



Roydon Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Roydon on
Tuesday 28th April at 7pm at the Parish Room of St Remigius Church, Roydon**

Present – Cllrs Trevor Ault, Keith Best, Paul Curson, Jane Jennifer, Stephen Finch, Andrew Daniels, Angela Brown, George Waterman, District Councillor Graham Minshull and 9 members of the public

1. Welcome
Cllr Ault welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the format for the evening.
2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held April 2025
Minutes of the last meeting were unanimously agreed as being a true record and signed by the Chair.
3. Public Forum
One member of the public raised a concern about some railings opposite the Primary School and near the Loke that were in a state of disrepair. The Clerk requested a photo be sent in and they would then report to Highways.

Cllr Jennifer spoke about donations to the Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk Pylon Campaign. A request for a donation from the Parish Council had been considered at the previous meeting. The Council agreed that, collectively, this would not be an appropriate use of public funds; however, individual residents may wish to donate personally. Cllr Jennifer advised that any donations should be made directly to the campaign.

One resident mentioned the improvement to the public footpaths around the area. Cllr Jennifer highlighted that this had been a long process over the last seven years but with the help of NCC who are responsible for the Public Rights of Way and the landowners significant progress had been made in more recent months with new ligger bridges being installed and paths being cleared of undergrowth.

4. Current Council Projects

a) Greening the Village

Cllr Ault introduced this section of the meeting and then Cllr Waterman expanded on the subject detailing the following projects that had been undertaken over the last few years and plans moving forward with possible grant funding from SNDC. This included;

- Diss Community Woodland Project (DCWP) who are maintaining Quaker Wood, Bombard Copse and Diss Town Garden. Main aims: conservation, biodiversity and wildlife preservation.

Roydon Parish Council

- Updates on the work at Quaker Wood including zero vandalism in the last year due to the police doing regular patrols. Wild flower meadow maturing very nicely. New Volunteers are always welcome to join the activities on the first Saturday of every month from 9.30am until lunch time depending on the activity.
 - Bombard Copse is named after the Blacker Bombard located here on the border between Diss and Roydon just beyond the eastern end of Roydon Loke, off Denmark Lane. The area is being developed by volunteers from the DCWP. A consultation on future development will take place in the coming weeks:
 - 29th April – Diss Annual Town Meeting
 - 7th May – Quaker Wood Annual Meeting (Bowls Club)
 - 12th May – Taylor Road Community Centre
 - Other projects included the new planting and maintenance in the High Road opposite the Church, around the refurbished Village sign and recessed areas along the High Road with pollinators.
 - Tree planting on Millway Green was undertaken in the autumn, these will still need regular watering and a request was put out to residents for help in this matter.
 - For the future an application has been submitted to SNDC Pride in Bloom project to do further planting on the High Road to replace lost plants in the heat of last summer and following talks with the Church the possibility to replacing or fixing the archway to the Church and planting more climbers to enhance the entrance to the Church.
 - Two more Chestnut Trees are also being cultivated by councillors and once ready will be planted on Brewers Green.
- b) Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan Update
- Cllr Curson gave an update on the Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan (DDNP). He gave background on the project which brought 7 councils together in 2017 to produce the plan which in 2023 came to fruition and now forms part of the planning process at SNDC.

The steering group which produced the plan then became the Monitoring Review Group. Each council monitors applications in their area to ensure that the plan is being utilised correctly. Cllr Jennifer keeps comprehensive records of all applications in Roydon and reports that SNDC refer to compliance with relevant sections of the DDNP at each planning decision.

More recently there had been problems in Brome and Oakley which prompted a possible review of the plan. The Monitoring Review Group met and due to the wider Local Plan now being consulted on it was agreed that there would be no point in reviewing the DDNP until this process had been completed which should be in two years' time. Until this time the current document is still relevant and part of the process.

5. Close meeting
Meeting closed at 19.50