

Roydon Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2021 Via Zoom

This meeting immediately followed the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Chairperson: Chairman of the Parish Council: Councillor Paul Curson (PC)

Present: Residents of the Parish of Roydon including 6 members of the Parish Council, District Councillor Graham Minshull.

In Attendance: Roydon Parish Clerk: Wendy Benson (WB)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Report from Councillor Minshull:

Congratulated council on a successful year and Councillor Paul Curson on his election as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Minshull stated that he is no longer chair at SNDC having chaired the council for two years due to COVID.

Emergency planning training will start in early autumn and all parish councillors will be invited. This is to establish and support local teams in setting up an emergency plan, who will be first responders at local level in emergency situations and help to ensure a better service from SNDC.

Most of this year has been spent dealing with COVID with over £80m of help in various ways including to businesses, families and addressing homelessness. Going forward SNDC are looking to offer permanent accommodation to those who have been identified as homeless including 'Sofa-Surfers'. Also, multiple occupancy houses are being checked on to ensure that residents are not being exploited.

The business rent and furlough schemes have helped businesses. The HelpHub has worked hard to help anyone who has needed it and continues to be open everyday to help. Staff at SNDC have been extraordinary helping wherever asked and this included volunteering to be redeployed to Norfolk & Norwich hospital in various roles. There are still big challenges ahead with people still needing help.

GM also stated that Councillor Kiddie was not able to attend due to forthcoming elections and that he (GM) would take any questions forward to KK.

A resident told GM that KK was supposed to be contacting them as agreed at a previous meeting and GM will forward that reminder.

Village Hall Report:

Pre-school had continued throughout the year, although with reduced hours and children. The bereavement group have used the hall throughout the lockdown. Dance had now started using the hall 3 days per week. As from 17 May the hall opening will be expanding.

The wooden structure for the pergola has been erected but there are ongoing issues with sourcing the roofing material which has been out of stock. It is hoped this will be completed in the next 2 weeks.

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It was confirmed that the Main Hall would be available for Parish Council meetings from 7.15pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month and that it would be possible to ensure adequate ventilation from windows and doors. It was asked if this could be available slightly earlier to enable the meeting to be set up in regards to social distancing measures and PC suggested that the meeting start later, perhaps 7.30pm to allow for air to change between the previous hirer and the Parish Council meeting.

Resident Questions:

Concerns were raised about vulnerable people not being able to attend meetings and it was asked if it was possible to enable meetings to still be accessed virtually. Council will look into whether this would be possible, including internet access and how to enable this to be done if possible.

It was noted that the streetlights on the A1066 are still not working.

It was asked about the proposed community café. TA stated that it is still early days and that more volunteers are needed to come forward as we need enough people to come forward to make it work.

In regards to photographs of Roydon for the DDNP, contact details of a person who will go above and beyond to help could be provided if needed.

Roydon Round-Up:

JJ reported that issue 3 had been delivered, and that any councillors are welcome to edit future issues. PC commented on how good this issue was.

St Remigius Church:

AD reported that the church is now part of an enlarged benefice of 11 churches. There is a different system of services with one every 2 weeks. It does not look good for The Herald to be restarted but this is still being looked at.

The meeting was closed at 8.40pm