

ROYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 7.00pm at Pott Row Village Hall

**In Attendance: Councillors: Suzi Pimlott, Michael Rae, Neville Fletcher, Colin Manning, Colin Nichols, Marc Starling, Tim Tilbrook C. Cllr John Crofts and 1 member of public
Clerk: Pippa Winson**

70/23 To consider apologies for absence.

None from Parish Councillors.

71/23 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.

72/23 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7th September 2023

Having been circulated prior to the meeting, the minutes were agreed and signed.

73/23 To record Councillors' declarations of interest on Agenda Items.

M Rae has an interest in Item 77/23.

74/23 Public Speaking.

(a) Borough/County Councillor Report: County Cllr John Crofts had previously circulated his report: I am pleased to be able to attend the next meeting and look forward to meeting Parish Councillors. As a new Councillor I would be pleased to hear from any members to inform me of concerns in the village. I would also remind you that I have a small fund available to support highways matters.

Please find below my written report for your consideration.

Flooding - Over the weekend of 21st/22nd October Roydon suffered considerably from flooding following run-off from agricultural land. I was pleased to support residents in contacting Highways and the Flooding Officer, Sarah Sims, at NCC. Her response that an investigation will be undertaken, but that it may take a year to come to a report, seems wholly inadequate! I have submitted a written question to the Leader of the Council and will feed back on her response.

Knight's Hill Development - Having attended an online meeting with the developers and Graham Plant, the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure & Highways to emphasise the need for the County Council to reverse their decision not to support buses going onto the new estate, which after all was one of the mitigation proposals, I have had a useful meeting with Ben Colson on transport in general and the development in particular ahead of the Borough Planning Committee on Monday 6th October, which I shall attend.

Questions to the Leader of the County Council & her Cabinet - I have asked or have tabled questions this month on:

Dentistry in West Norfolk, The King's Fund, an independent charitable organisation, has recently published a report about dentistry. This was commissioned by NHS England but was independently developed, researched and written. It found 5-year-olds in West Norfolk have the worst tooth decay in the East of England and that fewer than one in two (44.8%) children saw an NHS dentist in the last year, while just one third of adults saw an NHS dentist in the last two years. They say that 7 of 42 integrated care boards (ICBs) reported that they had no dental practices taking on new adult NHS patients. (Norfolk and Waveney ICB is one of these). The Cabinet Member was asked whether the Schools Dental Service might be reinstated. The response was that this is not planned. However, the Norfolk and Waveney ICB has announced that £20,000 will be realised for a dental hygiene programme – not a lot considering there are 500 Primaries and Nurseries in the County, but a start.

A149. A question asking for reassurance from the Cabinet that NCC are looking at

significant improvements and capacity increase to this road in the near future. This goes to Cabinet on Friday.

Please see below for information on areas covered by the County Council that I feel may be of interest. Please let me know if further information would be useful. More regular buses for King's Lynn and evening bus services out of Norwich - thanks to bus service improvement plan.

Buses between North Wootton and King's Lynn will be running more regularly thanks to money that Norfolk County Council secured from the Department for Transport (DfT) to improve bus services across the County. Service 3 the North Wootton Circular which is operated by Go To Town will run three times per hour from Monday 13 November increasing the number of journeys per day from 26 to 35.

A148 Grimston Road– Speed Limit Extension

Norfolk County Council is promoting a Traffic Regulation Order to implement an extension of 40mph speed limit on the A148 Grimston Road from its current end position west to the Knights Hill Roundabout Junction. The aim of this scheme is to reduce vehicular speed and improve user safety of those using the proposed roundabout and residential development to the south of Grimston Road.

New partnership service will help people recover at home

People needing help when they leave hospital are set to benefit from a new community service, to help them recover at home. The Norfolk and Waveney Community Support Service (NWCSS), will be led by Voluntary Norfolk, the British Red Cross and Age UK Norwich and is funded by Norfolk County Council, NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board and Suffolk County Council.

The service is aimed at helping people with everyday tasks, like shopping, walking the dog or making phone calls and supports people to live independently whilst they recover. It supports people leaving hospital and those with short-term needs in the community.

