Reydon alone, some of which do not have any identification, and Betty is responsible for all graves as well as situating new plots and cremation interments.

A former Human Resources Manager in industry, Neil Holloway first became church Treasurer, and ten years ago began maintaining the Churchyard because the church could not afford to employ enough help. He has 4 regular volunteers, who do everything including cutting the grass around the graves and trimming all the hedges. Two years ago, St Margaret's took over an overgrown orchard next door as a sanctuary for new cremation interments, which Neil has established. Last year he planted six new oaks.'

Blyth Valley Rotary

Geoffrey Munn: 'Blyth Valley Rotary was formed last year out of the previous Southwold and District Rotary. Over the years Rotary have made enormous contributions to the communities of Southwold and Reydon, in particular organising Reydon's Christmas Tree switch-on events on Jubilee Green and also 'Brass on the Grass' every July. Last autumn Blyth Valley Rotary planted over 4000 crocus bulbs in front of Reydon Village Hall, as part of Rotary's worldwide 'End Polio' campaign, one of their many enhancements in the district.'

(Award collected by outgoing President, Dr Cathy Ryan MBE)

Steve Westlake

Cllr Pam Cyprien: 'Steve Westlake is a local farmer at Easten Bavents, and has helped the village in many practical ways for many years. Far more significantly Steve is a naturalist and conservationist and has dedicated substantial areas of land as valuable habitats for local wildlife. This has resulted in a significant increase of the local population of some vulnerable species. The population of linnets, for example, has increased

by some 400 per cent under Steve's stewardship. For a long time he has been keeping an eye on the Reed Beds and the road at Potters Bridge. If the Reedbeds' natural springs cannot drain into the sea through Easton Broad, then the road will flood and the substantial

Bittern population cannot nest. Despite Steve's continual efforts to alleviate the problem, the landowner refuses to clear the channel into the sea; the road floods and the wildlife habitat of the reedbeds is at risk.'

Geoff Cooper

Geoffrey Munn: 'Geoff Cooper has worked in the community for over 40 years. He is the Cooper in Cooper and Denny, and Geoff has always been very positive about Reydon as a community. He has contributed much practical help and many repairs for village facilities such as playground equipment, bus shelters and benches. Most recently Geoff drew up a full

structural survey of the World War One Pillbox at Mights Bridge, with his son Ben, ahead of Reydon Parish Council's taking over custodianship of the building for the community.'

(Award collected by Son, Ben Cooper)

Kalvyn Friend

Cllr Pam Cyprien: 'Fundraising is an essential part of community life. It goes on all the time in many guises. For over twenty years Kalvyn Friend has been researching, writing and staging local Quizzes to raise money for many causes, including The RNLI, Reydon Christmas Lights and Prostate Cancer. Kalvyn tells me that each quiz takes 5 hours or more to prepare, as every question is thoroughly checked, and of the 60 questions put together for each quiz, no question is ever used again elsewhere. A former State Trumpeter and Lifeguard in The Household Cavalry, Kalvyn has also worked in local newspapers and as a photographer. With an average of 10 quizzes per year and with up to £700 raised on each occasion, you do the Maths! No question, he has been a very effective fundraiser.'

The Voluntary Help Centre

Geoffrey Munn: 'The Voluntary Help Centre was founded nearly 40 years ago by local retired GP Andrew Eastaugh, to offer the kind of additional community support that the Doctors' Surgery could not. With the help of volunteers the VHC provides a Community Car Service, a monthly Lunch Club and a scheme to help the isolated and housebound. The car service is very popular, taking people to hospital and other medical appointments, hair appointments and even shopping. In February volunteer drivers covered 3,500 miles. The Lunch Club at the Millenium Hall is also very popular, but the befriending service, to support the lonely and housebound, is not operating at the moment due to lack of volunteers. Like many local charities and services, the VHC is in need of volunteers.'

