

Roydon Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Room, St Remigius Church, Roydon, on Tuesday 27th February 2023 at 7.00pm

Councillors Present – Trevor Ault (Chair), Stephen Finch (Vice Chair), Angela Brown, Paul Curson, Andrew Daniels, Jane Jennifer, Keith Best, Elizabeth Taylor.

Not in attendance – Pam Murton

In Attendance – Emma Chandler (Parish Clerk)

Public – County Councillor Keith Kiddie, District Councillors Graham Minshall and Kieran Murphy and 5 members of the public,

1. Welcome

Cllr Ault welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive and consider accepting apologies from members unable to attend.

Apologies were received from Cllr Murton due to family matters.

Apologies were unanimously accepted.

3. To receive and note any declarations of members' pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary/other interests pertaining to items on the following agenda, to note any dispensations granted in respect of business to be discussed and to consider any requests for dispensations.

Cllrs Ault and Jennifer for item 13

Cllrs Finch and Brown for item 11

Noted

4. Public Forum: To receive County & District Councillors reports and the opportunity for issues to be raised or questions asked.

Cllr Kiddie reported the following:

- The highways engineer will be visiting Roydon as soon as possible to investigate flooding in the area.
- Further quotes have been received for the resurfacing of the entrance to the village hall which will likely be completed in the new financial year, possibly June.
- Diss Station car park and exit are now ready for use by the buses and are likely to be in use by Easter.

A member of the public asked Cllr Kiddie specifically about flooding on Bellrope Lane where they were still experiencing up to a foot of standing water which was not dispersing despite the drains being jetted on two occasions in recent times. He requested that County Council pump out the standing water in order that he, and his elderly neighbours could safely access their houses. Cllr Kiddie replied that he would report this back to the Highways team and try to get the situation rectified.

A further member of the public reported that fencing on the High Road has sustained damage. Cllr Kiddie will also report this to the relevant department for rectification.

Cllr Kiddie's attention was drawn, by another member of the public, to the possible danger caused by the Pylons Campaign banner which faces the High Road at the corner of Doit

Roydon Parish Council

Lane. There is evidence that vehicles slow down here to read the banner, which is particularly hazardous as the vehicles will slow on Roydon Bends, which gives little time for those following to realize what is happening. Cllr Kiddie said the question of responsibility depended on whether the banner was on the council verge or the farmer's land. Cllr Ault said he would enquire of the pylons campaign group.

Cllr Minshall reported the following.

- The budget was considered by the district council. The district council has healthy reserves and is highly rated by the Government for spending power. Increased funds have been allowed for flooding, planning enforcement, supporting the leisure facilities and household support. He reiterated that if people were struggling with the cost of living, they should contact the help hub at South Norfolk District Council who will endeavour to help. The overall outcome of the budget will result in a £5 increase in council tax for the average tax band D properties.
- Work has started on the Long Stratton Bypass.
- The refurbishment of Diss Leisure Centre has also started with a completion date of November/December 2024.
- Money has been put aside in the forthcoming budget to fund building a new doctors surgery in Diss.
- Food waste collections have been requested from DEFRA but SNDC do not feel that this is commercially viable due to the rural nature of the area with many families not requiring this type of service. Talks will be ongoing with DEFRA
- 100k has been allocated to the Community Action Fund for 24/25 for local organisations.
- The Horizon building that South Norfolk and Broadland now operate from is one of the greenest buildings in the county.

Cllr Finch inquired about the Surface Water Drainage officer due to the Clerk emailing the team on numerous occasions over the last month to book an appointment to finish the survey that was started in November 2023 with no reply. Cllr Minshall said he would chase the matter with the team.

A member of the public spoke about the flooding that she had experienced due to work that had taken place clearing drainage channels on Brewers Green. She asked Cllr Minshall to ensure the event was noted by SNDC's flood team. She gave thanks to Cllr Curson and Dave Powley for pumping the water out of her garden and that of her neighbour.

Cllr Murphy reported the following:

- The outcome of the consultation for the specialist hub at Roydon Primary School was that the hub will go ahead and will be ready for use in September 2025.

5. Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 30 January 2024.

A query was made about the wording of the allotment matter. This was confirmed to be correct by the Clerk.

Minutes were unanimously accepted.

Roydon Parish Council

Minutes were signed and dated by Cllr Ault

6. Matters arising - To note progress on decisions made at the last meeting

Winter Green Day – Cllr Jennifer gave thanks to Cllr Ault for a fabulous Winter Green Day. It was the best attended litter pick with 28 people taking part. The children's activities and all other sessions were very well attended.

Cllr Ault reported that because Café for the Winter Green Day was open all day it made £50 in donations on the day. This will be used to replenish goods for further cafes in the future.

7. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk reported her attendance to training on improving Agendas and Minutes and End of Year audits.

Training had also been attended on the World Café which will be taking place in Diss in April. Dates and locations will be confirmed following organisational meetings throughout March and if anyone wants to get involved, they should contact the Clerk.

Trevor Brown has been appointed as the auditor for this year.

8. Financial Matters and Banking

a) To note the Bank Balances and Bank Reconciliation as of 27th February 2024

Noted

b) Receipts noted and payments to be noted/authorised.

