

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY
ON TUESDAY 6th AUGUST, 2013 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Cllr. K. Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs. T. Bennett, T. Bray, S. Dobson, J. Elliott. V. Pratley, G. Rainbird, Dist Cllrs. V. Spikings and D. Pope, Mrs J. Barr and the Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr.C.Freer, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and the P.C.S.O.

2. Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council.

Following the resignation of Cllr.Eyles at the last meeting, the Clerk had informed the Borough Council and the necessary advertisements were put up asking for any request for an election. Nothing was received within the required time scale and the Parish Council were now required to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Chairman confirmed that an application had been received from Mrs.Jane Barr and as everyone was in favour, Mrs. Barr was co-opted to the Council and asked to join the table. She completed and signed the Acceptance of Office Form and was given all the other forms for completion as soon as possible. She was also handed copies of the Council's paperwork including Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Cllr. Elliott confirmed that with effect from the end of the meeting she would be resigning from the Parish Council. It was confirmed that she is required to put her resignation in writing to the Clerk. The Chairman expressed grateful thanks to Cllr Elliott for all the work she had done during her time as Councillor.

3. Public Participation

The Chairman then closed the meeting for Public Participation and following brief comments he then reconvened the meeting.

4. Declaration of Interests

Cllr.Rainbird declared an interest in the LDF to be discussed under Item 13 Plans and Planning Matters, and Cllr.Barr declared an interest in 5c. Future of the Allotment Field.

5. Minutes of Meeting

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

6. Matters Arising.

a. Parish Council News – Councillors were reminded that they should have articles ready to be collated into the first edition of the Parish Council News. Cllr.Bennett suggested that a separate informal meeting should be held for this purpose, and Cllr.Bray agreed to hold the meeting at his house on **Tuesday 20th August at 7.30 p.m.** for as many as could make it. The Clerk confirmed that she would e-mail the details of the current councillors for inclusion together with details of the accounts as soon as the Annual Audit is completed.

b. Low Water Pressure in and around the Village – An e-mail had been received from a resident regarding the problems being experienced with low water pressure. The resident had reported the matter to Anglian Water on several occasions and had been advised that the problem was caused by a local farmer who seems to have an issue that a water main runs across his land and when he does any major work with heavy machinery, the water main breaks and “switches Welney off”. According to the resident the farmer has done this about 9 times in recent weeks and Anglian Water are now proposing to charge him for the repairs. The Clerk confirmed that she had telephoned Anglian Water on 30th July and was informed that they had no information relating to this. If they were aware of such action by anyone there is no way they would divulge the information as it would be against the Data Protection Act. They did acknowledge that they had been dealing with some burst mains because of the land drying out during the hot weather. Following a brief discussion Cllr.Bennett also confirmed that he had been given this same information by an Engineer who had called at this house, and it was therefore agreed to contact Anglian Water again and ask why they are telling residents one story and the Parish Council something different.

c.Future of the Allotment Field – An e-mail had been received from Mrs.Barr asking about the future of the allotment field, as herself and her husband were the only ones cultivating their allotment. The Clerk confirmed that no rent had been requested from Mr. & Mrs. Barr in view of the state of the area surrounding their allotment and the hard work they are having to put in to cultivate their area. The Clerk confirmed that at the end of May 2014 the five year initial period of rental from the Borough Council will expire and after discussion it was agreed to contact the Borough to ask if it will be agreeable for us to give up the field at that time. There are sufficient funds left in the accounts to pay the rental up to that date, but after that the Parish Council would have to find the rental, and this would go completely against the original conception that the hire of the field would have to be self-financing. Mr. & Mrs. Barr did ask that if the field is handed back would it be possible for them to have a 2 metre wide strip which they could keep mown behind their fence (on the field) so that weeds and rubbish do not encroach on their private garden as in the past. It was agreed that this could be arranged. Cllr.Bennett requested that the Parish Council contact the Borough Council to explore what the future usage is for the field.

7 Finance

a. Approval of Accounts for Payment – The following invoices were received and on the proposition of Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Bray and agreed, the cheques were signed:

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	37 . 85
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Paid by Direct Debit

1.8.13 Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary	255 . 68
11.8.13 E-On – Electric for lights	62 . 19
14.8.13 E-On – Electric for Pavilion	51 . 68

The Clerk confirmed that she now had a supply of the bags for the Food Waste Caddies available from her home address at the cost of £1.30 for a roll of 50.

b. Parish Council Insurance.

