

RISBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th November 2015

Councillors present: Derrick Abrey (Chairman), Ian Turner (Vice-Chairman), Simon Gray, Jill Gray, Steve Smith, Julian Reed and Chris Sutton

Also present: Borough Councillor Susan Glossop, County Councillor Becky Hopfsenberger and 8 members of the public

The following issues were raised during the Open Forum

Planning application for 7 - 9 The Green

- There were no objections to the building of the properties but concerns were raised about the drainage in that area. There is a dry pond at the back of the properties which fills up when it rains. This pond will be filled in if the development goes ahead and there could then be a problem with flooding. The drainage in that area is inadequate, a problem exacerbated by the erosion of the verge as the road drain is now away from the edge of the road. In the winter this is a black ice spot and there have already been a number of accidents.
- Concerns were also raised about the speed of vehicles coming into the village along Flempton Road. The proposed access to the properties will make it more difficult to get onto Flempton Road.
- Will the existing street light on the telegraph pole be replaced?

Other issues

- A 30mph sign has been installed in Flempton Road but is too small to be visible. Could it be replaced by a larger sign?
- Street lighting - do we need it overnight street lighting? Susan Glossop said a review of street lighting is currently taking place.
- Neighbourhood Watch - police were called as two youths were causing trouble near the village hall. The village hall and school were targeted. The Police have confirmed that nothing can be done unless the youths are caught on school or village hall premises.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda.

3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on Thursday 3rd September 2015

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The chairman then signed them.

5. Report from County Councillor Becky Hopfsenberger

Becky Hopfsenberger spoke about the following:

- Rural buses. She has asked that rural bus services be looked at as part of the current spending review.
- Potholes. A number of potholes have been filled, however councillors asked why they continue to be patched and not repaired properly. She agreed to arrange a 'walk around' with Highways and a member of the Parish Council in the spring.
- The gulleys near the Crematorium will be cleared in the next month. Complaints were made about the amount of water on the edge of Crematorium Road due to poor drainage.
- The footway in front of number 3 School Road has been broken up badly by a lorry. Becky Hopfsenberger agreed to report it.
- The footpath opposite Newmarket Road has now been added to the cutting programme and will be cut bi-annually.
- The signs for the top of Newmarket Road have been ordered.
- The possibility of setting up of dementia friendly communities and a Good Neighbour Scheme. This would be a volunteer network and would depend on the level of volunteer support. The Council agreed to discuss this at their next meeting.
- She has the information about local speed criteria which she will e-mail to the clerk.
- Footways. She will investigate the need to promote sustainability and accessibility to the primary school and look at ways to improve this.

The Council asked about funding for the Vehicle Activated Sign. Becky Hopfsenberger confirmed that the money is available and that she is happy to fund an upgraded VAS which allows for data collection. The Parish Council will have to pay for the posts.

6. Report from District Councillor Susan Glossop

Susan Glossop spoke about the following:

- Suffolk County Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District are establishing a Housing Development Company which will be a 'for profit' organisation. They will be shareholders in the company and receive dividends. There will be plots available for local people to build their own housing, affordable homes and shared ownership properties.
- A car park review is currently being carried out. On busy days there is insufficient parking for people visiting Bury St Edmunds. There could be an increase in the cost of parking at weekends.
- The application for the land South of School Road has been approved. Extra screening has been included in the plans. The access road can only be used from 8am - 6pm. There is S106 funding available for open spaces in Risby which could be used for the Multi Use Games Area.

4. Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Parish Council has received a letter from Suffolk Constabulary about future attendance at parish council meetings. If there is a specific local issue being discussed at a planned meeting or a police presence is required following a major incident, then the Police will send a representative. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams will continue to maintain liaison with parish councils. Local SNTs will continue to provide written reports on local crime issues until the Constabulary's new website goes live in 2016.

There have been two crimes of note since the last meeting:

- 19/10/15 - Exposure, South Street. The male driver in a black BMW pulled alongside the victim whilst walking her dog along the road to ask for directions and exposed himself.
- Theft of oil from an external tank in Alexander Way.

7. Update on the list of actions since the last meeting

There were two outstanding councillor actions.

8. Finance

a) Regular payments made between meetings

The following payments were made:

06/10/15 - McGregor Services - grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10b - **£336.00**

b) Approval of any payments and signing of Schedule of Payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- Cynthia Boreham - bus shelter cleaning - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953, s. 4 - **£240.00**
- J P Ince expenses – LGA 1972, s111 - **£12.35**
- McGregor Services - grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10b - **£144.00**

Chris Sutton and Ian Turner signed the Schedule of Payments. The Chairman then countersigned it.

c) Approval of the record of online payments made since the last meeting

It was resolved that the record of online payments would be approved. Chris Sutton then signed it.

d) Archive boxes to dispose of council documents and planning applications

It was resolved that the clerk would be authorised to dispose of up to 10 archive boxes at a cost of £4 per box as quoted by Box it and that the cost would be split between all councils she works for.

