

Reydon Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on 20th February 2025

1 Present and Opening

Present:

Chair, Cllr Pam Cyprien, Vice-Chair Cllr David Panther, Cllr Linda Coe, Cllr Dominic Knight, Cllr Adele Coleman, Cllr Kim Harvey, Cllr Mike Medland, Cllr Mell Birch, Cllr Chris Dixon, SCC Councillor Michael Ladd.

Clerk – Ann Dobson.

There was one member of the public present.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Dexter Kirk, and Cllr Sarah Jerman. These apologies were duly accepted by the other Councillors.

3 Public Forum and Councillor Reports

Suffolk County Councillor Michael Ladd gave his report as follows:

The budget for 2025/26 was approved at a meeting of all councillors on Thursday 13 February, with an emphasis on meeting rising demand for children's and adult care services. For every £1 the council spends in the next financial year, 77p will go directly toward services that support the health and wellbeing of people in Suffolk. The remaining 23p will fund other critical areas such as fire and rescue, highway maintenance, climate initiatives, waste management and bus services, as well as the infrastructure, staff, and technology required to keep services running efficiently. The council's budget will increase by 6.7%, from £752.9 million in 2024/25 to £803.7 million in 2025/26. The council has approved £10.9 million in new savings, which will focus on restructuring and transforming how services are delivered. This follows £17.5 million in savings approved in the previous year, bringing total savings for the 2025/26 financial year to £28.4 million. Suffolk County Council's share of Council Tax will rise by 4.99% next year, which includes a 2.99% general increase and a further 2% dedicated wholly to helping meet the rising costs of social care. This means households will see the following changes in their weekly Council Tax payments:

Band B property: £24.67 per week, a £1.17 increase from 2024-25 (Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk). Band D property: £31.72 per week, a £1.51 increase from 2024-25.

Suffolk County Council is proposing to invest an extra £1.6 million over two years into Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) following a government inspection. Inspectors from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found SFRS effectively operates its 35 stations, 43 fire engines and a range of specialist vehicles strategically situated around Suffolk. The inspectors rated the service as good at preventing fires and risk and protecting the public through fire regulation, and that it met requirements for responding to major incidents, plus managing and developing its leaders. However, the assessment highlighted areas where inspectors feel the service needs to improve – leadership, culture, commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and IT infrastructure.

Suffolk's 50-year-old two-tier council structure is set to change with the government proposing to abolish county, borough and district councils and replace them with a new unitary council arrangement and a directly elected mayor. Under the proposals, all six of Suffolk's district, borough and county councils would be disbanded and just one authority would provide all councils services in an area. The government argues that unitary councils can deliver better outcomes for residents and save money that can be reinvested into public services.

The deputy prime minister and secretary of state for housing, communities and local government, announced that Suffolk is one of only a handful of areas on the government's new fast-track Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) which would also see the election of a mayor (covering Suffolk and Norfolk) in May 2026. The mayor would take control over strategic policy areas like transport infrastructure, economic development, health improvement and blue light services – along with devolved government funding to deliver positive change.

To summarise:

Suffolk is on the fast-track towards complete council restructuring and devolution

- ☑ Ministers want Suffolk at the front of the queue
- ☑ Suffolk's county, borough and district councils to be abolished
- ☑ Work starts on reorganisation plan for new unitary council or councils
- ☑ Government proposes postponing county elections to facilitate rapid change

☒ Mayor set to be elected in May 2026

National Grid's decision for the LionLink interconnector project to make landfall at Walberswick, will have serious implications for Suffolk's coastal and inland communities, and environment. The interconnector is a new subsea cable, creating an electricity link with the Netherlands, and connecting to a Dutch offshore windfarm. Should proposals go ahead, the impact on Suffolk will mean significant onshore construction work at Walberswick, a 26-metre tall converter station at Saxmundham, a substation at Friston, and underground cabling between all the sites. Another National Grid energy project, Sea Link, is already planned to make landfall just a few miles down the coast at Aldeburgh. In March 2024, National Grid published details to say that it has no intention to coordinate LionLink with the more advanced Sea Link project. Suffolk County Council has long campaigned that both projects should share as much infrastructure as possible.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 23rd January 2025 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: December 24

Reydon: 4 – Violence and Sexual Offences 2, Other Theft 1, Possession of Weapons 1.

