

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER, 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Cllrs.K.Goodger (Chairman) T.Bennett, M.Brown, S, Dobson, C.Freer, S.Kerr, V.Pratley and G.Tomkins and the Clerk.

Also present for the start of the meeting was Mr.,D.Bonner

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dist.Cllr, V. Spikings, Dist.Cllr.D.Pope, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO Claire Law of Downham Market Police Station.

2. Public Participation

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

Mr.Bonner raised the question as to whether there had been any feed back or developments following the meeting with Highways and the Environment Agency on 3rd June. He was advised that despite e-mails and telephone calls to the Highways office nothing had as yet been heard from them. It was agreed to forward a copy of the report of the meeting on 3rd June to Mr.Bonner for his information, and the matter would be discussed further under Section 13 Highway Matters

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

4. Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd August, 2010, having been circulated to all councillors were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting following the amendments in Sections 11 and 13, which were initialled.

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would like to have more information included in the minutes particularly when certain items were discussed at length, and the Chairman reminded Councillors that if they considered a specific item or point of discussion should be minuted then they simply had to ask for it to be included in the minutes.

5. Casual Vacancy.

It was confirmed to the meeting that Mr.E.Allen had submitted his resignation from the Parish Council on 23rd August, with immediate effect, due to pressure of work. The Clerk confirmed that the Borough Council had been informed and necessary notices displayed advertising the vacancy. A 14 day period has to be allowed for this and if nothing is heard by the Borough Council by 15th September, then the Parish Council will be asked to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Clerk confirmed that on the assumption that we are asked to co-opt, then notices will be prepared to advertise the fact, and these will be included on the notice boards, in the Welney News and on the website. Hopefully it might be possible to co-opt someone at the October meeting.

6. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – Mr.Allen had handed back the file for the Community Speed Watch, and Cllrs.were asked if anyone would be willing to take it on. After a brief discussion it was agreed to write to all parties who had expressed an interest, explaining the current situation, and asking if they would like to get together to take over the running of the scheme.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments. Mr. Copeman reported that everything is progressing well at the allotment field. The rain has helped everyone's crops grow as well as the rubbish – however some of the allotment holders are trying to keep some of the areas clean. Thanks were extended to Cllr.Bennett for cutting the pathway across the field, and it was also confirmed that hopefully there will be an article in the next Welney News with photographs showing the village what has been achieved so far.

3. Meeting with adjoining Councils – Cllr.Bennett gave a brief report on the meeting held at Manea on 11th August, and confirmed that he thought it was one of the best meetings so far. No report had been received from Manea Parish Council, and it was agreed to contact the Clerk to see if he had

anything available that could be included on our website and circulated to all councillors who were not able to attend

4. Notice Board – Top of New Road –Cllr.Kerr confirmed that he was working on the Notice board and hopefully it would not be too long before it was installed.

7. Finance

The following invoices had been received for payment, and on the proposition of Cllr.Brown, seconded by Cllr.Dobson, and agreed, the cheques were signed:

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk		
Emptying dog Waste Bins – Two Invoices		
1.1.10 to 31.3.10	50 . 41	
1.4.10 to 30.6.10	<u>69 . 04</u>	119 . 45
MHB Services Limited		
Street Lighting Maintenance 13.8.10 to 12.10.10		104 . 55
Mazars		
Audit Fee for year ended 31.3.10		158 . 62
Paid by Direct Debit		
13.8.10	E-On Street Lighting	59 . 81
1.9.10	Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary	255 . 68
1.9.10	E-On Electric Parish Hall	40 . 62
1.9.10	E-On Electric Pavilion	22 . 91

Annual return – The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return had been received from Mazars, duly completed and signed and everything was in order. As required, a Completion of Audit Notice had been published together with a copy of the Annual Return, and these were displayed in the Parish Hall Notice board and on the Parish Council website.

8. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked and £6.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – A letter had been received from Fraser Dawbarns confirming that the Environment Agency is anxious to complete the matter. However Elgoods have had to put the matter back until 2011 and that it is dependent on the sale of another property. Fraser Dawbarns requested instructions as to how to reply to the Environment Agency. After discussion it was agreed to reply and confirm that the Parish Council are prepared to wait until 2011 but would prefer the matter to be completed as early as possible in the new year and to inform the Environment Agency of the current position.

