

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 2nd OCTOBER, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present**

Cllr.K. Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs T.Bennett, T.Bray, S.Dobson J.Elliott, T. Eyles, C.Freer, V.Pratley, G.Rainbird, Dist.Cllr.V.Spikings and the Clerk. .

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced PCSO Esther Bortz from Downham Market Police Station. She confirmed that following an approach from the Council she had attended the school and given a talk to the children and included details of the damage which had occurred to the Parish Hall. She confirmed that she was looking into the problem with large vehicles parking in dangerous positions. She then went on to explain that people with oil tanks should be very vigilant at this time of the year to try and safeguard the contents of their tanks, and handed out leaflets for distribution. Finally she confirmed that some stolen property from around the area, had been appearing at local auctions and the police were keeping a very close watch on this problem. Grateful thanks were extended to her for her help and she promised to keep in touch with the Clerk.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Dist.Cllr.D.Pope and C.Cllr.H.Humphrey.

**2. Public Participation**

None

**3. Declaration of Interests**

None at this stage.

**4 Minutes of Last Meetings**

The Chairman recorded grateful thanks to Cllr.Bennett for standing in for him at the last Parish Council meeting and also at other meetings in the meantime because of a very busy period in the farming year. The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

**5. Matters Arising**

**1. In-House Training** – 6 Councillors and the Clerk attended the Training Session taken by Mrs.Sue Lake from Norfolk County Office. All those who attended agreed that it had been an extremely useful and informative session and very much enjoyed. The Clerk confirmed that she would copy the paperwork handed out by Mrs.Lake for those councillors who were unable to attend.

**2. Meeting of Adjoining Councils**– Copies of the notes from the meeting held at Littleport on 3<sup>rd</sup> September had been circulated to all councillors together with a copy of the reply which the Clerk at Littleport had received from the Environment Agency. It was agreed that another meeting of the Group should take place in approximately six months and the item would be kept on the Agenda so that a date could be arranged in the New Year. Cllr.Bennett had attended the joint meeting of Parish Councils at Marshland St.James on 24th September and a copy of the notes of that meeting had also been circulated to all councillors.

Following the last meeting, the Clerk had sent a letter to Norfolk County Council regarding the Broadband requirements for Norfolk and advising them there are areas within Welney that are not able to receive broadband. An Information Sheet has since been received from NCC dated 18<sup>th</sup> September advising that their Cabinet have approved the appointment of BT to partner them in the better broadband for Norfolk project and that £15m will come from NCC and £15 from central government. However there are still several matters to be sorted out but they are hopeful the contract will be signed later this autumn. Installation work is hoped to start in the spring with first services to some areas being available next year. Further updates will be sent out in due course.

3. Holiday Home Regulations – Cllr.Dobson explained that she had raised this matter as concern was being expressed that holiday homes in the village were being occupied as full time residences. After considerable discussion it was agreed to report to the Borough Planning Office that properties at Pisces Country Park, Bedford Bank and possibly Hundred Foot Bank are being occupied all year round.

4 Childrens' Party Day – It was confirmed that if a party for the children could not be organised later this year, then it should be left until next year, and this matter would not appear on the Agenda any more.

5. Sandgate Corner Allotment Field. – The Clerk confirmed that an e-mail had been received from the Borough Council stating that they are dealing with Parish Council's request to consider a reduced rental for the field as the uptake of allotments had not met expectations and the income did not now meet the rental. The Parish Council would be prepared to plough up the bulk of the field and re-seed at their own expense and keep the area tidy. The Clerk confirmed that as soon as an answer was received from the Borough she would inform everyone.

6. Stopping the Incinerator at King's Lynn – Confirmation had been received from Planning Services at Norfolk County Council confirming that the planning application for the Incinerator had been called in for determination by the Secretary of State. An e-mail had also been received from the Borough Council confirming a briefing session on 1<sup>st</sup> October and Drop in Session at Downham Market Town Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would be attending the drop in session.

