

Minutes of the Meeting of the Welney Parish Council held at The Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 5th November, 2013

Present

Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs J. Barr, T.Bennett, T.Bray, C.Freer, V.Pratley, G.Rainbird, Mr.J.Loveday, Mr.N.Fleming and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr.S.Dobson, Dist.Cllrs.V.Spikings and D.Pope C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and the Police

2. Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council.

The meeting was reminded that Mr.Nigel Fleming had expressed an interest in being co-opted to the Parish Council to fill the current vacancy. On the proposition of Cllr.Bray. Seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and unanimously agreed, Mr.Fleming was duly co-opted and invited to join councillors at the table. He was handed copies of all the paperwork and asked to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman confirmed that he had scanned in the Good Councillors Guide and forwarded this in pdf format to the Clerk. Councillors Bray and Rainbird requested a copy.

The Clerk confirmed that she had again spoken to County Office requesting details of any training sessions that would be taking place within the area in the near future so that both Cllrs.Barr and Fleming could be booked onto the training sessions.

3. Declaration of Interests.

None at this stage.

4. To Adjourn the meeting for Public Participation

None.

5. Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st October, 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 – No further progress had been made as yet but the project was still well in hand.

b. Future of the Allotment Field on Sandgate Corner. - Further consideration was given to the future possible use of the allotment field. It was agreed to enquire of the Borough Council if they had any proposals. The original Parish Council lease was for a period of 10 years with a rental review after five years. As previously advised the five year term will expire at the end of May 2014. The question of keeping the field for a further period was mentioned with the suggestion that possibly a hay crop could be cut to help towards the cost of the rental. Also a possible play area for the local children could be established. Once information is received from the Borough Council then a further decision can be made.

c. William Marshall School – Cllr.Bennett raised the question again about the village school and the way in which matters were dealt with following the e-mail from Mrs. Elliott. Following discussion, the

Chairman confirmed that no matters can be discussed by the Parish Council unless all persons have been given the five day notice that they will be on the Agenda. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Cllr.Dobson who has confirmed that as Chairman of the Governors, she will be putting an article in the next Welney News giving the full current situation with regard to the School, and she had also advised that the Assist. Head Teacher is happy to come and talk to the Parish Council about the school and give details of how help can be given to keep the School open. *Following further brief discussion it was agreed to ask County Office for clarification of the Parish Council's remit with regard to the village school especially as we do not have any authority or governors on the governing body.* It was agreed to ask if we have concerns about the School can we as a Parish Council discuss them and then ask the school for feedback? Also if a councillor is told about concerns at the school by a parishioner, can it be reported to the Parish Council for discussion, and similarly if the Parish Council are concerned about the viability of the school can it be discussed at a meeting and further information sought from the school?

7. Finance

a. Approval of Accounts for Payment

On the proposal of Cllr Bray, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and agreed, the following cheques were signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	31 . 75
Westcotec – Lighting Maintenance – Sept and October	115 . 76
Paid by Direct Debit:	
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary 1.11.13	255 . 68
E-On Electric for Lights 11.10.13	62 . 19

8 Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked before the meeting and the sum of £17.00 was removed.

Cllr.Dobson had raised the question of maintenance on the Parish Hall and having spoken to the Clerk it was reported that her main concern was with regard to the stop cock on the water pipe under the sink in the Kitchen which needed replacing. All present were in favour of contacting Mr.Glen Stittle, Plumber and asking him to replace this as soon as possible.

9. Proposed New Community Centre.

The Parish Council held a Working Group Meeting on 29th October, and decisions were reached regarding the proposed new community centre. The following resolutions were brought forward from that meeting and voted upon as follows:

1. To no longer consider the building of a Community Centre costing in excess of £312,000 as it is totally not viable financially for the village. This resolution was proposed by Cllr. Bennett, seconded by Cllr.Barr and carried with 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention.
2. To investigate the possible refurbishment of the Parish Hall and the Pavilion. This resolution was proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Pratley and carried with 7 votes in favour and 1 vote against. Following this resolution it was agreed to ask Martin Reynolds Construction for their advice and the Clerk confirmed that she would arrange a meeting at the earliest opportunity. If MRC were not able to help, then advice would be sought from other builders.
3. To contact the Environment Agency and see if they would consider renewing the current lease for 99 years, on the Parish Hall Site, when it expires in 2016 and what kind of rental they would be looking for. It was agreed to ask what would be the maximum term they would consider on the lease, to maintain the site for the village. This resolution was proposed by Cllr.Barr, seconded by Cllr. Fleming and agreed with 7 votes in favour and 1 against.

