

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY
ON TUESDAY 7TH MAY, 2013 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs. T.Bennett, T.Bray, S.Dobson, J.Elliott, C.Freer, G.Rainbird and the Clerk. Mr.N. Fleming also attended for part of the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman for the year 2013/2014

The Chairman (Cllr.Goodger) asked for nominations for the post of Chairman for the coming year, and he was nominated by Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr.Elliott. He confirmed that he would be willing to stand for a further year if no-one else was nominated. There being no further nominations everyone confirmed agreement, and he was duly appointed. He then signed the Declaration of acceptance of office form for the coming year.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs.T.Eyles and V.Pratley, District Cllr, D.Pope, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO Esther Bortz.

3. Public Participation

None

4. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

5. Election of Vice Chairman fore the year 2013/2014

Cllr.Bennett was nominated by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr.Freer and unanimously agreed. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would be willing to take on the post, and he also signed the declaration of acceptance of office form for the coming year. He was thanked by the Chairman for his help during the past year,

6. Election of Parish Council Committees

a. W.A.S.H. Committee – The Wash Committee comprises Cllr.Goodger, Mr.T.Copeman, Mr.T. and Mrs. C. Bray and on the proposition of Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Freer and agreed, the committee were re-elected en-bloc.

b. Allotment Committee –The whole Parish Council form the allotment committee and it was agreed that this would continue. The Clerk confirmed that two full allotments and two half allotments would not be required after the end of the current year – 30th June. This will leave two full size allotments and one half allotment let which would bring in a rental of £87.50 There is currently £247.09 in the allotment account which would mean that there is sufficient for at least a further year. It is proposed that as the houses are refurbished and let in Chestnut Avenue a notice will be put through the letter boxes asking if anyone is interested in an allotment, and see if there are any further takers. A further decision can then be made say April/May next year as to what course of action should be taken. Grateful thanks are extended to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for helping to keep the field clean, and if this could continue occasionally over the next year it would be appreciated.

7. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April, 2013 having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

8. Matters Arising.

a. Village Infrastructure – The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting she had written again to UK Power Networks and had received an email dated 9th April confirming that they would keep the Parish Council updated regarding work to the lines etc. in an effort to cut back on the power cuts and voltage drops being experienced in and around the village.

b. Parish Council News – It was agreed to keep this item on the Agenda for the next meetings, and hopefully sort out the content and layout. Cllr.Bennett read out some ideas which he had put together regarding points affecting the village and he agreed to bring these back to the next meeting.

c. Catterick or Bust – The Clerk confirmed that the team walking from Newmarket to Catterick and raising funds for Help for Heroes would be staying overnight on the playing field Sunday 12th May. The Clerk confirmed that she would meet them on site and open the Pavilion and also show them where they could set up camp.

d. Parish Council Database – It was agreed to leave this item on the Agenda for updates. Also those persons who had expressed a wish to be included could be circulated with Meeting Notices, Wash Road Alerts, Forthcoming Events, Dot-Matrix Signs etc.

9. Reports of Village Organisations

a. William Marshall Charity – The Chairman gave a brief report for the Charity and explained that the Charity monies were split between the three funds – Widows, Church and General Purposes Fund. It was also reported that the School had received a donation from the Charity for new books for the School Library and the official opening would take place between 1 and 4 p.m. on Friday 10th May, 2013.

b. Bishops Land Charity – The Clerk gave a brief report on behalf of the Trustees and a copy is attached in the Minute Book.

10. Finance

a. **Approval of Accounts for Payment** – The following invoices were received and on the proposition of Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Bray and agreed, the cheques were signed:
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses 22 . 20

BCKLWN – Litter Bin Collection from Parish Hall
Year for April 2-13 to March 2014 90 . 00

The Clerk had received a call from Cllr.Dobson confirming that this bin had not been emptied for approximately 3 weeks. Mr.Lovejoy at the Borough Council was contacted and apologised that they were having trouble with their software since the change over to two weekly collections, but this was been sorted and would be emptied and put right in the very near future.

Westcotec- Street Lighting Maintenance March & April 2013-04-29 115 . 76

BCKLWN – Emptying Dog Bins from 1.4.12 to 21.3.13 299 . 52
This sum will be reduced for the current year because the dog bin near the Parish Hall has been removed as the litter bin is now in place.

Anglian Water – Water bill for Parish Hall for the period
from 4.9.12 to 27.3.13 143 . 68

The following account was presented to the meeting and on the proposition of Cllr.Freer seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed, the cheque was signed:
Game & Company – Parish Council and Parish Hall Insurance
for the year commencing 7.6.13 1,378 . 25

After a short discussion it was agreed to ask the Company for a breakdown of the premium between the Parish Council and the Parish Hall, and also to ask for the sums insured for the Hall and the Pavilion, and if either building was destroyed would the Parish Council receive the full sum insured.

