

**DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL AT THE NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN MAY
2014**

Minutes of the Risby Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Thursday 1st May 2014

PRESENT: Parish Councillors - D Abrey (Chairman), J Gray, S Gray, C Sutton, S Smith, I Turner, J Read, Mrs J Ince (Clerk), PCSO Rebecca Mcdaid, PCSO Ken Ruston, County Councillor Rebecca Hopfsenberger, Darren Matthews and Sarah Ellis (Risby Village Hall)

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 member of the public

APOLOGIES: No apologies were received.

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

Approval of the minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 2nd May 2013

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

Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

PCSO Ruston thanked the Chairman and public for their support. 37 crimes were recorded in Risby since 2013/14 and increase of 3 compared to the previous year. 11 were detected and 3 additional crimes were dealt with by community resolution. Of note is the increase in burglaries of dwellings. People need to be a lot more vigilant and report suspicious activity when they see it using the police 101 number or 999 in an emergency.

There have been some changes to the team. The dedicated officers for Risby are PC Andre DeJongh and PCSO Ken Ruston.

Written report from County Councillor Becky Hopfsenberger

Councillor Hopfsenberger spoke about:

- Suffolk County Council's freeze in Council Tax
- The 38.6 million pounds worth of savings agreed by SCC
- SCC has been shortlisted for the Most Improved Council award
- Approval of the Raising the Bar policy to improve educational standards in Suffolk, which is starting to come to fruition. Suffolk has moved up 5 places on the local authority table for GCSE results
- The School Organisation Review. Proposals to move to a 2 tier system were approved in February 2014
- The success of SCC and local businesses who lobbied to prevent the A14 being turned into a toll road in the Huntingdon area.
- SCC looking at ways to share some joint services with Norfolk and Essex.
- The successful bid for an extra 5 million pounds to speed up the fibre broadband roll out. Jonathan Chown will come out to parish council meetings to give more information about the broadband roll out programme.
- Highways. She felt it was a good idea to meet with Highways on a regular basis if issues are not being resolved. She spoke about the current contract with Kier May Gurney which is not proving to be successful.
- National Compost Awareness Week

The Council asked if there could be an improved system of reporting and feedback for Highways issues, possibly with a tracking system? R Hopfsenberger said she would feed this request back to Highways.

Village Hall report

Darren Matthews spoke about:

- The Village Hall's achievements over the last year. It has successfully renovated the pre-school rooms which are now available for long-term rent.
- The Council has applied for planning permission to clad the outside of the large hall
- Plans to replace the boiler
- The public meeting in two weeks time to put forward the suggestion to build an outside hard surface area which will be let to sports clubs and organisations like the football club, the cricket club, the school and the pre-school.
- Plans to build a community garden. The primary school and pre-school would like to get involved.
- The suggestion to look at joint procurement for services such as grass cutting and tree works.

Risby Charities Financial Report (see written report)

Balance b/f £660

Income £15,160

Expenditure £13,210

Balance at year end: £1,950

Risby Parish Council's Annual Report

Parish Council Chairman, Mr Derrick Abrey, presented his report. He spoke about the following:

- The Village Green sump which should have been cleared by Highways in 2013
- Footpath number 2 which has been resurfaced
- Planning applications in Risby, in particular Pigeon UK's proposals for the land off South Street
- The Housing Need survey and the Borough Council's decision to move to rural profiling
- The annual tree survey and associated works
- The allotments some of which are now vacant
- The proposal to build a skate park in Risby which has now been put on hold
- Proposals to commemorate the centenary of WW1
- The S106 agreement for the properties in Giles Way which was originally set up to give priority to people with a local connection to Risby. Broadlands had allowed this to lapse but following work by the Parish Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, the agreement has now been reinstigated.
- Grass cutting and the positive feedback from residents

The Chairman also thanked Cynthia Boreham for cleaning the bus shelters, Penny and team for litter picking, Steve Lumley for providing the planings for footpath 2 and for cutting the triangle of grass by Welham Lane Pond and the clerk for all her hard work and support.

Financial Report

The clerk, Mrs J Ince, presented her report

Any other issues or concerns raised by members of the public

- One resident asked about the lorry parked in Welham Lane. D Abrey agreed to speak to the people at Business Park or Bev Carey
- A query was raised about the fact that the ponds are dead. C Sutton explained that the Council had been in contact with Suffolk Wildlife Trust several years ago. They were told that no plants would survive while there were ducks on the pond. He put up signs asking residents not to feed the ducks but these were ignored.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm