**ROYDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2017 at 7pm at Pott Row Village Hall.**

**In Attendance: Councillors: Suzi Pimlott (Chair), Neville Fletcher, Colin Manning, Colin Nichols, Keith Panks, Michael Rae, Marc Starling and Bill Boyd (NWT).**

**Clerk: Pippa Winson**

1. **To consider apologies for absence.**

None.

1. **To consider Requests for Dispensations from the restriction on participating in the discussion or voting on a matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.**

None.

1. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6th July 2017.**

Having been circulated prior to the meeting, the minutes were accepted and signed as a true and accurate record by those present at the meeting.

1. **To record Councillors’ declarations of interest on Agenda Items.**

None.

1. **Public Speaking.**

Bill Boyd from Norfolk Wildlife Trust gave an update in respect of the ongoing works at Roydon Common. The works take some time as they work on different areas. The fields to the North & West have a lot of calcium in them and water discharges into the base of the common. On 2013 a new moss was discovered which was historically very common but there is none now surviving in the Southern areas of the UK. Detailed work was undertaken to survey the site when there was the threat of the incinerator. In 2013 they surveyed the mire and checked the PH levels. There is a high PH through the middle of the common. Little islands of vegetation were found. In 2013 a Natural England specialist visited and said that the habitat was very rare in the UK as Calcareous Fen. Some areas were scraped and it was determined which areas were best to be cleared to see what vegetation would grow. They undertook the first round of monitoring after 2 years of cutting and species are growing back which have not been seen for a long time. They have also seen curlews, drumming shrike, red shank and lapwings. At the Hudson Fen end a lot of hedge has been cleared as they are trying to get the mire working again. The timber root mass was restricting the flow. It was mentioned that people had commented that less adders had been seen. B Boyd advised that when the trees have been felled it was done when the adders were not around as it was too wet for them. He said that reptiles were the priority in that area and that it is referred to as the ‘snake pit’. The only trees felled were those along the drain. He said that all works are done for a reason and based on priorities. Information is available on the NWT website.

1. **Matters arising.**

None.

1. **Correspondence received (for info only).**

Clerk & Council’s Direct Newsletter.

Donation request from NS4x4

Glasdon brochure

CGM – lettering outlining their services

Various – via email.

1. **Highways- note any matters to be reported to highways.**

30mph sign at bus stop on Station Road now repaired. Potholes have been filled.

1. **Hudson Fen Leisure**

Nothing to report. Car Boots have now finished.

1. **Neighbourhood Plan**

Grant application submitted. Website going live shortly. Volunteers will be needed for the delivery of the questionnaires in the New Year.

1. **Finance – receive update and agree cheques to be signed.**

Cheques:

CGM (Grass cutting x 2) - £432.00

NPTP Data Protection Training - £10.00 towards clerks training.

Budget and Precept to be agreed at next meeting.

1. **Roydon Common**

Already discussed.

1. **Planning**

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 17/00683/F: Demolition of porch and two storey side extension at Roydon Lodge 45 Low Road Roydon – All agreed no objection to this proposal.

1. **To receive Councillors Concerns and items for next meeting agenda.**

Colin attended the Police CC briefing, 150 PSCO jobs are going and they are closing some enquiry offices as few visits are made by members of the public to police stations now. There are 2 new premises being opened and some are being closed. There is a lot of joint working now with Suffolk. King’s Lynn, Gt. Yarmouth and Norwich Bethel Street enquiry offices are staying open. There should be no real change noticed locally. All about budget cuts and saving money.

Boundary Commission consultation, all agreed to send agreement to current proposal for Roydon to be with Grimston and Gayton.

There is an increase in HGV traffic, plans to increase distribution in the village and they will use the Fakenham road.

1. **To confirm the date and time of the next Parish Council meeting – on Thursday 4th January 2018 at 7.00pm.**

Chairman ………………………………………. Date …………………………………

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.