Paid by Direct Debit

1.5.13 Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary	255 . 68
11.4.13 E-On – Electric for lights	60 . 19
1.5.13 E-On – Electric for Parish Hall	140 . 51

16.5.13 E-On – Electric for Pavilion	75 . 76
<u>Paid into Parish Council account</u>	
5.4.13 Borough Council – Precept	10,000.00

b. The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013

These are normally approved at the AGM, but as last year, it will have to be the June meeting. Mazars the external auditors did not send the forms out until the second week in April, and as the accounts have to go to the Internal Auditor before they are presented to the Council, it is not possible to get everything ready for the AGM. The Accounts will be with the Internal Auditor by the end of this week. The deadline for the Annual Return to be back to the External Auditor is 5th July so Council will have plenty of time. A draft copy of the accounts was handed to Councillors for their information prior to hopefully confirming everything at the June meeting.

c. Consider Purchase of new Printer for Clerks use.

The Clerk requested that as she had always used her own printer for Parish Council work, and it was now coming to the end of its useful life, would the Parish Council consider paying for a new printer for the Clerk's use. After a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Freer, seconded by Cllr.Bennett and agreed that a new printer could be purchased, as reasonably as possible, and the Parish Council would refund the cost to the Clerk.

11. Empty Houses in Chestnut Avenue.,

This item was raised at the end of the last meeting by Cllr.Dobson as the William Marshall School were very concerned about pupil numbers because of the large number of empty houses in Chestnut Avenue. The Clerk contacted Freebridge Community Housing who own the properties, Freebridge advised that the extensive external and internal improvements to the houses would commence in May 2013 and be completed in phases, with the finish date for the site currently due in July 2014. The properties where people have moved out permanently would be advertised as normal through the Homechoice register as soon as the work is completed to them and they will be advertised specifically for families with children meaning that there will be no long term effect on the numbers of children attending the School. Councillors could not understand how Freebridge could know this and Cllr.Dobson confirmed that the funding for the school is based on the numbers attending in October, and as it is unlikely that many of the houses will be re-let before then, it is possible that at least the forthcoming years numbers will certainly be affected. It was agreed to monitor developments.

12. Possible Litter Pick in and around the Village.

Cllr.Dobson had been approached by some residents regarding the possibility of the Council organising a litter pick around the village. After a brief discussion and confirmation of the fact that this item would not be covered under Parish Council insurance, it was agreed to approach the Borough Council to see if they had anything in place for such an event. i.e. Bags, collection of full bags and Hi-Viz jackets.

13. Parish Hall.

The electricity meters were checked and the sum of £9.00 was removed for the month since the last meeting.

14. Proposed New Community Centre.

Mrs.R.Shorting from Upwell had attended a meeting prior to the Parish Council meeting and given very useful information regarding the wooden building which they had erected on the Playing Field at Upwell. A brief report of that meeting is attached to the minutes for information. It was however agreed that whilst their building is very useful and certainly less expensive, at this stage we should continue with our plans and not consider downsizing. If funding could not be found to cover the cost of the present plans, then downsizing would still be an option.

The Clerk confirmed that a copy of the current plans would be sent to English Brothers at Wisbech with a request that they give us an approximate cost for a timber structure on the same lines as the

current plans. Hopefully this information would be available before the next meeting when it could be considered by Council.

With regard to Funding for the new Building, Marshall's Charity had confirmed that they would be happy to act as third party funders for a WREN application, and understand their 10% contribution will reduce the committed sum by that amount. As soon as required, they would be happy to provide a formal letter confirming this commitment. Information for any application to WREN has to be upgraded as the original quotation from the builder is now well over a year old, and it is anticipated that prices will have increased by at least 10% in that time. Also some of the items which we can include in our application to WREN were not included in the original quote so these will have to be listed and priced.

Following the first meeting, Mrs.Wood had advised Council regarding possible applications to The National Lottery for funding and she also agreed to obtain the necessary forms and then contact the Clerk. It was also agreed to contact the Architect for confirmation as to whether we had reached RIBA Stage 2 as this information would be needed for any applications to National Lottery.

An e-mail was received from Mrs.Barr confirming that she had spoken to her contacts at Natural England and regrettably there was now no funding pot available, nor likely to be in the near future.

Mr. Fleming raised the question as to why a new building could not be built on the existing Hall Site. The Chairman explained that whilst the Parish Council owned the building we only rented the site from the Environment Agency and the lease of the site would be coming up for renewal in a very few years time. The Chairman also went onto explain that if there were any misgivings about the current proposals these could be included on the next Agenda for further discussion.