Southwold: 11 – Violence and Sexual Offences 6, Other Theft 2, Vehicle Crime 2, All Other 1.

It was asked if it was possible to know exactly what came under each of these Crime headings and Cllr Mike Medland said he had spoken with a PC in Southwold recently and there were reports available that would perhaps enable the Clerk to put together a quarterly report. This was felt to be especially important in view of the population increasing in the future.

ACTION: Cllr Medland to let the Clerk have any information he had to help with the quarterly report.

Letter of Engagement from SALC for Internal Audit circulated to Councillors.

8 Highways Committee (DP)

Cllr David Panther said that as the report from the recent Highways Meeting had already been circulated, he would not go into detail but just give a brief summary.

He said Quay Lane had stayed clear and that there were now bales of straw at the field entrance which should help with the silt from the pig farm. There was no date yet for the Potters Bridge Inspection to take place. He planned to take a walk down Cox's Lane with Cllr Mike Medland to look for suitable sites to put a warning sign/s for Children Playing. He said the most expensive part of installing this would be the traffic management system if that was needed. There had been no progress on the Holme Oaks along the Halesworth Road so far. With regard to the planning application for the Anaerobic Digester, he said that a response had been sent in to SCC on behalf of the Parish Council. With regard to the pedestrian access to Fountain Way, it had been discovered that there was no footpath as such – it was more a parishioner created unofficial track. There was an imminent meeting planned between Joe Blackmore and the new Highways Officer to discuss traffic calming for the Copperwheat Development. The pack for the traffic restrictions in Nightingale Avenue had been ordered and it was expected for the work to take place in 14 weeks or less. The Parish Council were contributing £1,000 to this. The Footpath Working Group was soon to hold its inaugural meeting. Finally, a list of possible street names for the Copperwheat Development had been circulated to all Councillors by Cllr David Panther and these were all approved with Cllr Mell Birch adding one extra to the list.

ACTION: Clerk to send the list of street name suggestions to Orbit Homes.

9 Finance Working Group (DK)

Cllr Dexter Kirk was not present but it was confirmed there would be nothing new to report until the end of the next quarter which would also be the end of the financial year.

10 Green Spaces Working Group (PC)

The new play equipment was currently being installed which was good news.

Cllr David Panther said that if a scarifier was being hired for the area where wildflower seeds were being scattered at the end of The Drive, it would be good to use it at another potential site too, so that value for money was obtained. He asked the Councillors to have a think and let him know of any other suitable locations. Cllr Cyprien said that the shed on the Recreation ground was not currently being used for anything so if the Councillors could think of some use for it to let her know. The Clerk confirmed she had the key.

11 Cost of Living and Community Pantry (LC) (report already circulated)

Report as follows:

“The Pantry has had a busy month with many new customers coming forward. Sadly, there are many stories of unexpected redundancies and illness which are impacting people’s lives at the present time. There has been some discussion amongst the volunteers that there could be a knock-on effect from the Southwold Food Bank no longer opening as often as previously and therefore not giving out as much food as they have done previously, but this is only conjecture. The new Tuesday afternoon opening is building its own customer base and we have noticed that we are getting new customers who have not been able to come on Fridays as well as customers who also regularly visit on Fridays.

We have been fortunate to recruit several new volunteers, which takes some pressure off those who had been giving a lot of time to cover both days. Hopefully, these new volunteers can give time spread across both days. We have been considering trying to raise funds to purchase another freezer to augment those which we have. The reasons are two-fold. Firstly, we need to freeze more foodstuffs in order to prevent waste and secondly, it cannot be good for the machinery to have fridge and freezers crammed full of packages and bags. I have approached Southwold Town Council as a possible donor to help fund the new purchase and Sole Bay Care Fund and have received a donation from Blyth Valley Rotary of £250.

