

ROYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7pm at Pott Row Village Hall

In Attendance:

Councillors: Suzi Pimlott (Chair), Michael Rae (Vice-Chair) Neville Fletcher, Colin Manning, Colin Nichols, Marc Starling, Tim Tilbrook, Borough Cllr De Whalley and 7 members of the public
Clerk – Pippa Winson

117/24 To consider apologies for absence.

None.

118/24 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.

119/24 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd January 2025.

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

120/24 To record Councillors' declarations of interest on Agenda Items.

N Fletcher declared an interest in the Station Road planning application, T Tilbrook declared an interest if the Grimston Cricket Club is discussed.

121/24 Public Speaking.

- (a) Borough/County Councillor Report: Cllr De Whalley apologised for being unable to attend in recent months. In respect of Local Government reorganisation, he mentioned the consultation re devolution. The Mayoral Combined Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk elections are expected to take place in May 2026. The consultation closes on 13th April. The following areas will be transferring to the Strategic Authority, once it is set up: Transport, Strategic infrastructure, Strategic planning and housing numbers, Economic development and planning, Environment and climate change, Skills and employment support, Health, wellbeing and public sector reform, Public safety. The current consultation does not include LGR. It is being co-ordinated by MHCLG and is focussed solely on Devolution. The Local Plan Inspectors final report was two weeks ago.
- (b) Members of the Public: Church Lane planning application was mentioned. It was asked if there could be a bench and/or shelter at the bus stop. The bus stop is really exposed and frequently used and would benefit from a bench.

122/24 Matters arising.

None.

123/24 Correspondence received (for info only).

Letter from resident re potential planning application off Station Road, in the absence of a planning application the Parish Council are unable to make any representations. Not aware of a potential application.

Various – via email.

124/24 Ground/Surface Flooding

Nothing to report.

125/24 Highways

Low Road potholes have been marked out.

126/24 Hudson Fen Leisure

Concreting on the corner has been completed. Ordering adult gym equipment so that it can be installed at the end of May. Considering an outdoor table tennis table. Car boots start at the beginning of April.

127/24 Roydon Common

Nothing to report.

128/24 NWT

Email request from NWT as they wish to have a dog waste bin, as despite their efforts they now feel that bin is the only option to address the issues. Clerk has advised them that the Grimston Fen Allotment Trust had previously offered to purchase a bin for the site but at that time the NWT had refused the request as it would leave the NWT with an ongoing annual charge for emptying the bins and they advised that "the installation of waste bins provides a subliminal message to users that the area is a 'dog walking site', whereas it's primary function to the NWT is that of a nature reserve". Clerk will ask them for update after contacting GFAT and clarify exactly what support they are requesting from the Parish Council.

129/24 Station Road Bus Stop

It was agreed that a metal replacement bottom panel would be the best solution rather than glass or Perspex. S Pimlott will make some enquiries.

130/24 Roydon Crossroads Bus Stop

Requests have been received asking for a bus shelter and/or bench at this location. Could also consider a Trod to link it up. All agreed to a bench at this location. Will contact NCC for advice/authorisation.

131/24 Village Litter Pick

On 23rd March, starting at Hudson Fen.

132/24 Asset Maintenance

Robert Walden will be undertaking sign refurbishment.

Both the noticeboards require re-varnishing, quotes pending for this work and for the bench.

133/24 C.I.L – Potential Applications

Nothing to discuss. CIL spending criteria review being undertaken by BCKLWN.

134/24 Defibrillator

Still exploring options. London Hearts may have funding opportunities.

135/24 Kings Coronation Tree

Plaque and tree guard have been delivered to M Rae. Will be installed when replacement tree planted.

136/24 Parochial Church Council

On proposal from Nichols and seconded by M Rae, all agreed to contribute £750.00 to the grounds maintenance.

137/24 Gov.Uk Email address

Some councillors still to set up.

138/24 Finance

- (a) Payments agreed: Hall Hire - £90.00, BCKLWN (dog bin collection for 24/25) - £244.61, NCC (gate replacement) - £3189.79.
- (b) On proposal from C Nichols and seconded by S Pimlott, all agreed to the appointment of Malcolm Pearson as Internal Auditor.

139/24 Planning

Planning Application Consultation 25/00264/O - Application discussed and there were concerns regarding loss of trees, environmental impact, non-designated heritage asset loss, and concerns not in line with policy or local plan. Agreed to object to proposal. Concerns received re 25C Low Road, agreed to monitor as no change of use at present.

140/24 To receive Councillors Concerns and items for next meeting agenda.

None.

141/24 Next meeting is the Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday 8th May 2025.

Press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item.

142/24 HR Matters

Matters discussed and agreed.

Meeting closed 8.47pm

Chairman Date