

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY ON TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY, 2015 AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present:** Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs.L.Bombata, T.Bray, S.Dobson, R.Gilbert, V.Pratley, G.Rainbird and A.Wardle, Dist.Cllr. D.Pope, approximately 12 members of the public and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed councillors and visitors to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received from Cllr.Eliott, Dist.Cllr.V.Spikings, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSo Esther Bortz

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None at this stage

**3. Public Participation**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting and the following points were raised by those present  
Netball post at the Playing Field is in the wrong place; Siting of possible play equipment' Dog walking on the playing field; Demolition site on Main Street; Future proposals for the Water Tower; Update of situation regarding Houses in Chestnut Avenue; R.U.G. Position regarding Playing Field and Field on Sandgate Corner. He then reconvened the meeting

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

The Clerk extended grateful thanks to Cllr.Dobson for kindly taking the minutes at short notice. Following corrections to Item 5 (a) Parish Council Website and 5(c) Parish Council Newsletter, the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**5. Matters Arising**

**a. Parish Council Website** – Cllr.Bombata suggested a special meeting to view the proposed new website but it was agreed that he would send councillors the link for this so that they could inspect and forward comments.

**b. Parish Council Noticeboards** – Thanks to Cllr.Gilbert for installing the new notice boards. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the planning office at the beginning of November and they had confirmed that planning permission would be required if new boards were to be installed on private land or roadsides.

**c. Parish Council Newsletter** – E-mails addressed to the Council had been circulated to councillors expressing concern with regard to the Pilot Copy of the Newsletter. Cllr.Pratley and others were very concerned with regard to the content and the way it had been put together and she suggested the Editorial Team should consider their position on the Parish Council. Cllr. Bombata replied and felt that an apology should be forthcoming for the reference made to plagiarism of items in the Newsletter. No apology was forthcoming at this stage. It was proposed by Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr. Pratley that the newsletter should be discontinued. However with only three councillors in favour the proposition was lost. It was then proposed by Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Wardle that Council should persue the making of another newsletter but that everyone should see the final version at a Council meeting and the matter should not be dealt with by e-mail. This proposition was carried with 6 votes for and 2 against.

**d. Team Building Exercise** – It was agreed to go ahead with the testing of the phone cascade system.

**e. Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal** – The Clerk confirmed that following the December meeting Cllr.Bombata had contacted her with the necessary forms for completion. However it had been noted that the application date was past and had closed at the beginning of November., Cllr.Bombata advised that he had spoken to Vodafone and applications can still be submitted. The Forms would be completed as soon as possible

f. UK Power Networks – e-mail received from Mr.Cassidy confirming that they were aware of a number of incidents and had carried out line patrols. They had found three dead swans in different locations and had passed the details through to their planning department to see if they can do some improvements to the network. Councillors appreciated that this could be the reason for power loss but asked for an explanation of low voltage

#### 6. Finance

On the proposal of Cllr.Wardle. Seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed, the following cheques were signed for payment:

Fraser Dawbarns, Work in connection with Playing Field and Land Registry	975 . 00
DA Pest Control – Control of Rats at Pavilion	60 . 00
Westcotec – Street lighting maintenance – Nov & December	115 . 76
Paid by Direct Debit	
1.1.15 Clerks Salary	£255 .65

Annual Grant – Request from St.Mary's Church, Welney for a grant to help with the upkeep of the Churchyard. On the proposal of Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr.Bray and agreed with 1 abstention the grant was agreed at £200 and the cheque was duly signed.

Annual Precept - All Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the Income and Expenditure to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 and estimated income and expenditure to 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2015 in order that the precept from the Borough Council for the year 2015/16 could be considered. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Bombata, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and agreed by 6 in favour and 2 abstentions, that the precept should be increased by £1,500 to cover possible additional costs involved with an election in May 2015 (from £8,830 to £10,330 plus £630.00 council tax support grant) making a total of £10,960.

Bank Statements – The Clerk apologised that these had not been sent out, but were still awaited from the Bank. They would be forwarded as soon as possible to all councillors.

#### 7. Parish Action Plan

Councillors then went through the Parish Action Plan updating the various sections – These would be incorporated into the original document and available in hard copy or on line in due course. Councillors would receive a copy for their own information.

#### 8. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were emptied before the meeting and the sum of £21 was removed. Council were advised that the fire exit door is broken. Proposed by Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr. Rainbird and agreed that Green Builders should be asked to inspect the problem and carry out the work. If it proved to cost more than the excess on the insurance policy, then an insurance claim could possibly be made.

#### 9. Proposed New Pavilion/Hall

A report from the Action Team had been forwarded to all Councillors with full details of progress to date. It was proposed by Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Bray that congratulations and thanks be extended to Jane Barr and the Action Team for the tremendous amount of work they had been doing. A letter from the Chairman of the Action Team had been circulated to Councillors. Various questions were again raised and it was confirmed that the Action Team are acting in accordance with the Terms of Reference. The meeting was advised that planning permission has yet to be obtained and as soon as final plans and paperwork are prepared the final decision will be made by the Parish Council.

