RISBY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Risby Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Thursday 4th May 2017

PRESENT: Parish Councillors - Derrick Abrey (Chairman), Ian Turner (Vice-chairman), Jill Gray, Simon Gray, Chris Sutton, Steve Smith, Julian Reed, Joanne Kirk (Clerk), Borough Councillor Susan Glossop

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from County Councillor Beccy Hopfsenberger and CSW co-ordinator David Letley.

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

1. Approval of the minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2016
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman of Risby Parish Council, Derrick Abrey.

2. Written Report from County Councillor Becky Hopfsenberger
The report included information about the following:

- The budget. Suffolk County Council has frozen the general budget for the seventh year in a row, but there was a 3% increase in the precept for adult and social care.
- Her locality budget which was used the help fund the purchase of a mobile vehicle activated sign, the new fence around the war memorial and a new defibrillator.
- Highways matters and the possibility of including Risby in regular liaison meetings with Highways.
- Broadband. Currently there is 90% fibre coverage in Suffolk. The target for 2019 is 97% coverage.
- Education results which continue to improve.

The clerk was asked to contact Beccy about highways concerns as a number of issues have been reported recently and the reports without any action being taken.

3. Report from Borough Councillor Susan Glossop

- Susan Glossop presented her report. The report included information about the following:
  The budget. As grants from Government continue to fall, SEBC has adopted the strategy of becoming more commercial and investing to secure extra funding. Capital investment plans 2017-2021 currently stand at £64 million. This includes £3 million in Barley Homes, SEBC's housing company, and £20 million in our growth agenda plus potential future investment opportunities in Suffolk Business Park, Haverhill Research Park and the delivery of Bury St Edmunds town centre masterplan actions.
- Her locality budget which was used the help fund Risby's defibrillator project.
- Development. There are a number of areas scheduled for development including Marham Park near Fornham All Saints, the Suffolk Business Park near Moreton Hall and a development near Rushbrooke and Nowton. Work has started on the redevelopment of the Station Hill and Tayfen Road area.
- Planning applications in Risby. The outline planning application for a lorry park at Saxham was approved. The decision from the Planning Inspector is still awaited following GAP's appeal against the Enforcement Order on their site at Risby Business Park.
- The West Suffolk Operational Hub. A planning application has been submitted for the Hollow Road site
- 39% of residents have signed up for the brown bin collection service
- Civil parking enforcement which will be taken over by SEBC in 2019.
- The new Fleur Homes development. The 106 funding to improve recreational facilities should be available soon as eight of the properties have already been sold.

The following questions were asked:

- St Edmundsbury Borough Council has prepared a Tree Preservation Officer on the oak trees on the playing field, but the Village Hall Trustees and the Parish Council are concerned that this will slow down any application for the tree works need for two of them to be made safe. Susan Glossop agreed to look into this.
- One resident has concerns about the situation with the current building project in 'Lady Fisher's Field'. He has been told that the developers are working confidently on the basis of receiving further planning permission to extend the project and cover the remaining two fields to the East with houses within 4 years. Susan Glossop said that SEBC's 2030 Local Plan still forms the basis of any planning decisions.
- Risby Business Park. There is spray from the toilet cleaning operations coming over the fence into Welham Lane. One resident has complained to SEBC about this but has not received a response. Susan Glossop agreed ask Environmental Health to investigate.
- Fly tipping is on the increase. This is not helped by the fact that charges are in place for the disposal of plasterboard and hardcore and the fact that charges are based on the number of individual items not size. Susan Glossop agreed to enquire about the rationale behind this.

4. Risby Village Hall report

The Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees presented his report.

- There have been a number of achievements over the last year including new shutters, improvements to the garden area, working on the proposal for a new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).
- Sarah Ellis is stepping down from her role managing bookings at end of June.
- Long term the aim is to improve the small hall by changing the floor, sorting out lights and improving the heating.
- The Trustees are trying to find a builder to help improve the existing structure of the village hall, but this is not proving easy as most contractors have suggested knocking it down and rebuilding which is not an option at present.

5. Risby Charities Financial Report

Balance B/F: £15,700
Expenditure: £13,960

Balance at year end: £1,740

6. Risby Parish Council's Chairman's Report

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

- Two residents have been injured as a result of damaged pavements. Both were reported to Highways who would not take any action. The Parish Council has reported a number of potholes to Suffolk County Council only to be told either that they do not meet SCC's criteria for repair or they receive the following response:
  We have to prioritise everything that we do to make sure that we spend money and effort on the right type of work at the right time. We have taken into account the severity of the issue that you have reported and how many people this issue may affect. At this time, we do not feel that any action is necessary but appreciate that you were concerned enough to report this matter to us. We will continue to monitor this location as part of our routine inspections and works will be carried out if required in the future.
- Highways have been asked to look at the feasibility of building a footway along the Green but have not yet responded.
- Footpath to Newmarket Road is now being cut twice a year by Suffolk County Council as well as by a local farmer.
- Inconsiderate parking on the pavements in South Street continues to be a problem.
- Risby Business Park. An Enforcement Notice was issued by St Edmundsbury Borough Council which GAP has appealed, but GAP is allowed to carry on its current operations until the outcome of the appeal is known.
- An outline application for a lorry park in Saxham has been granted despite Risby Parish Council's objections.
- Fleurs Developments – to date 8 houses have been sold. The affordable housing is now being built.
- The phone box has been adopted by the Parish Council and the telephony removed. The defibrillator will now be purchased.
- West Suffolk Operation Hub – the site in Hollow Road has been chosen.
- Tom McGregor continues to cut the grass on the greens and the Council has received a lot of positive feedback.
- New drain has been laid from Sycamore Pond across the Green.
- Derrick Abrey thanked Cynthia Boreham for keeping the bus shelters clean, Steve Lumley for cutting the grass round Welham Lane pond and the group of volunteers who keep Risby free of litter.

7. Financial Report

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

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

No further issues were raised. The meeting closed at 9p.m.

Signed …… Dated……..