

Reydon Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on 21st November 2024.

1 Present and Opening

Present:

Chair, Cllr Pam Cyprien, Vice-Chair Cllr David Panther, Deputy Vice-Chair Linda Coe, Cllr Dominic Knight, Cllr Kim Harvey, Cllr Sarah Jerman, Cllr Mike Medland, Cllr Adele Coleman and East Suffolk Councillor David Beavan.

Clerk – Ann Dobson.

There was 2 members of the public present.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Dexter Kirk, Cllr Mel Birch and Cllr Kalvyn Friend and these were accepted by the Councillors.

3 Public Forum

Cllr David Beavan started by saying that there had been criticism of Joe Blackmore and ESC Planning at the last Meeting, during the Orbit discussion, that they had been influential on the choice of access routes for Copperwheat but that this was untrue as this had been passed at Suffolk County Council level so East Suffolk had no grounds to refuse.

He went on to say that in view of the recent weather, the severe weather protocol had been put into effective from Tuesday 19th and that this would be in force until next Monday. Anyone sleeping rough during this period could call the council and get overnight accommodation provided.

Cllr Beavan finished by saying that the outflow at Potters Bridge needed clearing again and that talks were taking place to get this done.

Cllr Pam Cyprien gave a report on her attendance at the recent Community Listening Meeting which existed to decide where the needs were greatest in the community. There were wide ranging discussions on how to make sure nobody was lonely, especially as Southwold and, to a lesser extent, Reydon, had a number of holiday homes in each street, so people would not necessarily have next door neighbours. It had been discussed that two ideas were to have an 'ambassador' on every street to make sure all was well and also to provide 'welcome packs' to all newcomers telling them of clubs, societies and useful information for their new area. It was also discussed that the updated Parish Council map that was being prepared would help and so would any mention that could take place in the Reydon Robin. These ideas were all to be investigated further. Cllr Kim Harvey asked whether an Ambassador was realistic, but thought the welcome packs were a good idea. It was thought that Estate Agents, among others, could give these out. This was all to be explored more at further meetings.

Cllr Cyprien then asked the Councillors if they thought it would be good to resume periodic liaison meetings with Southwold Town Council so that matters of concern could be discussed informally. The Councillors thought this would be a very good idea and Cllr Dominic Knight, Cllr Linda Coe, Cllr David Panther, Cllr Kim Harvey and Cllr Pam Cyprien all said they were interested in taking part in these meetings.

A member of the public raised the issue of traffic calming in Fieldview Close. He had been told this would not be taking place until the first house on the Copperwheat Development had been completed. Cllr David Beavan said he would investigate the whole issue of traffic calming if the resident sent him an email.

Cllr Pam Cyprien said it was regrettable that the Council had not seen fit to include Reydon Parish Council as consultees on the Construction Traffic Management Plan but that the Councillors had nevertheless sent in a response direct to Joe Blackmore and copied to the Planning Department.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 17th October were 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 – Sept 2024: Reydon 11 - 6 violence and sexual offences, 2 vehicle crime, 1 anti-social behaviour, 1 other. Southwold 9 – 5 violence and sexual offences, 2 other theft, 1 burglary, 1 other.

8 Application for New Councillor (PC)

Christine Dixon had sent in an application with regard to becoming a Councillor and she was asked to leave the room while this application, that had already been circulated to the Councillors, was discussed. Cllr David Panther proposed the appointment and Cllr Mike Medland seconded with all other councillors in favour. Mrs Dixon was therefore co-opted on to Reydon Parish Council and was invited to join the Councillor table.

Cllr Pam Cyprien welcomed Cllr Christine Dixon and went on to outline the responsibilities of a Councillor, and how Cllr Dixon (and any other new Councillors) could take a training course if they so wished.

ACTION: Clerk to send Cllr Dixon all the relevant documentation including standing orders, financial regulations, working groups, dates of meetings etc.

9 Highways Committee (DP)

It transpired that the Minutes from the recent Highways Committee Meeting had not been circulated to all the Councillors so Cllr David Panther gave an overview.

He began by explaining to the Councillors that Wayne Saunders from SCC had moved on to another role and his place had been taken by Jo Kerridge and this was her first Highways Meeting at Reydon. He said it was obviously difficult for her as she had only been in post for one day by the time of the meeting but nevertheless, she took away several points for clarification and had since informed the Highways Committee of progress.