e) Signatory to complete the checklist of Internal Controls

Chris Sutton completed and signed the checklist of internal controls.

f) Statement of receipts and payments

It was resolved that the statement of receipts and payments was correct.

g) Annual Return and Issues Arising report from BDO LLP

Risby Parish Council has received an Issues Arising report for the year ended 31 March 2015. The report states that there are assets on the asset register which have not been included on the Annual Return. The clerk had queried this with BDO LLP. Their response was Risby Parish Council's assets had been understated as BDO LLP claims that two new grit bins had been purchased in the year and these had not been added to the assets as disclosed on the annual return. As no new grit bins were actually purchased in 2014/15 it was resolved that no further action would be taken.

h) Draft budget for 2015/16 and consider the following issues:

- The current bin provision and the possibility that St Edmundsbury Borough Council will start charging to empty the bins
- Is the level of reserves sufficient?

It was resolved that money would be allocated to purchase new bins as recommended by SEBC at a cost of £607.74 and for them to be emptied should SEBC start to charge for this service. As the amount of grant received from SEBC has been reduced again by 25% in 2016/17 it was resolved that the amount allocated for the annual tree survey and tree works and for pond dredging would be reduced as there are sufficient funds held in reserve.

9. Planning

- a) **DC/15/1986/HH - Manor Cottage, The Green, Risby - Double garage extension to the side of the existing property (resubmission of DC/14/2332/HH)**

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application.

- b) **DC/15/1566/FUL - 15 - 16 The Avenue - Resubmission of DC/15/0730/FUL as amended by the plans of 20th October 2015 revising the position of the dwellings and garages**

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application.

- c) **DC/15/1933/FUL - 7 - 9 The Green, Risby, Suffolk - 2 detached two and a half storey dwellings (demolition of three existing apartments) and associated highway access, parking and garden boundary works including alterations to the access/parking/boundary at adjacent no's 1 - 2 Flempton Road**

It was resolved that the Council would object to this application subject to further investigation of the sewerage and surface water drainage infrastructure.

Historically there has been an ongoing problem with surface water in front of number 1 Flempton Road. This freezes in the winter causing black ice and there have already been a number of car accidents as a result. These drainage problems are exacerbated by the erosion of the verge as the road drain is now away from the edge of the road and is therefore less effective.

In addition to this, at present surface water from The Green and Flempton Road is funnelled into an overflow pond at the back of the proposed development which will be filled in if the development goes ahead. A surface water scheme is required which covers both the new and existing properties to show how these drainage problems will be dealt with to mitigate against the loss of this overflow pond.

The Parish Council would also like the access onto Flempton Road from numbers 1 and 2 to be reviewed as the proposed access is in a dip with poor visibility down Flempton Road towards Flempton. The access is also very close to the 30mph limit where there is a problem with vehicles speeding as they enter the village.

10. Highways/rights of way matters/tree or transport issues:

- a) **Vehicle Activated Signs**

The clerk met Hen Abbot from Highways on 14th October to discuss the progress on the Council's VAS application. Three locations (numbers 1, 5 and 9 on the map) were agreed subject to Hen Abbot checking the suitability of location number 9.

As Becky Hopfsenberger has confirmed that funding is still available for an upgraded VAS which allows for data collection, it was resolved that the clerk would contact Hen Abbot to ask her to proceed with the Council's application.

The clerk explained that volunteers will be covered by the Council's public liability insurance provided that they follow the health and safety advice included in the Memorandum of Understanding which the Parish Council will need to sign and that a risk assessment is completed.

It was resolved that the clerk would be authorised to insure the VAS against theft and damage once it has been received at a cost of approximately £35 per annum.

- b) **Grit piles**

It was resolved that the existing locations for grit piles would be used.

- c) **Outstanding highways issues**

See item 5 above.

11. Community Ranger Scheme

This item was postponed until the next meeting. The clerk agreed to resend the information to Chris Sutton.

12. Setting up a Twitter Account to pass on up-to-date information

It was resolved that the clerk would set up a Twitter account for a trial period.

13. Correspondence:

- a) **E-mail from BT agreeing to provide a kit for painting the phone box and their H&S guidelines**

It was resolved that the clerk would order a kit from BT.

- b) **Letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council about their gypsy and traveller sites consultation**

The Council is not aware of any possible sites in Risby.

- c) **E-mail from Suffolk Constabulary re Local Policing Information event on 10th December in Ipswich**

The clerk asked councillors to notify her if they wish to attend.

- d) **E-mail from SEBC re lead thefts from churches**

It was resolved that this information would be included in the next newsletter.

- e) **Queen's Birthday 12th and 13th June**

This information will be passed on to the Village Hall trustees.

14. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda

Chris Sutton informed the Council that the money for the railings around the war memorial has now been raised and that the railings will be erected in the next few months.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18pm

Signed (Chairman) Dated