The building work at the Village Hall had very little impact on the running of the Pantry. The replacement windows have finally gone in, which means we will be able to ventilate the Pantry, particularly in the summer months, but there does not appear to be a definite decision on whether the RPC should pay the whole amount of the window replacement or whether the RVHMC should pay some of the total cost from their budget.

We look forward to the next Coffee Morning/Soup Lunch, when we will again give whatever milk, bread and pastries we can to supplement the VHMC’s offerings.”

It was added at the Meeting that the new windows were in place, but the disabled toilet was not yet ready for use. The Tuesdays were continuing to go well and with some more volunteers it was becoming easier to cover both sessions, with Cllr Linda Coe and Cllr Kim Harvey managing to come off the rota for some of the time so that they could oversee things.

12 RPC Vision and Strategy Document (PC)

Cllr Pam Cyprien said she was currently reviewing this and if anyone wanted to send any comments or suggestions to her they would be gratefully received.

13 Village Hall (PC and KH)

This part of the Meeting was held ‘in camera’ and there would be no notes made public although Confidential notes would be prepared for the Reydon Parish Councillors.

14 Reydon Robin (DomK)

Cllr Dominic Knight said that the forthcoming edition was being edited by Laurence Vulliamy and that all entries needed to be in by 21st March with publication on 3rd April.

15 Website (DomK)

Cllr Dominic Knight confirmed that the Councillor list had been updated as requested and added to the website.

16 Update and Vote on Recording Future RPC Meetings (Dexter K)

This item was postponed until the March Meeting.

17 Anaerobic Digester at Adnams Distribution Centre (PC)

As previously stated, Cllr David Panther had prepared a new document to send to the SCC planners saying that although they were not against this in principle, they did feel there were concerns to be addressed before it went ahead.

18

The Firs – Parking and Abuse (PC)

Clr Pam Cyprien said this had been discussed at the Highways Meeting and it had been decided to bring to full Council to discuss. The background was that cars were being parked irresponsibly in The Firs at school times, some over driveways, some blocking the road for emergency vehicles and carers, and some with engines running for a very long time causing pollution. Parents had been abusive to residents living in The Firs who challenged them and the school had so far shown little interest. Clr Adele Coleman who works at the school agreed to take this forward and report back.

ACTION: Clr Coleman to speak with the school about this issue.

19

Leisure Map (Dexter K) – Update

This item was postponed until the March Meeting.

Clr Mike Medland did say that he had found an Ordnance Survey service for Parish Councils which gave a good deal of information and that he would send the link to the Clerk to share.

ACTION: Clr Medland to send link to Clerk to share.

20

Reydon Parish Council Logo (PC)

There had been a discussion amongst the Councillors about the current logo and whether it best represented Reydon. It was agreed that the Clerk would send the three logos that have been used currently or in the past to all Councillors, for a further discussion and vote to take place in March.

ACTION: Clerk to send logos to the Councillors.

21

Correspondence (Clerk)

There was no correspondence to discuss.

22

Planning (DomK)

The Minutes from the Planning Meeting on 12th February had been circulated.

Planning Decisions:

[Variation of Condition No.s 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, Planting scheme - Land Adjacent To 1 Hall Cottages Wangford Road Reydon Suffolk](#)

Ref. No: DC/24/3766/VOC | Received date: Fri 18 Oct 2024 | Status: Application Permitted

[Single storey front and rear extensions - Crossways 16 Gorse Lane Reydon Southwold Suffolk IP18 6NG](#)

Ref. No: DC/24/4181/FUL | Received date: Wed 20 Nov 2024 | Status: Application Permitted

[TPO/120/2022 Works to be carried out as per submitted schedule of works and plan. \(Subject to TPO/120/2022 - T1, T2, T3, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9 on plan\) - Oaklands House Residential Home Lowestoft Road Reydon Southwold Suffolk IP18 6RY](#)

