RISBY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Risby Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Thursday 3rd May 2018

PRESENT: Parish Councillors - Derrick Abrey (Chairman), Ian Turner (Vice-chairman), Jill Gray, Simon Gray, Chris Sutton, Steve Smith, Joanne Kirk (Clerk), Borough Councillor Susan Glossop, County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensberger and Darren Matthews (Village Hall Trustees)

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from parish councillor Julian Read.

Derrick Abrey chaired the meeting. He welcomed everyone present.

1. **Approval of the minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 4th May 2017**
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman of Risby Parish Council, Derrick Abrey.

2. **Report from County Councillor Becky Hopfsenberger**
The report included information about the following:
- Broadband. 90% of Suffolk homes have access to superfast broadband. Cabinet member for Better Broadband for Suffolk is liaising with a resident about the service on the eastern side of Risby where some properties only gets 9mbps.
- Children's Services, which continue to improve.
- The budget which increased this year to help cover the cost of social care.
- SCC was chosen as one of the areas to retain 100% of business rates. The money then gets shared between district and borough councils.
- £21 million has been invested in the repairs of Suffolk Roads. Risby has been inspected and the road between Tut Hill and Risby is on the list to be repaired along with several other roads in Risby. Repairs should be permanent not temporary.
- A new chief executive has been appointed
- More than 94% of parents were offered their first choice of school for their children
- Funding is available for central heating for people in fuel poverty
- The Police and Crime Commissioner will be holding a public meeting in Bury St Edmunds on 12th July.
- Her locality budget which will be used for the MUGA in Risby

A question was asked about how Highways can be made accountable for its poor performance. She suggested submitting a formal complaint via her to Highways.

A copy of the full report is available on request.

3. **Report from Borough Councillor Susan Glossop**
Susan Glossop presented her report. The report included information about the following:
- Details of the committees she serves on including Development Control and Overview and Scrutiny
- Details of how she spent her locality budget of £2,500.
- Council Tax and details of the precept figures for Suffolk County Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk Police and Parish/Town councils.
- Proposals for a new West Suffolk Council in May 2019 following the merger of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council.
- The brown bin collection service now has around 30,000 customers, but the uptake is reducing because payment will only be accepted by Direct Debit or online.
- Civil parking enforcement which will be taken over by SEBC in 2021.
- Suffolk Business Park with construction beginning in May 2018.
- The Town Centre Masterplan
- The new Housing Act which came into effect on 3rd April 2018. The Borough Council will now have a duty to help everyone in need of housing, rather than being based on priority need or intentionality.
- Rogue landlords and possible civil sanctions when they endanger the health and well-being of their tenants

One question was asked:
Has the Rural Initiatives Grant been abolished? Susan Glossop confirmed that the grant is not going to be abolished.

A copy of the full report is available on request.

4. **Risby Village Hall report**
The Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees presented his report. He spoke about:
- The Village Hall Trustees have raised enough money to proceed with the MUGA

DRAFT

- They are looking into refurbishing the large hall at a cost of £220,000. They will be applying for grants to fund the work.
- The hall is fully booked every weekday evening apart from Friday so turnover has increased.
- A number of trees on the playing field now have a TPO. A recent survey has highlighted the risk from a large oak tree in 2-3 years, so the Village Hall Trustees will be looking at measures to make it safe.

5. Risby Charities Financial Report

Balance B/F: £1,740
Income: £14,500
Expenditure: £14,920

Balance at year end: £1,320

6. Risby Parish Council's Chairman's Report

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

- The Fisher's Field development is now complete
- The Parish Council has adopted the phone box and a defibrillator has been installed
- The Crown and Castle has been nominated as a community asset
- GAP has withdrawn from Risby Business Park and is now operating from Ely
- Parking on The Green has been an ongoing problem which the Parish Council will continue to monitor
- Highways problems continue to be a frustration. Overgrown hedges are a concern around the village.
- Speeding in the village does not meet the criteria for enforcement. The 85th percentile in South St is 32.5mph and 32mph in Flempton Road.

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. He also the thanked the Parish Clerk for all her hard work and support.

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

- One question was raised about the poor performance from Highways. The Council explained that Highways is the responsibility of Suffolk County Council and that complaints should be directed to them.
- Another question was asked about housing allocation in Risby. The Council explained that the Local Plan is currently being reviewed.

No further issues were raised. The meeting closed at 9.10p.m.

Signed …… Dated……..

DRAFT