(Award collected by Manager Flic Gellatly)

Cllr Pam Cyprien offered her congratulations to the winners and thanked them for all they do. She also thanked Geoffrey Munn for presenting the awards with her.

4 Guest Speakers

Jamie Smith from Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Jamie gave a very interesting talk on the Hen Reedbeds and Reydon Woods. He explained the work the Suffolk Wildlife Trust have undertaken to protect the wildlife and birds at both locations.

Adam Burrows from Natural England

Adam also gave an interesting talk and it was apparent that Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Natural England work closely together on various projects and locations. Adam explained that Natural England were involved in two national nature reserves in the area – the Benacre nature reserve, covering Benacre, Covehithe and Easton Broads and the Walberswick National Nature Reserve.

5

Reviews:

Council Review and Green Spaces Working Group – Pam Cyprien, Parish Council Chair

‘Three valued Councillors had to step down during the year. We thank Fiona for all the work she has done for us on several projects and her tenacity in securing the agreement of the owner to hand over for free, barring legal costs, the First WW1 Pillbox on Might's Bridge, Philip for making us a force to be reckoned with on planning issues, driving forward the Neighbourhood Plan to acceptance stage and work to get our two Quiet Lanes, amongst other things; and to Maddy for the hard work she has done re the COLC in the shape of the Reydon and Southwold Pantry and free school meals for Reydon and Southwold primary school children, both of which continue to go from strength to strength. We welcomed our new Clerk Ann who joined us in July and is a valued member of the team and, more recently, four new Councillors – Linda, Kim Sarah and Mell. At this point I'd like to add that we are short of two Councillors, so if any of you would like to apply and join our team to help and support the community, please let me or Ann know.

It seems a long time ago but our Council year started in May with celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III with a picnic on Jubilee Green. It was a happy, well attended occasion with music, stalls and displays.

I opened the Reydon and Southwold Pantry, part of our initiative to the cost of living crisis, with Simon Flunder, Southwold Town Council Mayor. We were joined by some of the valued volunteers from both Reydon and Southwold and children from Reydon Primary School. Part of the reason for the Pantry is to reduce food waste by collecting or being given food totally safe for consumption that would otherwise be destined for landfill.

During the last twelve months I was delighted to attend: the Civic Parade and Service in Southwold, St Felix's prizegiving, the Remembrance Service at St Margaret's and the Harvest Festival Service at United Reformed. I had the pleasure of opening Brass on the Grass, which is such an important community event for the village and for which thanks must go to the Rotary Club. I also presented the prizes at a well attended Reydon Show last August and helped turn on the lovely Christmas Lights on Jubilee Green, a great way of ending the year – with a huge thanks to the Reydon Christmas Lights Committee who work so hard on fund raising throughout the year. With two other Councillors I met the new Head of St Felix School who told us that he wished to engage with the local community, and I also went to their networking even held in December. During the year I attended a number of Zoom forums on Climate Change, Biodiversity and various other Parish Council linked subjects. And very recently I attended the Lions 50th Charter Dinner which was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

We re-started Liaison Meetings with Southwold Town Council which gives us an informal opportunity to discuss issues that the two communities have in common.

The Council has been engaged with a real threat to our village with Reydon/Easton Bvents as one of two possible sites being investigated by NGV LionLink for an on-shore hub and trenches to transmit energy from the continent for distribution to other parts of the country. This is a threat not only for our environment but also to businesses and the economy of the area. Both Reydon and Southwold rely on the holiday visitors who come to enjoy the sea and the surrounding countryside. We fear that visitors will be deterred by what could be several years of disruption as the trenches and the hub are constructed, using roads that are barely able to accommodate the increased traffic at holiday times, let alone large construction vehicles.

We held our first Public Meeting, with speakers from RAID and SEAS and a statement from Therese Coffey, to gauge the feeling of the community and a clear steer to object. We invited a representative from LionLink to attend but they declined, directing us to their statement on their website. I and other Councillors have attended Zoom and physical consultations run by NGV/LionLink to try and get answers to our many questions but in the main these have not been forthcoming. There have been geophysical and winter bird surveys on the Rec, conducted by agencies representing NGV. With thanks to Philip, we gave an in-depth response to their 740 page environmental scoping proposals.

