

**Minutes of the meeting of the Welney Parish Council**  
**held at the Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs.L.Bombata, K.Cowles, H.Cowles, P.Edmunds, J. Elliott, R.Gilbert, Dist,Cllr.V.Spikings, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey, the Clerk and approximately 15 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr. Rainbird and Dist.Cllr.Pope

2. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

3. Public Participation

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation.

Mr.T.Bennett raised questions regarding Rights of Way Programme, Footpath around Sandgate Corner and up to Stockyard Farm, Review of the Parish Action Plan and gave information regarding Public Rights of Way and the fact that new contracts would be coming out next year for the cutting programme. Mr.P. Fox gave an update regarding Sandgate Corner Field and advised that the next RUG meeting would be on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. He confirmed that RUG were liaising with the Action Team so that there would be no overlap with regard to grant applications and fund raising events. With regard to dogs on the playing field, he expressed the opinion that the current arrangements seemed to be working well with regard to cleaning up after dogs,. Mr.J. Loveday advised the meeting that the planning application had not yet been decided for the new building on the playing field, but he had spoken to the planning office and was hopeful that this would be forthcoming within the next two weeks.

4. To confirm minutes of previous meeting.

All councillors had been supplied with a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May, and the minutes were signed as a correct record of that meeting.

5. Matters Arising

a. Parish Council Website – Cllr.Bombata had prepared a revised agreement with regard to the proposed new website, and it was agreed that this should be circulated to all councillors so that a final decision could be made.

b. Parish Council Newsletter - Cllr.Bombata confirmed that the Newsletter had been delayed because the Welney News was due to be published, but that a Newsletter would be issued within the near future.

c. Houses in Chestnut Avenue – Following the last meeting, the letter had been sent to the Borough Council expressing our concern regarding the empty and unmodernised houses in Chestnut Avenue, but at the time no reply had been received. After discussion it was agreed to write to Freebridge Community Housing, asking that they advertise the houses as being available over a wider area includingg March, Littleport etc.etc.

6. Finance

The following invoices were received for payment and on the proposition of Cllr.H.Cowles, seconded by Cllr.Bombata and agreed, the cheques were signed:

Welney Croft Cricket Club – half years grass cutting on playing field	£425 . 00	
Mrs.P. Copeman – Clerks Expenses		24 . 75

The following items were paid by Direct Debit

Mrs.P..Copeman – Clerks Salary 1.6.15	255 . 68
E-On – Electric for lights for June 2015	81 . 12

Confirmation had also been received from Barclays Bank that Cllr.Rainbird Is now one of the signatures for cheques.

Following a brief discussion Council was informed that the cost of cutting the grass on the Playing Field was £850 per year and this was paid to the Welney Croft Cricket Club. The sum was paid in two half yearly instalments with the second one being due in October when the income from the Cricket Matches (£25 per home match) would be deducted from the £425.00. It was then proposed by Cllr.Edmunds, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles and agreed that quotations should be sought from other companies for the cutting of the grass on the Playing Field

The Invoice carried over from the last meeting in the sum of £1,800 plus VAT for the Architects Services in connection with the new building was then discussed. Mr.J.Loveday gave an explanation of the misunderstanding relating to these fees and it was proposed by Cllr. Gilbert, seconded by Cllr. Elliott and agreed that the fee should be paid and the cheque was accordingly signed.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a cheque for £1,000 from Cambridgeshire Acre in respect of a grant which was obtained by Mrs.H.Trundle for Molly Dancing. The cheque had to be made payable to the Parish Council. However the money has to be paid direct to Norfolk Our World Festivals Limited to cover the cost of the Traditional Story and Dance Sessions. After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr.H.Cowles, seconded by Cllr.Bombata and agreed that the cheque should be signed, but in future all information should be forwarded to the Parish Council before any similar grants were applied for.

