

**RISBY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Risby Annual Parish Meeting**  
Held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors - Derrick Abrey (Chairman), Ian Turner (Vice-chairman), Jill Gray, Simon Gray, Chris Sutton, Julian Read and Steve Smith

**Also present:** Joanne Kirk (Clerk), Borough Councillor Susan Glossop, County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger and Darren Matthews (Village Hall Trustees)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Four members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Nigel Abrey (Neighbourhood Watch)

Derrick Abrey chaired the meeting. He welcomed everyone present.

**1. Approval of the minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**

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

**2. Risby Village Hall report**

The Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees presented his report. He spoke about:

- The main achievement was the successful installation of the MUGA. The school is using the MUGA on a regular basis. It is also being used for tennis matches.
- The Village Hall Trustees are now VAT registered so can reclaim any VAT paid. This will be used for floodlights for the MUGA.
- The Village Hall is being widely used and bookings were up again last year.
- They have sufficient funds to carry on moving forward. The large hall needs refurbishing and they are currently applying for grants.

**3. Report from Borough Councillor Susan Glossop**

Susan Glossop presented her report. The report included information about the following:

- The main issue she became involved with in Risby was the trees around the playing field.
- Fly tipping is a concern. The Parish Council said that Cavenham Road, Mere Lane, Flempton Road near the bluebell wood and Lackford Lane are particularly bad locations.
- The waste hub is due to open later in the year.
- Speeding on Flempton Road is a problem particularly near Brookes Cambridge.

A copy of the full report is available on request.

**4. Report from County Councillor Becky Hopfsenberger**

The report included information about the following:

- Suffolk County Council has invested £300,000 in thermal patching technology to repair potholes.
- Suffolk County Council has won £4.4 million for "smart" streetlighting. The project will see streetlights adapted in a range of innovative ways, including being equipped with wind vanes and solar panels to generate rather than consume energy. Highways' electricity bill is currently £2.3 million a year and set to rise, so anything that reduces the bill is very welcome.
- The street lights will be equipped with sensors to undertake a range of tasks such as measuring traffic speed and volume; measuring road temperatures – so gritting runs can be better targeted; and indicating whether nearby grit bins need filling or gullies need emptying. The street lights can also be adapted to act as Wi-Fi and 5G transmitters.
- She has asked for the double yellow lines along Newmarket Road to be replaced.
- She has asked George Firth from SCC to include the Parish Council's request to extend the 40mph limit at the end of Crematorium Road to the Westley roundabout and has stated that she supports the request.
- Footpath from School Road to South Street. Residents have contacted her again about putting a pavement to link in with the existing pavements in South St and School Road. There is currently no budget to build a pavement therefore she is seeking advice on what else can be provided.
- School buses. She has asked bus companies not stop in front of the war memorial, though Stevensons has said that there is an official but unmarked bus stop in front of the war memorial.
- She will chase the 'No access to the crematorium sign' again.

- Locality Budget. She has been able to support additional signage to be placed in Mere Lane to reduce HGV movement and to direct traffic to the Crematorium. She has also been able to support the placement of bollards on the green to prevent parking.
- There have been various works carried out with regards to drainage, grips have been dug out in School road to help with drainage issues.

A copy of the full report is available on request.

##### **5. Risby Charities Financial Report**

The income comes from renting land at Poors Heath, Lackford Lane and Cavenham Road.

Balance B/F: £1,320

Income: £14,500

Expenditure: ££14,600

Balance at year end: £1,220

##### **6. Written Report from Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Nigel Abrey**

There have been some incidents happening in Risby, with the police coming to follow up on crimes committed around the village. There are two items which residents should be aware of:

- A copycat website warning. Trading Standards have been alerted to a copycat online application site that is offering to assist with a Blue Badge application for a charge of £49.00. The website appears as the top link when searching for Blue Badge on major search engines. Always ONLY apply via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge>.
- Rogue traders alert. There have been more reports of doorstep callers in Suffolk. Please warn friends, families and neighbours not to deal with any trader cold calling at their property.  
If approached by an unannounced trader at your door, please report to Trading Standards via 03454 040506 or Suffolk Police on 101.

##### **7. Risby Parish Council's Chairman's Report**

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

- Planning applications in the village.
- He thanked the Parish tree wardens Roger Shuttler and Chris Sutton for their hard work.
- A sycamore tree on the Green was found to be very weak following a resistograph survey carried out by Haydens. The decision was made to fell the tree but the Parish Council is awaiting the outcome of its Trees in a Conservation Area application.
- Parking on the Green. Over the years the edge of the Green has been eroded by parked vehicles. The Parish Council has made the decision to install bollards. County Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger has offered to fund them out of her locality budget.
- Dog fouling. There has been a problem with dog walkers throwing poo bags into ditches and hedges. A resident has put up signs asking people not to do this, which appears to be helping.
- Westley School bus. The Parish Council has asked Suffolk County Council to request that the bus company uses the bus stop opposite the village hall rather than in front of the war memorial.
- Highways. There has been no change since last year. Pothole repairs are poor, drains are still blocked after 18 months, grips and gullies have not been dug out resulting in more water on the road, damage to the road surface and roadsides eroding away. Suffolk County Council's response to Highways reports is that they have no money.
- St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council have merged to form a new West Suffolk Council.
- He thanked the resident in the village who keeps the bus shelter clean, the volunteers who keep the village free of litter, the volunteers who distribute flyers, the resident who cuts the grass by Welham Lane Pond, David Letley and the volunteers who take part in Community Speed Watch. He also thanked his fellow councillors and the Parish Clerk for all her hard work and support. So many people contribute in Risby to make the village such a lovely place to live and be a part of.

**8. Financial Report**

The clerk, Joanne Kirk, presented her report. The full report will be available online. No questions were asked.

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

Tree Warden Roger Shuttler said that forty eight trees have been planted round the playing field. The Tree Council will provide free trees if suitable locations can be found.

A resident asked if it would be possible for the tap on the water butt in the churchyard to be fixed and if possible an additional water but provided. Derrick Abrey agreed to speak to the PCC.

No further issues were raised. The meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

Signed .....

Dated.....