#### 10. Playing Field and Exercising of Dogs

Councillors had all been supplied with a copy of the Charity Commission Scheme 1991 and a copy of the Land Registry Document and Plan for their information. Cllr.Gilbert confirmed that it appeared that the Parish Council were not acting under the terms of the scheme and the matter must be discussed. The matter would be included on the Agenda for the next meeting

Councillors had also been supplied with a copy of an e-mail from Mr.Paul Fox of the Welney Residents Rec Users Group (R.U.G.) The Clerk had confirmed that there is no bye-law on the playing field banning dogs, and she had obtained information from the National Playing Fields Association who confirmed that they believe that land which is held on charitable trust especially for the recreational benefit should be dog free. There was then lengthy discussion amongst councillors and despite warnings from the Chairman, following repeated interruptions by members of the public, the Chairman asked everyone to leave the meeting so that the Council business could be conducted correctly without any more interruptions. It was proposed by Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed with 5 for, 2 against and 1 abstention, that no decisions could be made with the constant interruptions, and that was the reason the public had been asked to leave. It was felt that the Parish Council should have a duty of care to the village and all users of the playing field not to allow dogs. It was then proposed by Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Pratley and agreed with 5 in favour and 3 abstentions that the Council should investigate the possibility of obtaining a bye-law to ban dogs from the Playing Field. It was further proposed by Cllr.Wardle, seconded by Cllr.Bombata, with 7 in favour and 1 abstention, that those members of the public who wanted a dog walking area, should explore all possibilities themselves without the involvement of the Parish Council. It was agreed to pass this information onto Mr.Fox (R.U.G.)

Following a brief discussion it was agreed to ask Mr.Loveday if he would resite the netball goal in an area of the playing field away from the houses.

The Chairman also confirmed that he had had contact from Mr.Carter regarding the trees on the playing field boundary, and he would be dealing with this as soon as possible.

#### 11. Old Allotment Field, Sandgate Corner

The Clerk confirmed that it was noted from the last minutes that it was agreed this would be an item on the Agenda. Councillors were reminded of the six month rule regarding the handing back of the field to the Borough Council. This cannot be revisited until April 2015 when the six months will have expired. Standing Orders No.35. However if all 9 councillors are in agreement the matter can be discussed or alternatively if a letter signed by 3 councillors is received then the matter can be revisited at the next following meeting. A letter was received from the Borough Council which had been circulated to all confirming that the tenancy can be terminated on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and this would be confirmed. The Chairman advised that he would remove the white water bins on the field and hopefully cut the field before that date. Any tenants fixtures would also be removed.

#### 12. Correspondence

1. E-mail from Peter Smith as detailed in last meeting notes – *It was agreed to write and advise that as we are a very small parish we are sorry that we cannot arrange any meetings.*
2. New Anglia Growth Hub – Free service for business support. [growthhub@newanglia.co.uk](mailto:growthhub@newanglia.co.uk)
3. Various leaflets from Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Rural Housing Alliance , Society of Local Council Clerks, Campaign to Protect Rural England – Light Pollution
4. Norfolk County Council – Go Dry for January – Campaign across Norfolk to help residents cut down on their alcohol intake.
5. Copy of Norfolk Link – Magazine of NALC – Will hand these out to everyone at the meeting.

#### 13. Planning Matters

No planning applications have been received but a letter from Borough Council dated 18<sup>th</sup> December enclosing a copy of the Site Allocations and Development management Policies as at January 2015. The document will be formally published on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 and any representations can be made during the period 12<sup>th</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The representations must refer to the tests of soundness against which the plan needed to be assessed and they must be made on official forms. The Forms can be downloaded from <http://consult.west-norfolk.gov.uk/portal/>. The Documents are also available to inspect and download at the Borough Council Website as above, The actual document runs onto 462 pages and those referring to Welney are on pages 383,384 and 385 of the document.

14. Highway Matters

The light opposite the Parish Hall has now been repaired.,

Dip at Flights End – This has been reported again and received confirmation that the complaint had been received and would be attended to.

The illuminated sign near the junction of New Road and March Road is no longer lighting up. This was reported to Highways who advised that the sign is no longer required to be lit so a job has been raised to change it to a reflective plate.

Following the last meeting contact was made with Andy Wallace at Highways regarding the upkeep of the Rights of Way and footpaths within the Village. He has replied as follows:

*Footpath No,10 Wisbech Road to Hurn Drove and Restricted Byeway No.11 Hurn Drove are both on the proactive cutting list and are due to be cut at least once in the Spring of each year, and if finances allow will be cut twice. The bridleways along all the river banks are the responsibility of the Environment Agency. The edges of the footpath around Sandgate Corner which has a metalled surface for some of its length, are included in the cutting programme but on a basis that they are cut when deemed necessary, as this is not considered to be of high priority..*

The Highway Community Rangers will be making a scheduled visit to Welney during the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> January , 2015

Cllr.Dobson asked if Council could enquire of the Environment Agency regarding their policy for grazing and cutting of the banks particularly in the area of Pisces Country Park.

15. Etiquette at Parish Council.

Cllr. Pratley gave a brief explanation of her request for this item, and confirmed that Councillors should treat people correctly and fairly and look to themselves to make sure that they do not do anything wrong.

16. Items for next Agenda

- a. Possible meeting with the Action Team
- b. Wildfowl Trust – Council's permission to speak to them go work closer together for the benefit of the village.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.04 p.m.

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

Dated .....3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015.....