

RISBY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Risby Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Thursday 5th May 2022

PRESENT: Parish Councillors - Derrick Abrey (Chairman), Simon Gray, Chris Sutton and Ben Ramsay

Also present: Joanne Kirk (Clerk), County Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, District Councillor Susan Glossop and Sophie Flux (Secretary Village Hall Trustees)

IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from parish councillors Ian Turner (Vice-chairman of the Parish Council), John Fairlie and Steve Smith.

Derrick Abrey chaired the meeting. He welcomed everyone present. Reports 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 6th May 2021.

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

2. Report from District Councillor Susan Glossop

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

Locality budget spent from April 2021– April 2022

Lackford PCC Remove dead trees to allow use for a community space	£500
Risby benches for quiet space Queens Jubilee	£450
Flempton cum Hengrave Community Christmas carols on the Green	£500
Risby Queens Jubilee celebrations	£450
River Lark Catchment water environment project	£1,400

Planning applications

WSC is receiving a lot more retrospective applications. There has been an increase in work carried out on trees without prior approval from West Suffolk Council's Tree Officer.

Garden waste

The cost of emptying brown bins has increased to £45.

Work on the next Local Plan for 2024 – 2040

The Preferred Options consultation will commence on the 26th May for eight weeks. Risby is designated as a type A village in the new West Suffolk settlement hierarchy as it lacks the level of services and facilities required for a local service centre. A number of sites were submitted through the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) for potential inclusion in West Suffolk Council's Local Plan, but all the sites have been deferred due to significant policy constraints or because they are not available.

Questions from members of the public

Is it the case that if a tree has to be planted in replacement in a Conservation Area?

Replacements are only required to be planted for trees taken down which are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). West Suffolk Council (WSC) relies on local knowledge with regards to TCA applications.

Bins

A normal sized bin lorry can go up Lackford Lane and near Highwayman's to collect black bins, but not for blue and brown bins. Why is this?

Susan Glossop agreed to check.

How close is WSC to adopting Fisher's Field?

Susan Glossop agreed to check.

3. Report from County Councillor Becky Hopfensperger

Risby issues

She has ordered a speed and safety audit for the Crematorium/New Road/Tut Hill junction. There is a new community engineer at Suffolk County Council (SCC), Matthew Fox. Becky will arrange a site visit with him in Risby. Derrick Abrey agreed to provide a list of blocked drains in the village. There is a new system in place to enable parishes to apply for a village licence to put in street furniture across the whole parish. This will be a more cost effective option as parishes could source street furniture locally rather than having to order it through Suffolk County Council.

Highways issues

The skirting back of footways has been written into Suffolk County Council's Highways Maintenance Operational Plan. Becky Hopfensperger asked for a list of pavements in Risby which need skirting back.

Concerns were raised about the accountability of Highways are their poor performance. Becky Hopfensperger explained that the Highway's contract is up for renewal which should lead to changes.

Bus passes

Children living to the east of village have to pay to go to school as they are nearer to the schools in Bury St Edmunds, even though there is no safe route. Children in the west get a bus pass. Becky Hopfensperger recommended that families appeal if they are in this position.

Questions

Would SCC be willing to contribute towards the cost of emptying the ponds and repairing the gabions as they are being damaged by run off from the highway?

Becky Hopfensperger felt it was unlikely but that Risby Parish Council could ask. She asked the clerk to send a formal letter copying in Paul West, the cabinet member for Highways.

Hedges around directional signs, will Highways cut them back?

Hedges around direction signs are not a Highways priority whereas speed signs are.

4. Risby Village Hall report

- Risby Village Hall received £150,000 from the National Lottery to clad the Village Hall. The inside of the large hall has been painted, refurbished and the heating replaced.
- Solar panels are being put in.
- They are investigating putting in electric charging points.
- The hall is back to full use and is managing financially.
- Adult gym equipment has been installed on the playing field and is being used.
- Risby Village Hall is looking for a new treasurer.

Question

The floodlights on the MUGA are supposed to be hooded but haven't been. When will this happen? Sophie Flux agreed to raise this at the next VH meeting.

5. Risby Charities Financial Report

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

6. Community Speedwatch and VAS report

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

7. Risby Parish Council's Chairman's Report

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

8. Financial Report

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

9. Any other issues or concerns raised by members of the public

No further issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.50p.m.

Signed

Dated.....