

ROYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th January 2024 at 7.00pm at Pott Row Village Hall

In Attendance: Councillors: Suzi Pimlott, Michael Rae, Colin Manning, Colin Nichols, Marc Starling, Tim Tilbrook C. Cllr John Crofts and 5 members of public.

In the absence of the clerk, Cllr Starling took the minutes.

92/23 To consider apologies for absence.

Neville Fletcher; Pippa Winson (clerk)

93/23 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.

94/23 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2023

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

95/23 To record Councillors' declarations of interest on Agenda Items.

T Tilbrook has an interest in his approved planning application which may be referred to in Item 102/23.

96/23 Public Speaking.

(a) Borough/County Councillor Report: County Cllr John Crofts had previously circulated his written report. New Deal for Norfolk was referred to verbally. A directly elected leader of the council is planned for May 25. It is suggested that the role of Police and Crime Commissioner may cease as part of the reorganisation.

(b) Members of the Public: Nothing to report. The Hudson Fen play area received half the CIL grant requested, so fundraising is planned for the remainder. The Chair advised that members of the public would have an opportunity to speak again during Item 99/23. (those present had indicated they wished to speak regarding the recent flooding issues)

97/23 Matters arising.

None.

98/23 Correspondence received (for info only).

Various – via email.

99/23 Flooding – S Pimlott advised those present that Anglian Water have been working in the village for four weeks, checking surface water drainage etc. This has included knocking on doors and inspecting domestic drainage of surface water. A survey of the infrastructure has been undertaken by Anglian Water, as they are seeking to understand where surface water is entering the foul drainage system. The Parish Council have asked NCC for drainage plans but they advised these are stored in several locations and they will not provide them. Anglian Water are drafting a surface water drainage plan for the infrastructure in our village and have advised this will be sent to Cllr Pimlott when complete. The grips in Church Lane have been cleared by NCC, though not connected to the back ditches. NCC and AW met at County Hall yesterday in the light of recent flooding. AW monitoring equipment in Pott Row shows that ground water previously approximately 1m -1.8m below ground is now 30cm below ground.

Station Road properties were flooded on Tuesday 2 January, following earlier floods in Church Lane.

A member of the public reported that water containing soil flooded Station Road and the garden of No 46. Grids on drains were covered in leaves preventing water flowing away (flow from drainage ditches into the culvert and then the water system had been normal the previous day. When the leaves were cleared and the drain cover removed, water drained successfully away. The householder was left with mud and water in the garage.

At No 48 water entered the house. Cllr Pimlott had visited both properties and advised the householder to report flooding to the Lead Local Flood Authority. No 48 did this. As this was internal flooding the LLFA should visit.

A Church Lane resident commented that agencies were now working more effectively together. The NCC Highways engineer attended Church Lane on Tuesday, also the Fire Service.

It was suggested that the PC seeks funding for drainage ditches. Residents and M Rae (as landowner) are working together on longer term solutions.

The AW engineer has discussed with S Pimlott a possible culvert under the road to a drainage pond.

The ditch in Low Road was rodded by AW on Wednesday. Various other items are regularly reported to NCC for the ranger visits.

(7.25pm – an additional member of the public joined the meeting.)

S Pimlott stressed the importance of reporting flooding to the LLFA.

M Rae reported that the usual January rainfall fell in 12 hours on Tuesday.

(7.30pm – a member of the public left the meeting.)

100/23 Highways

Note any issues and matters to be reported to highways.

Nothing additional to report.

101/23 Hudson Fen Leisure

Work on the field to prevent cars damaging grass will take place at the end of January.

102/23 Neighbourhood Plan

T Tilbrook reported that due to a change in the national framework, the emerging NHP requires reviewing.

S Pimlott queried the matter previously discussed regarding the (approved) Station Road planning application. If the development boundary in the emerging NHP is not amended, these dwellings will potentially have less scope for rear extension than their neighbours.

She referenced another planning application near the coast where similar issues had arisen with the emerging NHP and the development boundaries. A member of the public who is Chair of the NHP group agreed that the NHP needs to match the agreed dwelling plots and time was tight for getting this addressed so they will raise this at the next NHP meeting and write to Michael Burton promptly. This was again supported by councillors.

103/23 Roydon Common

Nothing to report.

104/23 Village Litter Pick

Nothing to report.

105/23 C.I.L – Potential Applications

Deferred until next meeting.

106/23 Parish Walks Project

Deferred until next meeting.

107/23 Defibrillator

The PCC has agreed to the siting of a defibrillator at Roydon Church, provided the PC pays all costs, including the provision of the required lighting.

108/23 Kings Coronation Tree

To be replaced at appropriate time for planting.

109/23 Finance

(a) Payments deferred until next meeting.

(b) C Nicholls proposed increasing the precept for 2024/5 to £6500 (current year is £6250). This will enable the PC to break even and retain the current reserves. Approved unanimously.

(c) SLCC membership – deferred until the next meeting.

110/23 Planning

Nothing to discuss.

111/23 To receive Councillors Concerns and items for next meeting agenda.

None.

112/23 The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4th January 2024.

It was also agreed to continue with bi-monthly first Thursdays of the month for the forthcoming year. Dates were left for the Village Hall clerk to book the meetings for 2024-2025.

Meeting closed 8.10pm

Chairman

Date

DRAFT