## **6. Finance**

**a. Approval of Accounts for Payment -** On the proposal of Cllr Elliott, seconded by Cllr.Eyles and agreed, the following cheques were signed:

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses		48 . 61
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk		
Emptying Bin at Bridge from August 2012 to March 2013		53 . 14
Mazars – Audit Fee		186 . 00
Welney Croft Cricket Club		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half years grass cutting on playing field	362 . 50	
:Less payment for 10 Home Matches	<u>250 . 00</u>	112 . 50
Paid by Direct Debit:		
1.10.12	Mrs.P.Copeman Clerks Salary	255 . 68
10.10.12	E-On Street Lighting Elec	62 . 19

End of Financial Year – The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return had now been completed and signed by Mazars and returned. There were a minor comments on the form which the Clerk pointed out to Council. A copy is displayed in the Parish Council Notice Board and a copy will also be put on the website.

The Charity Commission - Annual Return for the Playing Field has been completed on line.

### **Formal adoption of Code of Conduct and Members Register of Interest Forms**

The Clerk confirmed that the forms have all been copied and the original sent off to the Borough Council for their records. The forms used were those prepared by the Borough Council and on the proposition of Cllr.Freer, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and agreed these forms were formally adopted.

## **7. Review of Parish Action Plan**

Councillors then studied at length the Welney Parish Action Plan from March 2008 in order to formulate a review and update of the plan. Several suggestions and comments were made and the Clerk would be formulating these and sending Councillors a copy for final approval at the next meeting.

## **8. Open Meeting**

All Councillors had been advised that a date had been arranged for the Open Meeting on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall. This date had been arranged in order that a notice giving the details could be included in the next edition of the Welney News. Final details would be made at the November Parish Council but in the meantime the Clerk confirmed that she would put together a poster for the event and circulate it to some of the Councillors who had agreed to advertise.

## **9. Parish Hall**

The electricity meters had been checked before the meeting and there was no money.

At the last meeting the question of replacing the Perspex doors on the notice board was discussed and the cost of Perspex was investigated. This had proved to be more than originally thought and consequently the work had not yet been carried out. However Cllr.Dobson advised the meeting that she had found a new sheet at her home and was prepared to donate this for the notice board doors. The Clerk confirmed that in view of this the work would be carried out as soon as possible and grateful thanks were extended to Cllr.Dobson for her generous donation.

Access Ramp at the side of the Parish Hall. This has now been repaired with bricks and is once again safe to use. Repair work has also been carried out to the side of the steps leading up from the car park. Councillors mentioned that when leaving the hall in the dark the steps are quite dangerous as you cannot see the bottom and two councillors had recently fallen on the bottom step. The Chairman confirmed that he would ask his electrician to see if he could put a time delay on the outside light so that it gave persons time to get down the steps while the light was still on.

## **10 Proposed New Community Centre**

The Clerk confirmed that she had received an e-mail from Mike Carter at Fens Adventurers Rural Development Programme confirming that the Local Action Group are supportive of our proposal and have invited a full application for funding.

After considerable discussion it was unanimously agreed to form a sub-committee to work on the application forms. This would be made up of the Chairman, Cllr.Bray and the Clerk and they would of course report back to the full council on grant applications made and information received. The Clerk was asked to e-mail the various application forms received so far to Cllrs.Goodger and Bray, and then the three persons would have a meeting in approximately 3 weeks to go through the forms. It was further agreed to form a Fund Raising Sub-committee comprising, at this stage, Cllrs.Dobson, Pratley and Eyles and initial suggestions for investigation were Pub Quiz Night, Bar-B-Q, Possible Open Day at Pates Farm and the Delta Pilots Concert. Regular reports would be made to the full Council and other suggestions invited at the Open Day in November

## **11. Playing Field**

Nothing further had been heard from the gentleman who wanted accommodation for the overnight stop in May 2013 for the walk from Newmarket to Catterick.

Contact had been made with the Housing Association regarding the large van parked on the roadway near the Pavilion which was causing an obstruction, but nothing further had been heard.

The Chairman confirmed that he would make arrangements to display suitable notices regarding dogs not fouling the playing field. He also confirmed that he would ask his electrician to take a look at the heater in the Pavilion which is not working, and would also ask his builder to either block up or reglaze the various broken windows.