Tree branches were obscuring the lights and telephone lines along the Halesworth Road and Jo suggested that this should be reported – again – on the reporting tool.

ACTION: Clerk to report on Reporting Tool the overhanging branches and effect to wires.

It had been hoped to get the white lines extended close to St Felix School and the new housing development but the Speed and Safety Team had taken a look at this and said 'Most double white centre lines had been measured for visibility requirements so it was highly unlikely that they would meet the relevant criteria to be extended'.

With regard to Quay Lane, pictures taken by one of the Councillors had been circulated before the Highways Meeting and these showed that the outflow was not flowing properly despite RPC being told that it was working. However, the outflow is in fact located in a catchpit within the Northumbrian Water compound nearby. The road had recently been closed again due to flooding. Jo said she would investigate this and had come back to say works were completed on the 2nd November to cleanse and jet the drainage infrastructure. As the compound adjacent to Quay Lane where the catchpit is located is registered to Northumbrian Water Limited, they are currently in the process of contacting them to be able to access the catchpit within their compound. Works were completed on 15th November to clear the silt from the road and verges, and the road closure sign had now been removed.

There had been a multi-agency meeting for Potters Bridge where Suffolk Highways blamed the Environment Agency and the Environment Agency blamed Suffolk Highways. At the Highways Meeting, the Councillors had asked Jo about the detailed Inspection that was supposed to be taking place this year as this still had not happened. She said she would find out and report back, but by the time of the Parish Council Meeting there was no update on this.

The additional parking restrictions waiting to be introduced at Nightingale Avenue had been discussed and the Councillors had now been informed that the approval had been given to proceed and a work pack was being prepared with the works hopefully being delivered within 14 weeks of the work pack being completed.

Cllr Panther finished by saying the new SID Pole had been installed on the Wangford Road that very day so it would be interesting to see how that performed, especially as it had been sighted near a telegraph pole which might be in the line of sight.

10 Meeting with local MP (PC)

It was reported by Cllr Pam Cyprien that a number of Councillors had met with Jenny Riddell-Carpenter the new MP when she came to see them on 15th November. Many concerns were raised with her including road flooding, Copperwheat access and the lack of priority given to Potter's Bridge. She had attended a multi-agency meeting and had attended a meeting with the local landowner too but she did not say very much about this.

Concerns were also raised about the need for more housing unless the infrastructure was increased at the same time. She was, however, adamant about the need for more housing.

Jenny agreed to meet with RPC twice yearly on Zoom or Teams and the Clerk was asked to get the next meeting fixed up.

Jenny also agreed to write to NGV about the Recreation Ground because the Parish Council didn't want to spend a considerable amount of money on equipment with no surety that compensation would be paid if that area was chosen for the route for trenches or that the equipment would be replaced 'like for like'. She said she would try to find out when the decision was being made and/or get assurance that should it go ahead any equipment would be replaced. The Clerk was asked to remind her about this when contacting her about the next Meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to contact MP re meeting and contacting NGV about the Recreation Ground.

Jenny looked at the Pantry during her visit and the warm space idea was explained to her. She said she would consider using the Village Hall for a 'surgery' in the New Year.

Finally, it was reported that it had been confirmed that Nautilus were to use the Isle of Grain rather than the Suffolk Coast which was a huge relief.

11 Finance Working Group (DomK and RFO)

Draft Budget to be explained and approved.

The Draft Budget had been prepared by Cllr Dexter Kirk, Cllr Dominic Knight, and the RFO and had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and the Councillors did not have any additional questions to ask.

Precept Approval

The suggested Precept amount entered in the Draft Budget was discussed. The Finance Working Group and RFO were proposing the Precept tax charge remained the same in that it would show as a 0% increase on the 2025/26 council tax bill (£24.18 on a Band D property) and therefore the Council would be requesting £32,845.63 next year.

The Draft Budget and the proposed Precept were proposed for approval by Cllr David Panther and seconded by Cllr Linda Coe. The rest of the Councillors unanimously agreed with these decisions.

ACTION: Clerk to let ESC know about the Precept decision and the adopted budget to be added to the website.

Request for Funding from Headway.

