

**RISBY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Risby Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

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

**Also present:** Joanne Kirk (Clerk), County Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, Councillor Roger Dicker, Chair of West Suffolk Council, Darren Matthews (Risby Village Hall), Sophie Flux (Risby Wildlife Group).

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

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from parish councillors Derrick Abrey and Ben Ramsay.

Ian Turner Vice-Chairman of Risby Parish Council 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/annual-parish-meeting/>

**1. Approval of the minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman of Risby Parish Council, Ian Turner.

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

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

Cllr Hopfensperger spoke about the following:

- HGV signs for Risby. Highways has asked for lorry surveys to be carried out on the roads where the signs would be installed before they will agree to new HGV signs. The cost is £400 per survey. She will pay for two surveys.
- She has ordered replacements for damaged signs in Risby.
- Crematorium Road. She has asked for the grips to be dug out. Some have been dug out already.
- The traffic survey for Tut Hill junction. The speed of the traffic is not fast enough to warrant an extension of the 40mph speed limit to the Westley roundabout. She has asked for accident data to find out the cause of the accidents at the junction. Councillors explained that the vegetation needs to be cut back drastically to improve visibility at the junction.
- Glyphosate will be introduced to a limited extent when it is safe to do so.
- She has included some useful quick guides in her report (grass cutting and weed treatment).
- Speeding. She has spoken to Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore about the possibility of running rural speeding campaigns and has asked for this to be on the agenda of the next Suffolk Roadsafe meeting.

**3. District Councillor Susan Glossop.**

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

- She is hoping the new grass cutting regime will resolve all the problems experienced last year. West Suffolk Council will not be using Glyphosate.
- The big issue for Risby is planning in particular the Steelstock application.
- There is a new regime running West Suffolk Council and they are doing things differently. They are looking to fund more social and affordable housing.

**4. Chair of West Suffolk Council Councillor Roger Dicker**

Roger Dicker introduced himself and explained his role. He has been trying to visit parishes outside the former Forest Heath area where he is based.

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

- The village hall has had a good year and funds are healthy.
- Their biggest problem is the lack of volunteers on the committee.
- They have planned a number of fund raising events including 'Help out to eat out', a sale trail, Open Gardens and the Big Galaxy band.
- They have increased their hall charges.
- They will be taking over the maintenance and cutting of the main field at some point.
- Their next main project is to improve the toilets.

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

Sophie Flux explained a bit about the group and the work they do. They continue writing articles for The Stile and social media posts. They support the Eco Church. A wildflower memorial spiral has been planted on the Green. They are working with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and have organised a course about wildlife in the community.

One big concern is the ducks particularly along School Road. 3 mallard hens were killed recently. A question was asked about residents putting up wildlife signs on their own properties. The Parish Council said it does not have any authority over what people put on their own private property. Cllr Hopfensperger and Cllr Glossop both offered locality funding.

**7. Risby Parish Council’s Chairman’s Report.**

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

One of the big issues in rural communities is clearing out ponds. The high cost of disposing of waste makes it difficult for parishes to carry out pond maintenance.

Planning is a big concern. Risby is being treated like a town with the risk of an industrial development right on its doorstep.

One question was asked about the Calor gas site and the potential impact in an emergency.

Cllr Glossop agreed to find out if Calor had been consulted about the Steelstock application.

**8. Risby Parish Council Financial Report.**

A copy of the report is available on Risby Parish Council’s website. No questions were asked.

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

The following issues were raised:

- Risby Greens football team have been promoted which is a great achievement.

**The meeting closed at 8.50pm.**

Signed .....

Dated.....

