



**Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Hundred Acre Way, Red Lodge, Suffolk, IP28 8XR
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<http://redlodge.onesuffolk.net>

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Red Lodge held at 7.15pm on 16th May 2017 at the Millennium Centre, Lavender Close, Red Lodge.

In attendance Chair Councillor Angie Sewell
 Councillor Paul Henderson
 Councillor Kieran Coffey

Chair Person's welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair Person welcomed all attending residents to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Sandra Dwan and Councillor Anthony Bowser

District Councillor Lance Stanbury and County Councillor Robin Millar

**Red Lodge Conservation Group Annual General Meeting
10 May 2017
Chairman's Report**

2017 is a significant year for Red Lodge Conservation Group since it marks the tenth year since the formation of the group. During the past decade many improvements have been made to the site: fly-tipped waste has been removed, gates and fencing installed, steps have been constructed to improve access to the woodland area, scrub has been cleared and a mowing programme established to improve the grassland. Interpretation boards have been installed to inform visitors of the special features of the site.

The Conservation Group has followed a Management Plan devised by Natural England and has benefited from the input and support of staff from Forest Heath/St Edmundsbury District Council. A grant from the National Lottery Fund enabled the group to purchase a container to store tools and equipment, set up a website and produce publicity about the site. The major landowner has provided essential funding for insurance, fuel and repairs to machinery.

The group has used its website and the parish magazine to communicate with local residents. We have tried to organise one educational activity each year, with support from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and more recently with Butterfly Conservation. Representatives from this organisation led walks around the heath to coincide with their recording event, the Big Butterfly Count. This year's event will take place on 15 July and will include a presentation on moths.

In 2016 some promising new developments were commenced. The appointment of a Senior Parks Ranger post has included Red Lodge Heath SSSI in the wildlife sites it manages. The group will benefit from the support and access to services this offers. There are plans to produce large-format notice boards to inform visitors that Red Lodge Heath SSSI is a nature reserve and to encourage respect and responsible behaviour to the wildlife and environment.

The ongoing management of the site and the organisation of the group could not take place without volunteers and it is appropriate to record thanks to all those who serve the group, whether in an administrative capacity or practical maintenance of the site in work parties. Some members have served in the group for many years, and their support is greatly appreciated.

So, what of the future? This might be uncertain. Most of the group are of retirement age, and despite several appeals for help, no new volunteers have come forward. Red Lodge Conservation Group needs a new generation of volunteers to continue the work that has begun. Will there be a Red Lodge Conservation Group in 2027? It would be good to think the local community cared enough to help maintain this beautiful and unique site.

Residents of Red Lodge, it's up to you!

Jennifer Hall

Red Lodge Allotment Association

The Vice Chair David Duckworth attended and gave a verbal report.

The allotment plots are all in use and the site is in good working order. The new allotment site is not yet available and it is of concern that the allotment association have not heard what is happening. A resident explained that this is still in the plans for the area and that it is a case of waiting for them to be built and handed over.

David said that they wanted input into how the site was set out and possibly the addition of more toilets. He was advised to contact Forest Heath as the local planning authority to speak with them, who will in turn liaise with Crest.

Millennium Centre

No report received

Public Session – Meeting Open to Discussion and Questions from the Public regarding Red Lodge Matters

A member of the public asked if the dog bin opposite number 25 Warren Road could be moved nearer the Warren Road.

A member of the public showed a photograph of the litter near Buttercup Walk that had been there for some time. The Chair responded that the litter is picked up on a regular basis and this may have been over the Christmas/New Year period, that it had been left a bit longer as the staff were on leave. Also, the suds ditches are not the responsibility of the Parish Council, but the District Council. These are kept clean by the Parish Council as a goodwill gesture in keeping the village tidy.

A member of the public passed on congratulations to the staff of the Parish Council for the way in which the Sports Pavilion is kept clean and the village is well maintained.

It was suggested that the School be contacted and ask if the children could be made aware of the problems we have with litter especially along the suds ditch that leads from Bellflower Crescent going towards Hundred Acre Way – suggestion Protection of the Environment be the key.

As the shop on Bennet Road has closed and the Post Office will soon be relocating the noticeboards will need to be moved. It was suggested that an open noticeboard be placed beside the Parish one outside Heatherset Way play area. Another suggestion is that a free standing one be placed on Clematis Green.

A member of the public advised the meeting that The Millennium Centre have had a leak in the roof for at least two years. A suggestion was put to the meeting that The Parish Council obtain quotes for this work and then proceed in getting the job done. If necessary this may mean an increase in the precept next year depending on the cost of repairs. The members of the public present agreed this course of action. The Parish Councillors also agreed to this.

A Letter is to be sent to the Trustees of the Millennium Centre advising that this will be done.

A member of the public advised that the mobile library visit the Millennium Centre every 4th Sunday between the hours of 2 pm and 2.20 pm

A member of the public asked if it would be possible to clean the path after each football match at the Sports Pavilion as it becomes very slippery when wet with mud for the public to walk on.

The Chair did reply to this and said that Monday after all matches at the weekend was the time the staff did the clean up outside of the pavilion, but would contact all Managers to make them aware of the problem.

DATE OF THE NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting is Scheduled for 15th May 2018

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and offered refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed by:

Dated:

Angie Sewell

Chair person