On 18th April the Clerk received a compliment slip from Mr.Nigel Elgood with a copy of a letter he had sent to his MP Steve Barclay regarding the Wash Road and the way in which it affected the business at The Lamb and Flag and Elgoods commitment to the Village. The last paragraph confirmed that Elgoods would not be able to proceed with their promise to the Council to help with improvements to the facilities - £15,000 on completion of the sale and purchase of the Hall Site, and a further £15,000 once Elgoods started building on the site. At the request of the chairman, the Clerk had sent copies of the letters to both Elizabeth Truss MP and Vicky Ford MEP. Elizabeth Truss' office had called to express concern and asked that we forward a copy of any reply to Elgoods for her information. After a brief discussion it was agreed to Belinda Sutton at Elgoods and ask for the up to date position so that the Council were fully in the picture.

15. Playing Field.

A further letter had been received from Mr.Carter at The Sands, March Road, regarding the conifer trees on the boundary of The Sands and the Playing Field. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had called and spoken to Mr.Carter on 7th May, and Mr.Carter has already started work on some of his own trees. The Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to make a joint visit to Mr.Carter during the week commencing 13th May and decide on site what action should be taken.

16. Correspondence

1. 32nd Monthly report from Elizabeth Truss MP
2. PCSO Esther Bortz confirming that herself and Tracy Millburn will be doing a Crime Reduction Talk at The Wetland Trust on 6th June at 6.30 p.m. I understand from Cllr.Bennett that the Wildfowl Trust are making arrangements for a notice regarding this to appear in the next Welney News and I have also included notices in the Parish Hall and the outside Notice Board.
3. BCKLWN – Get Into an Active Lifestyle – Details of sporting activities taking place throughout the Borough
4. Royal Mail – Important information regarding changes to Royal Mail deliveries in the area.
5. Norfolk Constabulary – Top Tips for keeping your property safe.
6. Hayley Kurt – Borough Council – Recycling Caddy Liners – The Council are very pleased with how many people have got involved with the food waste service. Would the Parish be interested in purchasing a box of 50 rolls of liners at a total cost of £57.50 (£1.15 per roll) This could be very useful for those

residents who do not travel into Downham Market or King's Lynn to purchase a roll direct from the Council Office. If it could be of interest they would need a cheque for £57.50 and then they would sent out the box. We could then advertise within the village that the rolls would be available from the Parish Council. After a brief discussion, Cllr.Dobson confirmed that these bags for the food waste bins can be purchased in the supermarket, and she agreed to find out the cost and report back to the next meeting

17. Plans and Planning Matters

The following planning permission had been received from the Borough Council.

Ref No. 13/00237/F – Mr. & Mrs. Hornby, Extension to form garage and study at Laburnum House March Road, Tipps End, Welney. Permission dated 11th April, 2013.

18. Highway Matters/Wash Road

Following the last meeting the Pothole at Bells Drove – near the 5th Beech Tree – was reported and Council were advised that the repair has been carried out.

The Broken pavement and kerb on A.1101 between Lamb and Flag and Parish Hall has been put up for investigation. Nothing heard at present.

A meeting was held on Tuesday 16th April with Highways and the gentleman from Westcotec who will be constructing the dot matrix signs. There was a good discussion and it was confirmed that three signs have been approved and that funding is in place for these three. Andy Wallace also confirmed that one sign would be at Suspension Bridge, one near the New Road Junction and the third at or close to Lotts Bridge Cross Roads. He also confirmed that a fourth sign would be very useful at the roundabout in Outwell and he was proposing to make enquiries regarding funding for this and also speak to Outwell Parish Council to see if they would be prepared to have the sign installed, A design for the signs was agreed and Phil from Westcotec confirmed that he would be preparing drawings for final approval. Once the order was confirmed it would take between 6 and 8 weeks to make them, and then they could be installed. Council are now waiting for a copy of the drawings, and Cllr.Bennett produced a hand drawn copy for information. It was also agreed to contact Mr.Wallace for an update of the situation.

It was also agreed to ask Highways whether they had any further information regarding the possible resurfacing of the Wash Road and the Environment Agency modelling, in readiness for a further meeting with the MP and the MEP. It was also agreed to report that some of the Chevrons are in need of replacing or reinstating at Sandgate Corner, and there is a serious hole/drop off on the side of the road between Isle and Elder Farms at the top of the drove to Whitehall Farmhouse at Tipps End.

19. Environmental Matters

1. Hundred Foot Bank – Concrete access road

Cllr.Elliott gave a brief update of the current situation.

2. Parking Area at the side of the Parish Hall – filling in of pot holes

Nothing further had been heard regarding this, despite two e-mails to the Environment Agency asking for an update. The Chairman agreed to telephone the person concerned as this had gone on long enough.

20 Items for Next Agenda

1. Local Development Framework – Update
2. Possible Village Waste Digester.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21.28 p.m.

SignedK.Goodger.....(Chairman).....

Dated4th June, 2013.....