4. To ask the Environment Agency what the cost would be to purchase the site of the Parish Hall by the Parish Council (a.) value for re-sale and (b.) value for the site to stay with the village. This resolution was proposed by Cllr. Bray, seconded by Cllr. Bennett and unanimously agreed.
5. To make enquiries regarding the cost of the disconnection of services from the current pavilion, and reconnection of services to a new (possibly modular) building if it were to be built on the playing field. This resolution was proposed by Cllr. Bray, seconded by Cllr. Bennett and unanimously agreed.

As soon as all information is to hand the Clerk confirmed that she would circulate all councillors in the normal way hopefully in readiness for the next meeting.

Following his article in the Welney News, Mr. Loveday had forwarded copies of three replies which he had received regarding the proposed Community Centre and the Playing Field. One reply had also been sent direct to the Welney News and it was assumed that this would be published in the next edition. The other two had been sent to Mr. Loveday and he confirmed that he would not be taking the matter any further.

Following the last meeting, the Clerk confirmed that she had written to Mrs. Sutton at Elgoods setting out the current situation and explaining that we would be contacting the Environment Agency regarding the price of the Parish Hall Site. A reply had been received looking forward to further information when to hand. It was also confirmed that Mr. Shelton's first e-mail stating that they would be taking no further action in view of the time delay and would do nothing further until the lease renewal in 2016, had crossed in the post with the letter from the Parish Council. A telephone call had then been received from Mr. Shelton's office at the E.A. stating that they are still very willing to sell the site but the price would certainly be more than the £70,000 quoted in 2008. The E.A. also confirmed that they could see no reason why the lease of the hall site could not be renewed.

10. Playing Field.

At the meeting in August a request was received from the Cricket Club for help with funding an artificial wicket at the Playing Field, and this was forwarded to Marshall's charity for possible consideration. An e-mail had been received from the Clerk to the Trustees asking for further details and this had been passed to Mr. Loveday who had promised to let Council have the information to send to the Charity before their next meeting in January, 2014.

A email was also received dated 7th October from Mr. Loveday advising the Council that DEM sports have now designed a new goal post which they are making (full size) They would like to donate this to the village and install it at a suitable location on the playing field. Grateful thanks were extended to Mr. Loveday and his kind offer was accepted. Mr. Loveday confirmed that he would install the goal in due course

The meeting was also advised that the toilet at the back of the Pavilion (mainly used by gents) was badly in need of cleaning and several times during the summer season it had not been useable. It was agreed to visit with a large bottle of cleaner.

A letter was also received from Mr. Alan Carter dated 1st November, asking when something is going to be done about the trees, and Cllr. Bennett agreed to speak to Mr. Carter as soon as possible and make arrangements for the work to be put in hand at the earliest opportunity.

11. Correspondence.

1. Elizabeth Truss MP - 37th Monthly report
2. West Norfolk Community Transport AGM – North Lynn Community Centre 15th November 11 a.m
3. Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – Notification of Formal Consultation on Protected Areas Bye-Law in order to further the conservation objections of European Marine Sites.

4. Norfolk Association – Village Hall managers be vigilant – Village Hall in Norfolk booked for hall party 16.11.13 – Anything suspicious – ring the Police.
5. Joint Parish Council meeting – Emneth/Upwell Group - 12.11.13 at Emneth at 7 p.m.
6. SNA Panel Meeting 6.11.13 – 7 p.m. At Downham Market Town Hall
7. Woodland Trust – Free Trees Raffle – Leaflet explaining how to be put into the raffle for free trees.
8. Ouse Wash Partnership Scheme – The Chairman produced the Terms of Agreement to be signed off by the Parish Council as one of the participant members and it was agreed that this should be done.