Noted

9. Planning Applications and Decisions.

a) Application [2024/0272](#)

Applicant: Mrs Tracey Reid

Location: Blackboard Barn Snow Street Roydon Norfolk IP22 5SB

Proposal: Change of use of outbuilding to holiday let

Application Type: Change of Use

The Clerk confirmed that a neutral stance with no comment has been submitted to the planning portal for this application following email confirmation from councillors by the closing date.

10. To review and approve the following policies.

a) Risk Assessments

Noted to take the Village Hall off of the asset register.

Confirmed to review on a yearly basis.

Action – Parish Clerk

b) Working Parties

No changes required.

Confirmed to review on a yearly basis.

Action – Parish Clerk

11. Allotments - Update

Roydon Parish Council

The Clerk confirmed that the last payment had been received for this year. The Clerk to confirm with Cllr Brown the last remaining plot before allocating to the next person on the waiting list.

Action – Parish Clerk

12. Brewers Green – Update

Cllr Curson confirmed that most of the arisings had now been cleared.

He thanked Cllr Kiddie for the fund to pollard the trees.

Following discussion with the Brewers Green Committee about the felled tree on Brewers Green they felt that the risk of injury was no different to if the tree was still standing regarding people/children climbing and therefore they would leave the remaining trunk in situ.

It was noted that the pond by the felled tree does have a life belt located in close proximity.

13. Flooding – Update

Due to flooding dominating the public forum it was felt that no further update was needed at this time.

14. To agree the proposal from Cllr Ault to disband the old flood working party.

Cllr Ault gave further explanation for the disbanding of the group.

Cllr Ault to email the existing residents who are part of the group to see if they would be happy to continue to offer expertise in the future if necessary.

Unanimously agreed.

Action – Cllr Ault

15. Pride in Bloom – To discuss and agree how the £300 grant is utilised.

Ideas were bulbs (native daffodils) along the main road, planting around the village sign at the Village Hall – herbaceous perennials.

Cllr Ault – Replenish plants in recesses opposite the church.

Cllr Curson suggested lavender along the walls between the recesses.

Cllr Finch to cost out and report to the next meeting.

Action – Cllr Finch

16. Training – To discuss and agree candidates for the Charitable Trusts & Parish Councils course being held by NALC on the 17th April 2024 9.30-11.30am at a cost of £40 per person.

Clerk to look for an evening course for Cllr Finch, Curson and Brown

Cllr Ault is happy to attend the daytime course.

Unanimously agreed.

Action – Parish Clerk

17. To review and vote on the proposed format for the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 17th April 7.30 – 9.00pm

Café to start from 7pm where small group tables will be available for residents to talk to councillors.

Beginning of the meeting a brief update of what has happened over the year with questions taken by Councillors.

Local Police give a talk and take questions. James Butler and Andy Baker from the local Police are available.

Roydon Parish Council

An update on the pylon campaign from Christine Murton who has agreed to do this.
Unanimously agreed.

Cllr Finch requested that councillors that are responsible for different areas of the parish complete a short report for the yearly update and send to him as soon as possible.

Action – All Councillors

18. To review and agree Cllr Ault to lead on the organisation of the Big Green Week from the 8th to 16th June 2024.

Unanimously agreed.

Action – Cllr Ault

19. Infrastructure – Feedback from Diss Town Council meeting.

Cllr Jennifer fed back the following:

2023/3587 Land South Of Park Road Diss Norfolk

Erection of nine new dwellings and garages, creation of new riverside walk link, ecology enhancement land and amenity land.

Pending Decision

Cllrs Curson, Ault & Jennifer, Roydon's DDNP representatives, were invited to attend the DTC Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 10th January 2024 to contribute to the discussion about this planning application.

They had been invited along with other DDNP parish representatives as the green space and riverside walk within this application is a facility, likely to be used for leisure by the whole DDNP community.

The site forms part of the local plan allocation policy DDNP14 and lies south of Park Road A1066 and to the south of policy DIS7 (site of former Feather Factory, see additional application 2022/2424).

Doubts were expressed about whether the proposed access road into the site could adequately and safely allow for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular transport simultaneously. The need for a continuous 3m wide cycle/pedestrian track from The Lows across to Denmark Bridge was stressed, especially as the situation for cyclists along Park Road is extremely unsafe due to the narrowness of the road. We concurred with concerns expressed about the proposed crescent shape of the housing layout unnecessarily reducing the public amenity area.

The conclusion of the meeting was to recommend refusal, whilst still supporting the principle of development. The significant serious concerns that the meeting felt needed to be addressed can be viewed on South Norfolk's planning portal. The meeting stressed the need to ensure a cohesive plan for the whole of the south of Park Road area with an access road connecting the two sites to avoid piecemeal developments and the detrimental effects these bring to the community.

20. To consider information or issues relevant to Council from members for brief discussion and inclusion on a future agenda.

Pride in Bloom to be included on the next agenda.

Action – Parish Clerk

21. Date & Time of Next Meetings: To confirm the date of Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7 pm for the next Parish Council meeting.

Roydon Parish Council

Unanimously agreed.

Signed T.Ault

Dated 26th March 2024