We requested and have had meetings with the Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council regarding the serious flooding at Potters Bridge and had regular updates from David Beavan as our East Suffolk Council Representative. Both

Potters Bridge and the long lasting flood at Quay Lane have also been regular items on the Agenda of our Parish Meetings and our Highways Group, which is also attended by a representative from Suffolk County Council Highways. We requested, and have just had, a meeting with planning officers from East Suffolk Council regarding infrastructure issues resulting from the impact of a number of developments in the village, especially Copperwheat. The meeting was helpful in as much as we were given the opportunity to air our and the community's concerns. We have also met, and will continue to meet, Orbit the developers, to discuss the concern of residents.

It has been a busy year with some of our projects put on hold as we dealt with more immediately pressing issues. There are some projects which will remain on hold until we have a full complement of Councillors to help carry them out.

Green Spaces Working Group

One of those projects is our plans for the Recreation Ground to make it more fun for 7+ year olds. We now hope to make progress on that by getting grants to provide a multi-purpose play area with zip wire and other things but this will take time. We do need to be mindful that LionLink have indicated on their maps that the proposed trench will take up part of the Rec, however realistically speaking, it is difficult to imagine how that route will be accomplished. In Autumn we have plans to plant more bulbs and wildflowers throughout the village, but to do this we will need people to help us. It is likely we will consult with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to get suggestions for the most appropriate plants for this area.

We recently had a meeting with the allotment holders, who, if there are issues, now have a link to the Council via Cllr Mell Birch. It was agreed for the time being that these meetings will be annual. We have created a community allotment which has now been cleared for sharing. If anyone is interested, please let Ann know.'

Planning Working Group – Cll Kalvyn Friend read the Review prepared by Philip O'Hear

Planning Applications

'The Planning Working Group considered 35 Applications from May 2023 up to April 2024. 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 28 of these applications and rejection or further consideration of 7 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.

In one case, we recommended refusal of an application for new houses to replace others lost to, or at risk from, coastal erosion because the application was to build these in open countryside when a brownfield option was available. East Suffolk have yet to determine this application.

A number of applications were for new houses in the garden of an existing one. In two cases we recommended refusal due to the inadequate size of the proposed plot and/or inadequate provision for parking. The trend of seeking development of garden plots is one which the Parish will want to monitor closely in the coming years.

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 (and then Refused) on Inaccurate Plans

One troubling case from 2023, which still continues, 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 tried to gain retrospective permission for what has been built but this was contested by the neighbour and it was one of the applications for which the Parish Council recommended refusal. After a site visit by the East Suffolk Planning Committee and representations at the Committee meeting from the neighbour and from the Parish Council, the Committee voted unanimously to refuse the application (overturning an officer recommendation to approve). Then calamity struck again: a Decision Notice (which is a statutory instrument) was issued to approve the scheme. The Planning Authority had to seek a court order to revoke this notice, which was issued in error, and have just reported that a Notice to Refuse Permission has now been issued. This may not be the end of the matter as the applicant may well appeal and East Suffolk will have to defend their decision before taking any enforcement action.

However, as a Parish Council, 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.

During 2023, Orbit Housing announced that they have bought the site and will come forward with a further application (Reserved Matters) to gain full planning permission. Orbit also told us that they have funding to include a further 30 of the new properties as shared ownership dwellings. As a result, of the 220 dwellings, 44 will be affordable rentals, 74 shared ownership and 102 market housing. As of April 2024, Orbit have not yet submitted the Reserved Matters application and when this is out for consultation, the Parish Council will press for some of the infrastructure pressures which will arise to be addressed as fully as possible.

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 were not fully satisfied by the way this has been addressed. Work to develop the replacement playing field is now largely completed which will allow the residential development to proceed.'