As Cllr. Elliott had raised this matter in the beginning, and while all Councillors were happy with the explanation and outcome at the last meeting, it was agreed to leave the matter on the Agenda for any comments. Cllr. Elliott was still not happy with the explanations given by Game and Co. Insurance Brokers and following a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Bray, seconded by Cllr. Rainbird and agreed that a further letter be sent to them confirming that the Parish Council are aware that they are under insured, but what are the implications. Cllr. Bennett then proposed that in addition to this we contact the Norfolk Association of Local Councils and obtain their advice on the information given. This was seconded by Cllr. Pratley and carried unanimously.

8. Empty Houses in Chestnut Avenue.

The meeting was advised that there are no 11 empty houses in Chestnut Avenue all awaiting the start of the refurbishment works. Council were advised that Mr. Robert Clarke from Free bridge Community Housing will be coming to meet the Parish Council at 7 p.m. On Tuesday 3rd September prior to the Parish Council meeting. Councillors were requested to consider any questions they wished to ask in readiness for his visit. The Clerk and Cllr.Dobson agreed to get together to confirm the details of children who would be missing from the School in September because of the long delay in starting the works to the Houses.

9. Parish Hall.

The electricity meters were checked and the sum of £4.00 was removed for the month since the last meeting.

10. Proposed New Community Centre.

Following the last meeting, the Clerk confirmed that she had made contact with Mrs.Frances Wood and they would be meeting up again as soon as a more precise figure is known for the building, and a definite plan is formulated for the construction etc. The forms are ready for completion in due course.

Following the last meeting a letter had been sent to Mrs.Sutton at Elgoods at Wisbech setting out the situation regarding the land at the Parish Hall site, but nothing further had been heard.

An e-mail had been sent to Mr.Hubbard of English Brothers regarding a possible meeting to discuss the plans and quotations which they had supplied for a timber framed building. Unfortunately Mr.Hubbard had not been able to suggest any dates, and it was agreed to write again stating that presumably they were not interested in the project and asking for return of the plans which were sent to them.

The Clerk confirmed that she had been approached by Mr.Chris Neill of MRC at Barroway Drove who make modular buildings. Two meetings had taken place including a visit to the site, and Mr.Neil had provided sets of plans for a proposed modular building which were handed out to Councillors for information. Details of the building, what is included and the price which is likely to be in the region of £150,000 were handed out for consideration. After a brief discussion it was agreed to circulate all councillors a copy of the A4 plans which had been provided, and to ask Mr.Neill if he would be prepared to come and talk to the Council at the next meeting on 3rd September. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the Planning Office who had confirmed that if the Council were to go down this route then it would mean a new planning application, and it was also agreed to look into the possibility of re-siting the hall in the top left hand corner of the field as originally planned.

Horse and Dog Fund Raising Event – 29th September. Cllr. Elliott confirmed that she would not now be able to arrange this proposed event, and asked if anyone else could take it on. No volunteers were forthcoming, and it was agreed to postpone the event for the time being.

Concert by Delta Pilots – Fund Raiser – The Clerk confirmed that The Delta Pilots had been booked for a concert on Saturday 14th December and that they were kindly doing the concert for a reduced fee. It was agreed to include this item on the Agenda for the next meeting when final arrangements could be made regarding refreshments, ticket prices etc., in readiness for inclusion in the next Welney News.

The Chairman reported on an e-mail that he had received from the Welney Croft Cricket Club regarding the possibility of including in our funding, for an artificial wicket to go on the far side of the cricket square to give practice facilities and hopefully help attract the youth of the village and surrounding areas. After a brief discussion it was agreed to pass this onto Marshall's Charity on behalf of the Cricket Club, to ask if the Charity would consider financing this request.

11. Playing Field.

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that Mr.Carter was up to date with the situation regarding the trees and that Cllr.Bennett had obtained help with the work required. The Clerk reported that the Annual Charity Commission Return had been completed on line for the year ended 31st March, 2013.

12 Correspondence

1. 35th Monthly report from Elizabeth Truss MP
2. Cambs ACRE Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Scheme – Conference to be held on Thursday 5th September, 2013 at The Maltings, Ely 9 a.m. To 1.30 p.m. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he is hoping to attend.
3. Cambs ACRE Annual General Meeting - 24th September, 2013.

13. Plans and Planning Matters

Cllrs.Bennett and Rainbird attended a meeting at Downham Market on 23rd July regarding the introduction of the Detailed Policies and Sites Plan. A copy of the complete Consultation Documents had been received by the Clerk and was presented for information. Cllr.Rainbird gave a brief report of the meeting. There was then a discussion regarding the sites within the Parish which are included and which have been rejected. Cllrs.Rainbird and Goodger declared an interest in this matter and were asked to leave the meeting. The Vice Chairman then took over and the various sites were identified and discussed. It was confirmed to the meeting that the current Village Development Area is still in force and the Consultation Document is just that and is not set in stone. If and when it is formally adopted it is unlikely that it will come into force until the end of 2014. In view of this it was agreed to send a further strong letter to Elgoods asking them to confirm

once and for all if they wish to proceed with the purchase of the Hall Site as other interest in the site has been shown in possible development of the site. It was also agreed to ask Mr. Gomm the LDF Manager at the Borough Council to come and talk to the Parish Council at their meeting on 1st October. This would then give the Parish Council time to submit any observations or proposals before the consultation closes on 4th October.