It was suggested by Cllr Kim Harvey that more information was needed about this, ie how it benefited local residents and where the nearest satellite branch was etc, and the Clerk said she would find out and it could be added to the December Agenda.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate and report back.

12 Green Spaces Working Group (PC)

Due to the non-attendance of Cllr Kalvyn Friend, Cllr Dexter Kirk and Cllr Mell Birch, and also the need for assurance from NGV that any play equipment would be replaced if LionLink went ahead in the area, it was agreed that a decision on the supplier for the Recreation Green Play Equipment would need to wait one more month. It was confirmed that Wicksteed and Playdale were the two quotes that were being discussed and the full funding for the project was available from CIL funds. It was further proposed and unanimously agreed that at next month's meeting a decision would definitely be taken about which quote to accept, even if the actual start date had to be postponed until there was an answer from NGV.

Cllr David Panther reported that spring bulbs had been planted at the junction of the Halesworth Road and The Drive and he asked that he be reimbursed for these. It was unanimously agreed by all the Councillors that this should happen.

13 Community Pantry (LC) (report already circulated)

Cllr Linda Coe had circulated the report as follows:

"There is very little to mention this month with the Pantry continuing to open every Friday. On the 15th November the Village Hall is initiating its monthly Coffee Mornings, with the Pantry supplying as much bread and pastries as possible. We also hope that there will be a sharing of customers between the Pantry and the Coffee Morning and therefore raising the profile of the Pantry within Reydon and Southwold.

Sarah's band of drivers continue to do sterling work and we have had a couple of new volunteers working morning or afternoon shifts on Friday. There has been some thought to extending our opening hours to include Tuesday mornings. This is because the fridge and freezers can get very full during the week and it was hoped that an additional opening slot could ameliorate this situation. It is totally dependent, however, on volunteers being available and we are still working out a possible rota before we can take this idea forward."

There was not a lot to add to this although a Facebook Page had been set up with 57 Followers and the first Warm Spaces Meeting had taken place (a collaboration between The Pantry and Reydon Village Hall) and this had been very successful.

14 Village Hall (MB and KH)

Cllr Kim Harvey said she had attended the recent RVH Annual General Meeting. The work on the improvements to the Village Hall was due to begin on 6th January. Some regular bookings had been lost and there was a lot of work taking place to attract more weekend bookings. However, a wedding booking had been secured which was good news. The bar licence was very important though in order to improve on bookings further. The Village Hall Management Committee were trying to get a bank of volunteers together. There was also the need to make sure that planned events were not made for the same time as other village events, eg, Christmas etc.

15 Reydon Robin (DomK)

Cllr Dominic Knight reported that a sponsor had been found for the December issue – Duchies and the Boating Lake. The cut off date was 29th November with publication set for 12th December. He said distribution of this issue would need to be discussed nearer the time. Several Councillors mentioned ideas for future sponsors of the Reydon Robin and Cllr Knight said these would be very welcome.

16 Website (DomK)

There was nothing to report this month.

17 Leisure Map (DextK)

It was agreed to postpone this topic until the next meeting as Cllr Dexter Kirk had been doing all the work on it and he was not at the meeting due to hospitalisation.

18 Correspondence (Clerk)

There was one letter from Mr Philip Burkill with regard to cleaning the Memorial. This had been done beautifully and the Councillors expressed their gratitude. He was claiming a small amount in expenses which was unanimously agreed.

19 Planning (DomK)

Planning Report and Minutes circulated in advance of the meeting by the Planning Committee and there was nothing further to add.

Planning Decisions:

DC/24/2846/DRC - Discharge of Condition Nos. 8, 12 and 14 of DC/23/2401/FUL – Phased development, including creation of a new outdoor bowling green, demolition of front part of bowls club building, creation 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 – Access on to the highway properly surfaced, off-site highway improvements and drainage – 50 Halesworth Road Reydon Southwold Suffolk IP18 6NR

Application Permitted

New Applications:

DC/24/3625/DRC – Discharge of Condition 26 of DC/19/1141/OUT – Development of up to 220 dwellings with associated open space – Construction Management Plan, Land to West of Copperwheat Drive Reydon.

RPC not Consultees so letter sent direct to Planning Officer at ESC in response recommending refusal.