Highways Working Group – David Panther

'The Reydon Parish Council Highways working Group meets approximately every 6 weeks. Meetings are attended by councillors, community representatives, our Suffolk County Council ward County Councillor, Michael Ladd and Suffolk County Council Highways Community Liaison Engineer.

The group addresses concerns raised by members of the community as well as matters that members of the group consider to be of importance to the Reydon Community.

Over the last year the main matters considered by the working group include:

- In partnership with others pressing for improved water level management at Potters Bridge on the B1127 to reduce frequency of flooding resulting in over frequent road closure.
- Pressing for flooding in Quay Lane, that resulted in the road being closed for several months, to be remedied.
- Improving safety for pedestrians crossing Wolsey Bridge on the A1095 when using the public footpath through the Hen Reedbeds.
- Canvassing for a 40 mph limit on the A1095 from just south of Wolsey Bridge to the start of the 30 mph limit by the entrance to St Felix School.
- Canvassing for traffic calming measures on the A1095 from the start of the 30 mph limit to the start of the main residential area of the village, especially around the junction with Keens Lane and the new access to the St Felix housing development.
- Requesting a revision to the parking restrictions in Nightingale Avenue in order to improve safety at the junctions with Teal Close (Sole Bay Health Centre) and Wangford Road.
- Discussing arrangements for access to the new Copperwheat Development, especially access by construction vehicles.
- Through the Leadership of ESC Councillor Beavan a multi-agency meeting of the flood board was convened to examine solutions for managing flooding at Potters Bridge. This has resulted in the production of a 'road map' that includes short, medium and long term strategies to minimise flooding and reduce risk for road users. SCC Highways and The Environment Agency are collaborating to minimise inconvenience to road users.
- After the road being closed for several months SCC Highways have now pumped water from the roadway. The remaining slurry has been cleared and the drains cleaned. The slurry had a strong aroma of pigs. Indications are that effluent has washed from the pig field onto the road and blocked the drain.
- New signage to alert drivers to the crossing point has been erected either side of the pedestrian route on Wolsey Bridge. This is funded by the SCC Ward Councillor's locality budget.

- RPC and our ward councillor believe that we made a strong case for a new 40 mph limit on the A1095 from Wolsey Bridge to the start of the 30 mph limit by the entrance to St Felix School. SCC highways disagreed. Of 8 criteria to be satisfied, 4 were fully met, 3 were partially met and 1 was not met. The outcome was disappointing. RPC shall pursue the recommendation for low-cost speed calming measures. A further application for the introduction of a speed limit will be made in the near future.
- We have requested further traffic calming measures to ensure safety when the access to the new St Felix Development is made. In the first instance we have asked that the double white lines to prohibit overtaking be extended eastward as far as the Keens Lane junction. Poor compliance with the 30 mph limit along the A1095 at the entrance to the village was apparent from recent traffic surveys. RPC requested further enforcement measures for the 30 mph limit at the entrance to the village. Police enforcement cameras have been deployed on numerous occasions.
- Amended parking restrictions in Nightingale Avenue are being progressed. This should make the junction between Nightingale Avenue and Wangford Road and that between Nightingale Avenue and Teal Close safer. This is mainly funded by the SCC Ward Councillor's locality budget.
- A number of members of the community have expressed concern regarding the capacity of the local road network to cope with traffic, especially construction traffic for the Copperwheat housing development. RPC has held discussions with the developer (Orbit) to make them aware of concerns. The Council awaits the submission of the developer's traffic management plan in order to comment further.

The Highways Working Group wish to thank our Suffolk County Council Ward Councillor, Michael Ladd and the Suffolk County Council Highways Community Liaison Officer, Wayne Saunders for attending meetings, advising on appropriate actions and funding many of the projects that are considered by the group. Without this valuable support many of the initiatives would not be possible. The highways working group also wish to thank Brian Bailey and Andrew Taylor for their continuing commitment to charging the batteries and rotating the sites of the SIDs that belong to RPC. The deployment of the SIDs would not be possible without their frequent and regular efforts. RPC still has Speedwatch equipment. The apparatus has not been used for several years. This is due to a shortage of volunteers. We should like to resurrect the group if volunteers can be found.'