12. Plans and Planning Matters including LDF

Following the last meeting, the Clerk completed the comments from the Parish Council and these were sent to the Borough Council by their required deadline. An e-mail had been received with acknowledgement that these comments were received and have I understand been uploaded to the website. Nothing further has been heard

Following the last meeting, an e-mail was received from the Enforcement Team regarding the residential caravan which has been put in at The Willows, Hundred Foot Bank. The Team have investigated and *Can confirm that following a comprehensive investigation of the matter, including visiting the property it has been established that the caravan is being used for an incidental purpose and as such it does not constitute development for which formal planning permission is required. As there is no breach of planning control, no further action is required.*

The following planning applications were received from the Borough Council for consideration at the meeting:

Ref No. 13/01550/FM

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Revert 38ha of arable land to lowland wet grassland – including a stock fence around perimeter, plastic sheet keyed into clay and 2 small submersible pumps at Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Hundred Foot bank, Welney.

This application was recommended for approval with 7 votes in favour and 1 against.

Ref No. 13/01538/F

Clients of Mr. John Stephenson, Broomhill, Downham Market

Construction of 2 dwellings following demolition of agricultural buildings, (resubmission of 10/01300/F – Mr. & Mrs. Hall – approved on 11th October, 2010)

High Hill Farm., Main Street, Welney.

This application was unanimously recommended for approval.

The following planning permission dated 10th October, 2013 has been received

13/01183/F

Mr. R. Giles,

Demolition and reconstruction of front addition on new foundations – Bramley House, Back Drove, Welney.

13. Highway Matters/Wash Road.

The meeting was advised that the offending hedge at Rutland Corner, Tipps End had now been removed by Highways. However they have been requested to return to site to tidy up the area, and it is understood that the hedge may be replaced by the adjacent owners hopefully by something which can be kept under control.

Dot Matrix Signs – Andy Wallace of Highways confirmed by e-mail dated 24th October that the order for the signs had definitely gone to Westcotec and he was pushing them for an update and the installation date. Nothing further has been heard and a call would be made to Mr. Wallace asap.

The Clerk confirmed that following receipt of Mr.Wallington's letter regarding speeding traffic on Hundred Foot Bank from Suspension Bridge to the Wildfowl Trust a reply had been received from Highways and passed onto Mr.Wallington. Following on from this Mr.Wallington thanked us and wrote direct to Mr.Wallace setting out his concerns again. Nothing further has been heard at the date of the meeting.

The meeting was advised that Highways representative had inspected the large dip in the road surface near Briard Lodge, March Road, and also the road surface dip where the new tarmac is on Suspension Bridge but Council had not been advised if any action had been taken.

The following items were reported for Highways attention:

Welney Wash Closed Sign on Suspension Bridge has been damaged

The bend warning sign at the end of the Bridge is lying on the grass

Pothole outside Bridge Farmhouse badly in need of attention.

A letter of thanks should be sent for the pollarding work carried out to the willow trees across the Wash Road, and at the same time asking why some of the larger trees have not been pollarded.

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had attended a meeting on 9th October where it was stated that no further budget cuts would be made to Highways. They would however be making more use of Parish Councils. The County Council would be able to raise funds from private grants etc. which could then be distributed to local communities.

14. Environmental Matters

None

15. Report on the Ouse Washes Tour - 11th October, 2013

Cllr.Bennett gave a brief report on the Site Visit arranged by the Environment Agency on Friday 11th October commencing at Earith at 10 a.m. Cllrs. Pratley and Rainbird also attended and all agreed that it had been a very useful and interesting event on a very wet and windy day.

16. Items for Next Agenda

1. Arrangements for Delta Pilots Concert on 14th December..
2. Village Litter Pick.

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

SignedK.Goodger.....(Chairman)

Dated3rd December, 2013.....