The Clerk confirmed that the Youth Club had now booked the hall on Friday evenings from 17th September up to the Christmas period, and that the Dog Training Classes were also to recommence on the second Wednesday in October.

The Clerk also confirmed that the Washbasin in the Gent's toilet appeared to be coming away from the wall and is in need of some attention. Cllr.Kerr agreed to attend to this and also to replace the fuse in the hand drier.

A telephone call had been received from Mrs.Tomkins asking if the Parish Council still wanted the electronic organ which Cllr.Tomkins had obtained sometime ago. If it was no longer required, then she had someone who would like it. After a brief discussion it was agreed that at present we have no room for the Organ and it should be passed to the interested party.

The Clerk then handed out copies of a letter she had received from a resident following a booking of the Parish Hall for a Family Party on 28th August. The letter contained complaints relating to hygiene standards in the Hall and overall general cleanliness. After a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Bennett, seconded by Cllr. Pratley and unanimously agreed, that we reply confirming that the Council are disappointed that the problems were not brought to the attention of them before continuing with the hiring, especially as there had been more than one opportunity for the hirer to inspect the hall well in advance of the booking date. It was also agreed that we should confirm that the Hall is an old building, and the cleaning is carried out on a voluntary basis. However thanks were to be expressed for the work carried out and as a one off gesture of good faith, a cheque should be enclosed returning half the hiring fee, together with the cost of their purchase of a new toilet seat. It was agreed that in future, all persons wishing to hire the hall should inspect before confirming their booking., and only to continue if they are satisfied with the condition

9. Proposed New Community Centre

An e-mail was received from Mr. Briscoe of Peter Humphrey Associates regarding our revised layout for the proposed new community centre. He had at last been able to contact the planning office who had replied confirming that basically they were happy with the revised proposals but queried if the position of the hall square to the boundary would interfere with the viewing and scoring of the cricket use. Also the new application would need to show how the loss of the trees would be addressed in terms of new planning and a reasonably detailed description of the play area would need to accompany the application. He also confirmed that most teenage shelters were of modular construction allowing installation of size and shape required. The planning office was in the process of finding plans that would be acceptable.

Following discussion it was agreed to write to Mr. Loveday to ask for confirmation that the proposed new location for the hall would be acceptable to the Cricket Club.

It was also agreed that the trees removed for the development would be replaced by new native trees and that the children's play area would contain swings, slides and a climbing frame and a basket ball hoop. It was proposed by the chairman, seconded by Cllr. Kerr and agreed that the teenage shelter should be included on the planning application and positioned to the south of the children's play area on the western boundary of the field close to the fence.

10. Playing Field

Nothing to report.

11. Correspondence

1. E-mail from CPRE – 26th August – Green Buildings in Norfolk – Open Days – Thursday 23rd and Sunday 26th September.
2. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk 25th August – KL and West Norfolk Local Development Framework – Core Strategy – Focused changes to Proposed Submission Document.
3. Norfolk Association of Village Halls – Newsletter September 2010
4. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – 5th August – Copy of Proposed Council Tax Increase Referendums
5. Norfolk Rural Community Council – Changing Lives Locally – Details of an event to be held on Tuesday 28th September – Pennoyer Heritage Community and Business Centre, South Norfolk
6. National Association of Local Councils – Response to the Community Right to Build announced on 23rd July
7. Hethersett Parish Council has a Teen Shelter to dispose of. Good condition, offers to Hethersett Buyer to dismantle and remove,
8. Norfolk County Council – Planning Services – E-Planning -17th August, 2010. From mid-September planning applications can be submitted on line via the Planning Portal.
9. Norfolk Playing Field Newsletter – Summer 2010 together with various leaflets relating to play equipment and playground surfaces.
10. Third Monthly Report from Elizabeth Truss MP regarding her activities within the constituency.
11. Norfolk Constabulary – Downham Safer Neighbourhood Team – next meeting Fire Station at Downham Market Friday 3rd September from 7 p.m.
12. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Copy of letter from Natural England regarding New Guidance on Assessing Land for Designation as an area of outstanding natural beauty or a National Park – Your Chance to Comment. Comments must be received by 8th October, 2010.

13. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Copy of August 2010 Norfolk Link, Being a good Employer: A guide for Parish and Town Councillors, Elections 2011: - Course for Clerks to cover the period up to and after the Elections – Details of Training Course –
14. No Need for Nuclear – August 2010 – House of Commons Early Day Motion No. 557 – Campaign Newsletter for information
15. BCKLWN – August 2010 – Details of Register of Electors and how to ensure you are registered. Poster displayed in the Notice Board.
16. Borough Council – e-mail 6th August – Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge – Grassroots legacy programme to mark the two great events that are taking place in the UK in 2010. Her majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2010 Olympics. First project to be endorsed by the Queen and will aim to protect 2012 playing fields in communities all across the country to be known as Queen Elizabeth II Fields,
17. Various Norfolk Constabulary and Home Watch reports and crime details.
18. Norfolk RCC Invitation to joint meeting of Norfolk RCC and the Norfolk Rural Forum on 15th September at RCC offices in Dereham – Topic for the meeting – Ends of the Spectrum to look at the future of rural communities for both young people and the elderly,
19. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Details of AGM Nomination of Officers, and Agenda for the meeting on 11th September at Narborough Village Hall and copies of the Annual Report and details of the Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2011,
20. Norfolk Rural Community Council – Copy of Signpost Sept.2010 and also the Annual Report
21. NALC – 3.9.10 – EDP West and Fens Contributions sought.
22. NALC – Observations by 8.10.10 – Concessionary bus travel consultation. Details on website www.engagepace.co.uk/engage/Norfolk/default.aspx

12. Plans and Planning Matters

The following planning application was notified to all councillors following the last meeting and as no adverse comments were received the forms were returned recommending approval
Ref No. 10/01300/F – Mr. & Mrs. D.Hall;
Construction of two four bed dwellings following demolition of agricultural buildings at High Hill Farm, Main Street, Welney.

Cllr.Bennett requested that when planning applications fall between meetings, then a site meeting should be arranged so that councillors can discuss the application as a group, and it was agreed that this should be implemented.

The following planning refusal was received from the Borough Council dated 9th August
Ref No. 10/01001/F – Mr. M. Cowell
First Floor and two storey extension to dwelling at White Cottage, Back Drove, Welney

Following the last meeting a letter had been sent to the planning office regarding Hobby Cottage and the advertising boards at Wisbech Road. Nothing had been heard and it was agreed to write again.

13. Highway Matters

1. Communications had been sent to Mr.Eastgate and Mr.Edmunds of Highways regarding an update and any developments following the meeting on 3rd June. Nothing had been heard since that meeting and it was agreed that a further letter should be sent asking for an immediate reply. A letter and a copy of the meeting report should also be sent to Dist.Cllr.V.Spikings asking for any help that she can give.
2. Spraying of Footpath from Old Nursery to Stockyard Farm. Confirmation had been received that the work should be carried out within the next few weeks.
3. A letter was received from Norfolk County Council dated 20th August confirming that the A.1122 Nordelph to Salters Lode Carriageway Reconstruction would be taking place in two phases and that the road will need to be closed. The first phase east of Nordelph will start on 18th October and should take about six weeks and the second phase will start on 29th November and take approximately 2 weeks. Details will be sent closer to the time with all final arrangements and duration details.
4. A damaged Give Way Sign on New Road had been reported to Highways and repairs had been carried out.

5. It was confirmed to the meeting that several of the road flooded signs are currently open especially the ones at Lotts Bridge crossroads. This would be reported to Highways for attention.

6. Rutland House Corner, Tipps End. It was agreed to write to Highways to ask that this problem hedge should be removed as soon as possible. There have been several accidents over recent months and within the last week, one of the Councillors had had his vehicle written off in a collision on that corner. Something must be done before someone is killed.

14. Environmental Issues.

The Dog warden had confirmed that they are doing their best to patrol the local villages regarding dog fouling but have not as yet got the complete programme up and running. They do carry out random checks but obviously do not advise when they are coming, or that they have been – only those that are actually caught and can be summonsed will be aware of the visit.

Following the last meeting, contact was made with the Borough Council regarding the parking of vehicles for sale on the grass area at the entrance to Chestnut Avenue. However before they could take any action all the vehicles disappeared and none have returned. I will advise them immediately if this practice should start up again.

14. Items for Next Agenda

1. Dog Bins
2. Street Lighting.
3. Possibility of bringing shop facilities back into the village.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.

Signed.....K. Goodger..... (Chairman)

Dated5th October, 2010.....