Have your say on our walking, wheeling, and cycling strategy for Norfolk

Norfolk County Council has opened a public consultation on a draft walking, wheeling and cycling strategy for the county. The strategy is an updated version of the previous walking and cycling strategy which was published in 2017. Since then, there has been a step change in national and local policy which has placed walking, wheeling and cycling at the heart of decision making.

The proposed new strategy brings together Norfolk's local transport, environmental and public health ambitions and aims to make walking, wheeling, or cycling the natural choice for both travelling from A to B and for leisure.

The draft strategy has been created following policy reviews, evidence collation and engagement with district councils and Active Norfolk. Now the county council wants to hear from residents, stakeholders, and organisations to get their thoughts on the proposed strategy.

Grants for community tree projects

Norfolk County Council in partnership with Busseys has launched a grant scheme to help local communities plant new trees and create greener and cleaner areas to live. The scheme is part of the council's one million trees initiative and aims to support tree planting projects across the county and contribute to ambitious net-zero targets.

The Busseys Community Tree Grant has made £10,000 (maximum of £2,500 per application) available to community organisations in Norfolk who are passionate about tree planting. Applications must be for planting trees that provide a tangible community benefit.

(b) Member of the Public: Nothing to report.

75/23 Matters arising.

None.

76/23 Correspondence received (for info only).

Various – via email.

77/23 Flooding – To discuss recent issues, receive update and agree any further actions.

The drain to the left of the Church Lane/Station Road junction (outside 101) has been previously reported and highways have advised that it would be done, but it has still not been cleared. M Rae advised that he has kept a log over the last 28 years and there has been exceptional rainfall and in the last 7 weeks there has been 36% of the annual rainfall. M Rae advised that he would be creating a beetle bank and bund to pretend the water run-off towards the properties. There would also be a 6-metre wild flower margin. At the side of the field to the west they will create a beetle bank and a 6-metre margin. S Pimlott has identified all the grips which needs clearing and has reported this to highways.

78/23 Highways

Note any issues and matters to be reported to highways.

Nothing further to report.

79/23 Hudson Fen Leisure

Meeting on 15th November. CIL application is being considered. The car boot season has now finished.

80/23 Neighbourhood Plan

The majority of the group have now met. All the information is on the Borough Council website. Await further comments from the examiner. Clerk has circulated the email from the Borough Council.

81/23 Roydon Common

C Nichols has spoken to Andy Woodhouse and he has quoted £400 per cut. Will try and obtain further quotes for next meeting.

82/23 Village Litter Pick

Last litter pick was well supported and less rubbish was collected. There is still the problem with cans on Church/Hall Lane.

83/23 C.I.L – Potential Applications

Nothing to consider at this time.

84/23 Parish Walks Project

Still no update.

85/23 Defibrillator

IFS will not give consent for one to be installed on their building. The Three Horseshoes may give consent. Clerk will check funding options.

86/23 Kings Coronation Tree

It was agreed in principle to purchase a tree guard up to £250.00.

87/23 Finance

Update. Income – VAT refund of £112.07, Community Coronation Fund Grant - £122.95.

Cheques: Uncontested election - £54.60

Cutting the Common - £400.00

88/23 Chairs Meeting with Leader of the Borough Council

Planning and Neighbourhood plans were discussed. Some PC's have issues with vexatious complaints.

89/23 Planning

(a) Nothing to discuss.

(b) N Fletcher attended the Planning Update session. There were six key elements and he had to leave after two hours so he attended four. He said that if the PC wish to object to a planning application, then they should clearly state the reasons that they object. S Pimlott asked about the neighbourhood plan and the proposed development boundary in respect of the planning application submitted for the development at Land Between 34 And 38 Station Road. N Fletcher agreed to follow this up with the NP and Local Plan.

90/23 To receive Councillors Concerns and items for next meeting agenda.

Stoney Road to Hall Lane, the path is pending clearance by highways.

91/23 The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4th January 2024.

Meeting closed 7.59pm

Chairman

Date

DRAFT