Community Pantry – Linda Coe

'Today celebrates the first anniversary of the opening of Reydon Community Pantry. The Pantry runs under the aegis of Reydon Parish Council and opens every Friday from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.

It is a sustainability initiative aimed at combatting food wastage and is open to anyone who comes through our doors with no voucher or similar system necessary. The food we offer comes from local supermarkets, some local shops, donations – especially from local allotment holders and larger food outlets such as Bookers in Lowestoft. The food is collected every day by a team of volunteer drivers run by Cllr Sarah Jerman. Another team of volunteers led by Cllr Kim Harvey and myself man the Pantry on a shift system.

We have approximately 50-60 clients using the Pantry with many regulars, but also new clients who have heard about the work we do and come to see what it is all about. We have been very fortunate to receive donations from such bodies as the Reydon Trust, the Sole Bay Care Fund, Blyth Valley Rotary Club and individuals through our JustGiving page, and also Reydon Parish Council, which helped us set up the Pantry initially and still help us with funding which is used to pay electricity costs, mileage payments to drivers, and equipment.

We are actively seeking funds at the moment to purchase an additional freezer to prevent foodstuffs being thrown away because we cannot store them correctly.

We also receive donations of sanitary and personal care items from Waveney Hygiene Bank, and donations from the RSPCA who have been marvellous in giving us regular supplies of animal feed.

Of late we have helped, where possible, the Southwold Foodbank as it develops its services at the Old Methodist Church. We also work with the East Suffolk Food Network and CAS in developing our skills and services we can offer. I would like to thank all those agencies who have helped the Pantry from its inception and all those volunteers, without whom we would be unable to run.'

6 Reports:

Reydon Trust – Mike Mayhew

'During this last year, the Trust was again fortunate to receive an extra income stream from members of St Margaret's Church's 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 sum, nearly £3,000 to date, has been and will be ring fenced to be used for those less well off in our community, given as individual household grants towards heating.

Again, last Christmas the Trust gave all primary school children in Southwold and Reydon a Christmas card and £10.00 book token at a cost of approximately £2,700. And, on the subject of Christmas, I hope you all enjoyed the Reydon Christmas Lights switch on, on Jubilee Green. Reydon Christmas Lights Committee's initiative to get local businesses and individuals to sponsor trees enabled the Trust to sponsor the large tree on Jubilee Green. It is anticipated that this will become an annual sponsorship from the Reydon Trust. Also, the Trust paid for the electric connection to the Green.

Reydon Primary School was in receipt of grant aid for 15 keyboards for the music department. Communicating with the School is enhanced by the Vicar, Alan. As a Reydon Trust Trustee he delivers school assemblies and his involvement at the Primary School helps to find those in need of energy grants, and we have also considered assistance with a bus pass payment via Reydon Primary School. An application was made to the Trust from Southwold Rotary Club for the Coasts4Kids Scheme. This is a national scheme where anyone can sponsor a child for a winter coat. Reydon Primary School is very supportive of it and requested 50 coats, so the Trust pledged some money towards Rotary for this scheme.

The Trust is pleased to see four major projects get off the ground this year – Southwold Tennis Club, The Skateboard Park and Golf Club. These three all have an element of youth encouragement and have been supported. Also, Reydon Village Hall were supported to replace the outdated heating system and to kick-start the Anniversary Jubilee Fund. During the year the Trust welcomed two new Trustees to join. Always good to introduce new blood.

Other Financial Support:

Sole Bay Care Fund was helped to fund a stairlift for a village resident.

The Pantry was supported to help it get going.

A resident from the village had help with vet fees for their dog's operation.