DC/24/3833/CLE – Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing) – Conversion and use of former outbuildings for use of two dwelling houses (use Class C3). Redundant Outbuildings at High Wood Farm, Rissemere Lane East, Reydon, Suffolk.

Planning Committee recommended reluctant approval.

DC/24/3766/VOC – Variation of Condition Nos 1 & 3 of DC/21/5706/ARM – Reserved matters and compliance with conditions relating to a planning permission (Appeal Ref APP/X3540/W/21/32666229) for a single detached two storey dwelling with a detached double garage, store and associated grounds, utilising the existing site access, together with an amended site plan – Approved drawings, planning scheme. Land Adjacent to, 1 Hall Cottages, Wangford Road, Reydon.

Planning Committee recommended approval.

DC/24/3978/FUL – for demolition of existing garage and front porch, new two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, single storey front extension and PV array to roof. 36 Kingfisher Crescent, Reydon IP18 6XL

Planning Committee recommended approval.

All Councillors agreed with all these recommendations.

20 Finance (RFO)

a) Invoices already paid

Gillian Graham – Litter Picking	£114.40
HMRC – PAYE A Dobson (Quarterly DD)	£352.48
B & B Skip Hire	£256.02

b) Invoices to be paid

Wicksteed Playground Inspection	£180.00
Wills November Invoice (Bridgefoot & Reydon Corner)	£255.00
RVH Hall Hire 17.10	£20.00
Wills Summer Bedding	£710.10
Wills Grass Oct and Winter/Spring Bulbs	£481.14
Gillian Graham – Litter Picking	£114.40
Philip Burkill Memorial Clean	£19.60
RVH Pantry Electricity 1 Sept to 28 Oct 24	£193.36

A Dobson Back Pay from 1 Apr for Local Gov inc @ 63p hr (gross)	£194.81
Pantry Driving October/Nov	£148.50
First Warm Coffee Morning Refreshments	£9.88
Pam Cyprien – Bugler for Remembrance Service	£40.00
Ann Dobson Salary and Expenses at end of Month	

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

Starting Balances:	
Business Account as at 30th Sept 24	£ 101,586.00
Treasurers Account as at 30th Sept 24	£ 601.00
End of Month Balances:	
Business Account as at 31st Oct 24	£ 175,801.27
Treasurers Account as at 31st Oct 24	£ 601.00
TOTAL	£ 176,402.27
TOTAL SEPT PLUS OCT RECEIPTS	
MINUS OCT PAYMENTS	£ 176,402.27

d) CIL Money Remaining as at end October 24 £111,424.41

(Mostly set aside for Play Equipment and Village Hall Repairs)

e) Working Budget (circulated prior to meeting)

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Any Other Business

Southwold Harbour Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting.

Cllr David Panther the RPC representative on this said that he had attended the meeting last week. He said that as he had recently joined it was more of a 'listen and learn' exercise but he reported that the Harbour wall project had been discussed and also that there were 30 permanent pitches vacant at the caravan site. The licencing of Jet Skis had also been discussed with Walberswick Parish Council saying no, and he wondered if RPC wanted to respond too. Cllr Pam Cyprien thought this was a good idea and so did the other Councillors.

ACTION: As a first step, Clerk to re-circulate the document to all the Councillors.

Wangford Quarry Community Liaison Group: Cllr David Panther said he had attended the meeting of the Liaison Group on 20th November. He said that everything was on track for closing down the site and the gates would be locked next month. He still felt it was a missed opportunity not passing this over to Suffolk Wildlife Trust but there was always the possibility that this could happen in the future.

Southwold Town Council LionLink Project Team: Cllr Pam Cyprien said she had a document about this which she would circulate stating the case for not having trenches/hub etc in Southwold and Reydon. She asked if any Councillors wanted to volunteer to join this Project Team and Cllr Sarah Jerman, Cllr Chris Dixon and Cllr Linda Coe expressed their interest. Cllr Cyprien said she would find out the details.

Cllr Sarah Jerman representing the PC on the Reydon Sports and Community Centre Committee: The PC would need to be formally requested to have a representative on the committee before anyone could be appointed. It was agreed that Cllr Jerman would represent Reydon Parish Council if a formal request were received.

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Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council Meeting would be on Thursday 12th December at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.10 pm.