

**RISBY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Risby Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors - Derrick Abrey (Chairman), Ian Turner, Simon Gray, Ben Ramsay, Steve Smith and John Fairlie.

**Also present:** Joanne Kirk (Clerk), County Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, Darren Matthews (Risby Village Hall) and Sophie Flux (Risby Wildlife Group).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Four members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from parish councillor Chris Sutton.

Derrick Abrey chaired the meeting. He welcomed everyone present. All the reports presented at the meeting are available on Risby Parish Council's website at <https://risby.suffolk.cloud/meetings/annual-parish-meeting/>

**1. Approval of the minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman of Risby Parish Council, Derrick Abrey.

**2. Report from County Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger.**

A copy of the report is available on Risby Parish Council's website.

**Questions and comments.**

Risby Parish Council raised concerns about the proposed Steelstock planning application on the land west of Saxham Business Park and the impact on Newmarket Road and the junction at the top of South Street which will see an increase in use by lorries accessing the proposed lorry park and Steelstock site.

Ownership of the ponds and surrounding land. Beccy Hopfensperger explained that the land surrounding the ponds belongs to Suffolk County Council. The Parish Council asked for copies of the maps and evidence that Suffolk County Council does not own the ponds as well. Beccy Hopfensperger agreed to look into this.

Risby Parish Council asked about extending the 40mph on Tut Hill to the Westley roundabout. Beccy Hopfensperger agreed to organise a traffic assessment with a verbal judgement about the possibility of extending the speed limit.

**3. Risby Village Hall report by Darren Matthews**

It has been a successful year for the village hall. Solar panels have been installed on the roof along with four electric car chargers which are being used on a regular basis. Planters have been put in place to stop vehicles damaging them using funding received from various local businesses. The village hall is also being well used with bookings every evening. Running costs are being covered by bookings and fund raising. The village hall trustees are looking to refurbish the toilets. They need to raise between £30,000 and £60,000.

**4. Risby Charities Financial Report.**

A copy of the report is available on Risby Parish Council's website.

**6. VAS report.**

A copy of the report is available on Risby Parish Council's website.

**7. Risby Wildlife Group by Sophie Flux.**

The Wildlife Group is well supported. There have been lots of activities over the year including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The wildflower spiral was well received and has been planted again this year for the King's coronation. They have also been working with the village hall and PTA on activities including a sale trail.

They have also been working on a mapping project to map things like trees and plants in the village.

In order to make the greens look neater and tidier, borders of wildflower seeds have been planted round the wild areas. Footpaths will continue to be maintained by the group.

**8. Risby Parish Council's Chairman's Report.**

A copy of the report is available on Risby Parish Council’s website.

**9. Risby Parish Council Financial Report.**

A copy of the report is available on Risby Parish Council’s website.

**10. Any other issues or concerns raised by residents.**

The following issues were raised:

- Land in School Road has been cleared, has a planning application been submitted? The Parish Council confirmed that no planning application has been received.
- Is there any prospect of shared ownership in Risby? The Parish Council said that no land is currently earmarked for development. A site would need to have 10+ homes for any affordable/shared housing to be provided.

**The meeting closed at 8.50p.m.**

Signed .....

Dated.....

DRAFT