## **12. Correspondence**

1. Norfolk Playing Fields Association – Autumn Newsletter 2012
2. Norfolk County Council – E-Mail 25.9.12 Norfolk Mineral Site Specific Allocations Development Plan, and all relevant paperwork (e-mailed to councillors, for information)
3. Borough Council – Agenda and Meeting Reports
4. Welney Playing Field has now gone live on spogo – the new online Sport and fitness finder at [www.spogo.co.uk](http://www.spogo.co.uk)
5. West Norfolk Partnership – Youth Advisory Board recently established
6. Norfolk Police – West Norfolk Home Watch Association meeting at King's Lynn Police Station on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7 p.m. Current home watch co-ordinators or those interested in setting up schemes are invited.
7. 26<sup>th</sup> Monthly report from Elizabeth Truss MP
8. Active Norfolk .org – Looking to recruit village sports co-ordinators to be main point of contact and get involved in organising sports road shows, and getting more villages involved in the Village games. Small remuneration of £300 plus £200 expenses.
9. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – Visit re Change of Bin Service has been cancelled for November but Open Evenings are being arranged for Councillors and dates and venues will be supplied in due course.
10. Norfolk County Council – Review of Registry Office Opening Hours – No changes to Downham Market Office. Agreed to include this information in the next Welney News.

## **13. Plans and Planning Matters**

Nothing to report.

## **14 Highway Matters**

Cllr.Bennett and Cllr.Pratley had a long meeting with Mr.Andy Wallace of Highways on 19<sup>th</sup> September and discussed all the points on the following list. They also drove around the village and visited all problems.

1. Problem in the surface of the A.1101 opposite Bells Drove
  2. The broken metal legs on the new barriers at Suspension Bridge
  3. Large dip in the road outside Briard Lodge on March Road
  4. Main Street is now in a really bad condition and in urgent need of attention
  5. Gratings/drain covers on Wisbech Road/Main Street are now standing proud and causing problems
  6. Hedges at Tipps End. Some of the hedges have been trimmed but others are badly overgrown and large vehicles are having problems negotiating the roads,
  7. Bad Dip in the road near Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank.,
  8. Wash Road – Any progress at all especially with the dot matrix signs and levelling
  9. The meeting was advised that there appears to be a “lean” on Suspension Bridge.
- Mr.Wallace explained that several of the items were scheduled to be dealt with shortly and hopefully the Parish Council would be kept informed.

With regard to the Wash Road, it was agreed that a further meeting was now required, and the Clerk was requested to contact Highways (Norfolk and Cambridgeshire) and the Environment Agency and try and arrange this for a Friday in mid November. Once the date is arranged then Dist Cllrs.Pope and Spikings, C.Cllr.Humphrey, Police and the M.P. would also be invited.

One other point which was raised was with regard to work which had been carried out on Wisbech Road over the past months. The Parish Council would be interested to hear how this work, which was reported by an individual, was carried out so quickly when the Council do not seem to be able to get anything done!. Mr.Wallace confirmed that the most recent work carried out on this stretch was because the original work had not been carried out correctly and the contractors were recalled to make good their initial mistakes.

An E-mail had been received confirming that the Highway and Community Rangers will be visiting Welney during the week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> October, and it was hoped that during their visit they may be able to attend to some of the items on our list – and any other points which need attention.

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that himself and Cllr.Lester from Upwell Parish Council would be attending a Meeting/Workshop at Leziate on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October, called by Norfolk C.P.R.E. in connection with the Rights of Way matters affecting Norfolk.

**15. Environmental Matters**

1. Hundred Foot Bank – Concrete Access Road

Following the last meeting an e-mail was sent to Philip Gelsthorpe at the Environment Agency and a reply was received on 18<sup>th</sup> September confirming that he was dealing with matters. Cllr.Pratley gave a brief report on developments so far, and it was agreed that while the Parish Council could not be directly involved in this matter, the item should remain on the Agenda for future updates.

2. Parking Area at the Side of the Parish Hall.

Nothing at all had been heard from the Environment Agency regarding the potholes at the side of the Parish Hall and it was agreed that if no reply was forthcoming, the Clerk would send a photograph of the current situation and ask for immediate attention.

**16. Items for Next Agenda**

None.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

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

Dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012.....