

**RISBY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th July 2024.**

**Councillors present: Derrick Abrey (Chairman), Ian Turner (Vice-chairman), Simon Gray, Chris Sutton and John Fairlie.**

**Also present: Joanne Kirk (Clerk), District Councillor Susan Glossop and 10 members of the public.**

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence.**

Parish Councillors Steve Smith and Ben Ramsay sent their apologies and the reason for absence was accepted. County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger also sent her apologies.

**2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests.**

No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda and no dispensation requests were received.

**3. Approval of minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

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

**4. Public Session (10 minutes)**

The following issues were raised:

- Thanks to the Parish Council for all their hard work over the Steelstock application. A question was asked about the truck stop application. The Parish Council explained that a resident paid for a legal opinion on whether the planning permission for the truck stop application had lapsed. The barrister confirmed that in his opinion permission had lapsed and that enforcement action should be taken by West Suffolk Council. The barrister is awaiting a response from West Suffolk Council.
- Another resident has paid for an independent noise assessment. This has now been completed and Risby Parish Council has been sent a copy of the survey carried out by PaceConsult which corroborates some of the concerns raised by Risby Parish Council in their original objection to the application.
- DC/24/0746/FUL – the planning application for Hanbury Paddocks. None of the residents present objected to the application, but there were queries about access to part of the land.

**5. Planning. This item was moved up the agenda by the chairman.**

**a) DC/24/0746/FUL - Land Adj. Hanbury Paddocks, Risby - a. three dwellings and detached garages b. vehicular and pedestrian access**

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

**b) Update on the West Suffolk Local Plan and the submissions from Dencora Ltd in relation to the Steelstock site and Pigeon in relation to the land south of School Road.**

Dencora has submitted an objection on behalf of George Gittus to the proposed Local Plan because the land is not allocated for any kind of development (residential or economic). They also want the Risby and Saxham business parks to be recategorized as B2 Industrial.

Pigeon have objected to the fact that Risby has been downgraded to a Type A village as they would like to be able to develop the land south of School Road further. They offered to build a shop in Risby if it would mean Risby could be upgraded to a Local Service Centre which would allow more development.

**c) To receive an update on the AJN Steelstock site in Kentford and the commissioning of an independent noise survey and legal advice by two residents and decide whether Risby Parish Council should try to help raise funds to cover the costs.**

There is a re-consultation on this application as AJN Steelstock has commissioned a second noise survey which was carried out by Sharp's Acoustics. It has addressed some of the queries raised by Risby Parish Council but Risby Parish Council still has concerns.

It was resolved that John Fairlie would draft a response to West Suffolk Council challenging this second survey and reiterating that this application does not conform with planning policy DM 5 as the proposed site has not been allocated for development and should not, therefore, be allowed.

Risby Parish Council has received two private donations towards the cost of the legal fees and the independent noise assessment organised by two residents. Councillors agreed that Risby Parish Council would contribute to the cost as well but would confirm this after the case officer's recommendation for this application has been published.

- d) **DC/24/0762/HH - Forge Cottage, 1 South Street, Risby - single storey side extension (following removal of existing porch).**

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

**6. District Councillor's report**

There was nothing to report due to the pre-election period.

**7. County Councillor's report.**

There was nothing to report due to the pre-election period.

**8. Update on list of actions agreed at the last meeting.**

There were no outstanding councillor actions.

**9. Finance**

**a) Approval of any payments and signing of Schedule of Payments.**

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- HMRC – PAYE - LGA 1972, s111 - **£289.80**
- J P Kirk – expenses - LGA 1972, s111 – **£25.56**
- McGregor Services - Grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 & 10 - **£396.00**
- Business Services at CAS Ltd – insurance - LGA 1972, s111 - **£654.97**

Chris Sutton and Ian Turner signed the Schedule of Payments.

**b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings.**

No payments were authorised between meetings.

**c) Statement of receipts and payments made since the last meeting.**

It was resolved that the statement of receipts and payments would be approved.