The capital is invested with CCLA who, once again, have managed to hold our capital value at over £1,000,000 while give 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. Thank you.'

Community Bus and Sole Bay Care Fund – Cathy Ryan

Summary of Cathy Ryan's Report:

Community Bus: The community bus scheme is part of the Sole Bay Care Fund. The old bus had proved problematic in terms of reliability but now there was a new bus and the new 'Mr Bus' (although not brand new) works beautifully. There are 12 volunteer drivers and it is a 'hop on hop off' bus for everyone, but it can also be hired for events and special occasions so for example, the primary school and Lighthouse Ladies use it. It holds 14 people and is in its fifth year thanks to generous donations from local businesses.

Sole Bay Care Fund: This was set up 18 years ago to cater for people in the village who wanted to stay in their own home when they become elderly, need palliative care, or are living with dementia. More recently the Sole Bay Care Fund has changed its constitution and broadened its reach to offer help to children and people with mental health or social issues. They have supported the Feed All Children scheme offering hot meals for children in Southwold, Reydon and Wenhaston, winter coats for children etc. They have given money to the new Skatepark to ensure our children are taught to be safe, helped fund the Reydon Pantry, helped offer food packs with recipes to families, etc. The main drive is caring for people and offering a 24 hour service and Cathy offered her thanks to the local community for supporting them. She is retiring in August but will still be running the Sole Bay Care Fund for a few years.

Reydon Village Hall – Laurence Vulliamy

'Hello I am Chairman of Reydon Village Hall. It's been just over a year since the new management committee took over at the Hall, and since then we have got a lot done. To increase the profile of The Village Hall we have re-decorated the outside, created a new logo and marketing slogan, and thanks to Charlotte Clark, we have increased our social media presence. We set up the Golden Anniversary Appeal Fund, to re-furbish and re-equip the Hall in time for its 50th Anniversary in 2027. With a generous grant from The Reydon Trust we got underway by installing a metered infra-red heating system throughout the building, which is providing considerable savings with our ever-increasing electricity bills. We have created a new meeting room for hire, called The Loftus Room, and we are in the process of replacing the lighting in the Hall and the disabled toilet, to ensure that it can be used legally . . . if you know what I mean!

We have a small, but effective management committee. The Village Hall could not be more grateful to Ray and Dorcas Rogers, who are not only the charity's Treasurer and Secretary respectively, they are also the Estate Manager and Bookings Secretary. Thank you to them both for their invaluable, voluntary help.

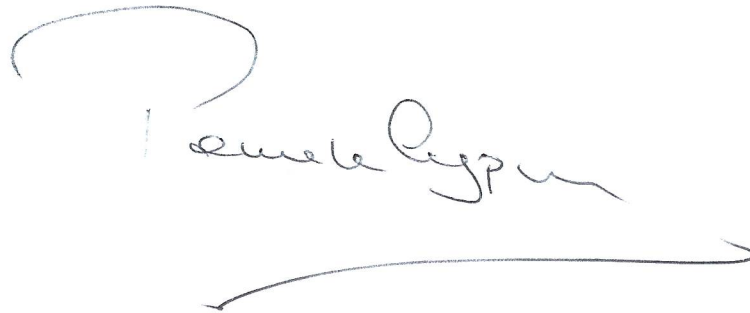
So Bookings are up, and The Hall is also proud to host the Reydon and Southwold Pantry, going forward. As you may have noticed we are holding numerous events to raise money for the Hall, and shortly we will be applying for funding for capital projects, such as renewable energy for the building, and a new digital sound and projection system.

However we are short of volunteers for the Management Committee and would welcome you if you'd like to join an energetic and effective team, to help make a real difference for the community. Please get in touch. Thank you.'

7 **Matters Arising and Any Questions**

There were no matters arising and no questions from the public.

8 The Chair thanked everyone for coming and gave a special thanks to those giving reviews and reports. The Meeting was closed at 8.55 pm.



Pamela Dyer