It was reported to the meeting that a large static living caravan had been installed at Flights End, Hundred Food Bank, Welney. There had previously been a smaller caravan on site for which planning permission was not required, but this was a much larger living van. It was agreed to ask the planning department to check on this as no planning application had been passed to the Parish Council for comment.

Following receipt at the last meeting, of the e-mail from Mr. & Mrs. Haycock and their negotiations with the Enforcement Team at the Borough Council it was agreed to reply confirming that this was not something that the Parish Council could become involved with. Regarding planning matters the Parish Council were only asked by the Borough Council to give their observations on actual Planning Applications.

14. Highway Matters/Wash Road

Following the last meeting, the Chairman asked if the Clerk would write to the owners of the properties in Tipps End where the trees have overgrown the road. Letters were duly sent and the Chairman has made contact with most of the residents, all of whom were prepared to trim as required to save future damage to vehicles. The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to Highways and the requirement is that hedges/trees should be no more than 16'6" high and should be a minimum of 1 metre back from the edge of the road.

Following the last meeting, the items raised below were passed to Highways for attention:
Check on the barrier at Suspension Bridge.

The Chevrons at Sandgate Corner need attention - These have now been repaired and replaced.

Pothole on Claytons Corner - This has been filled in

Flood Barrier on Delph Bridge - Andy Wallace e-mailed to confirm that the gate has been ordered and he was going to check when it is to be fitted and let us know. I

Elgoods had also been advised of the number of the articulated lorries parking overnight on their car park, but no comments had been received.

The Chairman confirmed that there is a pothole on the north side of Hurnside which should be reported for attention.

Dot Matrix Signs - Following the last meeting, an e-mail was sent to Andy Wallace and he replied that he would check with Phil from Westcotec regarding this and make sure it is as expected. The meeting was advised that the signs should be installed at the beginning of October.

Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he had attended a meeting of the Norfolk Local Access Forum on 24th July and had raised the problems of the cutting of footpaths etc. and the so called visits of the Highway Rangers - who we do not think actually exist! Cllr. Bennett also understood that grants were available for footpath cutting work and some villages had already been successful in obtaining equipment to keep their footpaths etc clean and tidy.

An e-mail had been received from Paul Fox of Fish Tales, New Road where he and his partner have moved to recently from Hertfordshire. He feels that the speed at which traffic passes through Welney and down New Road has a detrimental effect on the village and must be a safety concern for those using the School. I did advise him that we had looked into traffic calming in the past and he has said that on the website Speed Bumps Direct there are kits that would slow traffic to 10 mph available for £200. However he has no idea about the rules that may exist for installing these on a public highway. His second thought was about the possibility of improving the look of Main Street by installing hanging baskets and he wondered if the Lamb and Flag might be prepared to pay for these in exchange for some signs saying that the baskets were sponsored by them. With attractive hanging baskets and slower traffic, the pub might get more passing trade. Following a brief discussion it was agreed to advise him that over the years we had looked into several traffic calming measures and at present we had everything possible to try and slow down the traffic. The idea of

hanging baskets possibly sponsored by The Lamb and Flag is something which he should take up direct with them.

15. Environmental Matters.

1. Fishing Debris on Delph Banks.

Following the last meeting the Clerk had written to Mr.S.Booth – Welney Anglian Club and also to the Environment Agency regarding the problem, but nothing had been heard.

2. Problems with Motorcycles

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that Mr.R.Gilbert had approached him with regard to persons racing around the fields near his home on a motorcycle. It was agreed to report this to PCSO Bortz and ask her to look into the problem.

3. Ragwort on the River Banks

It had been noted that there is a serious problem with Ragwort on the River Banks, and whilst farmers have to remove this problem the RSPB have not done anything on their River Banks. It was agreed to contact them

4. Little Pick Around Sandgate Corner

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had been approached by residents willing to clear the little from the area around Sandgate Corner. This was much appreciated and details of where to obtain the pack f from the Borough Council are given in the minutes dated 6th July,

16 Items for Next Agenda

1. Horse/Dog Treasure Hunt – Originally planned for 29th September, 2013

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

SignedK.Goodger.....

Dated3rd September, 2013.....