**Receipts**

Date	Description	Total
09/05/2024	Allotment rent Allotment holders	£15.00
10/05/2024	Refund pension costs Moulton Parish Council	£25.00
10/05/2024	Refund pension costs Lackford Parish Council	£16.00
13/05/2024	Refund pension costs Stradishall Parish Council	£16.00
15/05/2024	Refund pension costs Ousden Parish Council	£16.00
10/06/2024	Refund pension costs Moulton Parish Council	£25.00
10/06/2024	Refund pension costs Stradishall Parish Council	£16.00
10/06/2024	Refund pension costs Lackford Parish Council	£16.00
17/06/2024	Refund pension costs Ousden Parish Council	£16.00

**Payments**

Date	Minute	Description	Supplier	Total
03/04/2024	363/9f	Village hall rental for meetings	Risby Village Hall	£96.00
03/04/2024	363/9f	Grass cutting	McGregor Services	£16.00
15/04/2024	364/9f	Defibrillator pads	Community Heartbeat Trust	£12.39
20/04/2024	363/9f	Phone costs	Vodafone	£2.51
29/04/2024	363/9f	Water costs for the allotments	Wave (Anglian Water Business)	£47.91
07/05/2024	375/10a	Clerk's expenses	J Kirk	£5.58
07/05/2024	375/10a	Internal audit	Mrs C Whitaker	£75.00
07/05/2024	377/15a	Donation	Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	£50.00
07/05/2024	375/10a	Annual donation	Risby Village Hall	£500.00
07/05/2024	375/10a	Tree survey	Ligna Consultancy	£67.00
07/05/2024	375/10a	Grass cutting	McGregor Services	£66.00
22/05/2024	363/9f	Phone costs	Vodafone	£2.53
04/06/2024	363/9f	Grass cutting	McGregor Services	£99.00
20/06/2024	363/9f	Phone costs	Vodafone	£2.53

Staff costs as per confidential cashbook
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**Transfers**

03/05/25 – transfer to reserve account - **£10,000**

**d) Bank balances as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

Nat West Current Account	£4,694.00
Nat West Reserve Account	£25,228.52
<b>Total in Banks</b>	<b>£29,922.52</b>

Chris Sutton verified and signed the bank statements.

**e) Approval of the continued use of electronic banking and BACS payments, the Council's banking arrangement with Nat West, and the use of variable direct debit or standing order where appropriate.**

It was resolved that Risby Parish Council would continue to use electronic banking with NatWest and direct debits or standing orders where appropriate.

**f) Update on the Inspection of Council property.**

This item is ongoing.

**g) Email from One Suffolk offering a gov.uk domain name and email addresses.**

It was resolved that Risby Parish Council would not pursue this at this stage due to the cost of £168 per year for each councillor to have their own gov.uk email address.

**10. To review the following policy documents:****a) Updated Financial Regulations.**

It was resolved that the updated Financial Regulations would be approved.

**b) Standing Orders.**

No changes were required.

**c) Scheme of Delegation.**

No changes were required.

**11. Highways/Rights of Way issues/tree/transport issues/pond issues.****a) Possibility of carrying out a lorry survey in Risby.**

It was resolved that Risby Parish Council would request a lorry survey in South Street and confirm that Cllr Hopfensperger will cover the cost.

**b) Review of tree survey recommendations.**

No urgent works were recommended. All the suggested works are optional, if the budget allows. It was resolved that Derrick Abrey and Chris Sutton would look at the optional works and come up with a list of which ones to prioritise. The clerk would then get a quote for the work ready for discussion at a future meeting. It was also resolved that the Council would check the ownership of a beech tree in Welham Lane with the land registry.

**c) Weeds on path from Welham Lane and across Lower Green and possible use of Glyphosate.**

It was resolved that the Parish Council would wait until the next round of weed clearance by Suffolk County Council which is due on the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> July. If any paths have not been cleared, the clerk will contact Suffolk County Council to find out which paths they maintain.

**d) Damage to road around Lower Green.**

This item has already been reported and works have been ordered.

**e) Cutting of the wildlife areas on the Greens.**

The Parish Council has agreed a schedule with McGregor Services specifying which months the wildlife areas would be cut. The wildlife areas on Lower Green were cut in June in line with the new cutting regime but will not be cut again now until the end of the session. The new cutting regime will be reviewed in September 2025.

An article will also be included in the next newsletter about cutting the wildlife areas and why some are left uncut. Details of how to contact the Parish Council would be included in the article, should residents wish to comment.

McGregor Services are unable to strim alongside the bollards next to School Road because of the cars parked there and potential damage. It was resolved that Risby Parish Council would notify residents

when the bollards need to be strimmed and ask them if it would be possible to move their cars to prevent any damage.

**12. Village issues.**

No issues were raised.

**13. Correspondence.**

**a) Email from Ron Bailey, researcher for Lord Don Johnson about the safety of lithium batteries.**

It was resolved that Risby Parish Council would support the Safety Bill which aims to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries.

**14. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

No issues were raised.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.03pm.**

Signed ..... (Chairman) Dated .....