Ref. No: DC/24/4563/TPO | Received date: Mon 23 Dec 2024 | Status: Application Permitted

[A phased development of 8 no. dwellings with associated landscaping and infrastructure, and creation of 3 no. vehicular accesses \(Plot 1 to be a self build home\) - Land South Of Sole Bay Health Centre Teal Close Reydon Suffolk](#)

Ref. No: DC/24/2471/FUL | Received date: Mon 08 Jul 2024 | Status: Application Withdrawn

[Non Material Amendment of DC/22/4373/FUL - Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension to existing premises, together with internal alterations - Side two storey extension set back 300mm from existing front elevation, changes to external fenestration on side and rear extensions, No. of roof lights in flat roof extension reduced to 2 No. and changes to internal layout on ground and first floor. - 34 Wangford Road Reydon Southwold Suffolk IP18 6PY](#)

Ref. No: DC/25/0130/AME | Received date: Tue 14 Jan 2025 | Status: Application Permitted

New Applications – Approval Given by Planning Committee for all.

DC/25/0108/TPO – 5no Holm Oaks – Crown thin by 30%, 1no Holm Oak – reduce overhang from neighbour (No 2) by 2m. 3 St Georges Square, St Georges Lane, Reydon IP18 6HT.

DC/24/4554/FUL – Single Storey rear extension replacing existing conservatory. 1 Fieldview Close, Reydon IP18 6PR.

DC/25/0313/FUL – Alterations to existing front porch, 3 Fieldview Close, Reydon IP18 6PR.

Finance (RFO)**a) Invoices already paid**

E-on D/D Elec Jubilee Green	£24.80
Playdale – 50% Deposit for Playground	£36,804.00
Gillian Graham (Beg Feb)	£114.40

b) Invoices to be paid

Alan Greening (RVH)	£807.50
Waveney Decorators (RVH)	£7,290.42
SALC – Councillor Training Chris Dixon	£76.80
Steria Consulting (RVH)	£1,776.00
Gillian Graham (Beg Mar)	£114.40
Pantry Electricity for January	£99.59
Pantry Driving	£39.60
Warm Room Supplies	£13.85
Warm Room Coffee Machine	£42.99
Donation for pancreatic cancer for Irene O’Hear	£200.00
Ann Dobson Salary and Expenses at end of Month	

c) Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 31st January 2025

Starting Balances:	
Business Account as at 31 st Dec 24	£173,206.33
Treasurers Account as at 30 th Nov 24	£601.00
TOTAL	£173,807.33
Business Account as at 31 ST Jan 25	£166,975.05
Treasurers Account as at 31 st Jan 25	£601.00
TOTAL	£167,576.05
TOTAL DEC PLUS JAN RECEIPTS	
MINUS JAN PAYMENTS	£167,576.05

d) CIL Money Remaining as at end Jan 25 - £107,608.64 (need to claim back VAT)**(Mostly set aside for Play Equipment and Village Hall Repairs)****e) Working Budget (circulated prior to meeting)****Any Other Business****Memorial Bench (PC)**

The Councillors agreed on the Elwood Bench and the Clerk said she would get this on order.

ACTION: Clerk to order bench.

LionLink Public Meeting (PC)

Cllr Cyprien said that although Reydon would not be directly impacted by the LionLink project at the present time, it was very important to support those who would. Everything was ready for the meeting the next evening and Cllr Kim Harvey said she would take photos of the event.

Village Hall MC use of Payback Team (Clerk) – Document already circulated.

The Payback Team had been approached by the VHMC to look after the grounds around the Village Hall and they had contacted the Parish Council to see if the Councillors were in agreement. The Councillors all thought this a very good idea.

ACTION: Clerk to let the VHMC and Payback Team know of the Councillors decision.

Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council Meeting would be on Thursday 20th March 2025 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall. The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.05 pm.