#### Annual Accounts

The Clerk had provided all councillors with copies of the Annual Accounts and after discussion and explanation on some points, it was proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr.Gilbert, and agreed with one abstention from Cllr. Bombata, that the accounts should be adopted. The annual return was passed round Councillors for their information and this was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk in readiness for sending off to the Auditors.

#### Lighting Maintenance Charges

Westcotec Limited had written to advise that the three year contact with them is due to expire on 30<sup>th</sup> June and that they will be increasing their charges from £19.04 plus VAT for each unit, to £22.64 plus VAT per unit. If Council were to sign for a further three years then a 5% discount would come into effect. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Bombata, seconded by Cllr.Edmunds and agreed that the current Lighting Maintenance agreement would be sent to Councillors to see if an alternative company could be found to give a quote for this work. If no alternative/better quote could be found then the contract with Westcotec would be renewed. Contact would also be made with Westcotec to see if they would be prepared to provide an amended quotation.

#### 7. William Marshall School

All Councillors had been provided with a copy of the documents which the Parents Action Team had prepared and sent to Children's Services and also copies of the e-mail from Elizabeth Truss MP. Cllr.Gilbert confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with Children's Services on June 12<sup>th</sup>, to discuss matters further and also no closure notice had as yet been issued. So far it appeared to be positive outcome. C.Cllr.Humphrey gave a brief report on his meeting regarding the school.

#### 8. Parish Hall

The electricity meter was emptied before the start of the meeting and the sum of £5 was removed. Following the last meeting, the Clerk had written to the Environment Agency advising them that the Parish Council wished to extend the lease of the hall and site for a further 10 years with effect from March 2016 when the current lease expires. Clarification was also give regarding the fact that the hall and site both belong to the Environment Agency.

#### 9. Proposed New Pavilion/Hall

A written report was supplied by the Action Team following their meeting on the previous evening and copies were handed out to Councillors. Still awaiting a decision on the planning application.

#### 10. Playing Field

The Clerk confirmed that the amended Charity documents for the Playing Field Charity had been sent to the Charity Commissioners and their acknowledgement had been received. According to the information on their website, once it has been acknowledged and they request no further information, then the documents comes into effect immediately.

Cllr. Gibert presented some information he had obtained regarding dogs and other animals fouling the playing field. It was agreed to circulate this information to all councillors for consideration, so that a formal resolution could be put together at the next meeting.

The Chairman confirmed that a good clean up session had taken place at the Playing Field on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Concern was expressed regarding an adjoining resident using the field to drive across to reach his garden with a trailer., It was felt that if this was allowed to continue, it could become a right of way and the Chairman agreed to speak to him in the first instance and then possibly put it in writing. There was then a great deal of discussion regarding the work still needed at the playing field – the Chairman agreed to spray off the area around the field, and Cllr.Edmunds confirmed that he would reseed all bad areas at the end of the week. He also confirmed that a gentleman had been to look at the trees over hanging the garden recently reported to the council and while they are a nuisance they are not a danger. It could be arranged for the overhanging area to be cut and dropped onto the playing field at no cost to the house owner. It was also reported that a large area of the fence surround the playing field is in need of attention and clearance. The offer of stakes to renew the fencing was made and councillors expressed their willingness to help with the work involved.

#### 11. Correspondence

E-mail received from Nigel Fleming regarding Trail bikes causing a nuisance on the Lamb and Flag Car park and on the River Banks. Cllr.K.Cowles confirmed that the Public House were aware of the problem and as soon as it occurred again they would be calling the Police. Council would advise the PCSO so that they were aware of the problem. Council also to contact the Environment Agency informing them of the problem and asking them to ensure that the gates onto the banks were locked so that the bikes could not have access.

#### 12. Planning Matters

Nothing to report.

#### 13. Highway Matters

Following the last meeting, a complaint was sent to the Borough Council regarding the grass cutting in Chestnut Avenue. A reply was received apologising if we considered the standard of grass cutting not good. They are rescheduling the grass cutting rounds and hopefully things will improve.

Highway Matters to be reported:

1. The dip in the road opposite Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank has still not been dealt with.
2. TROD from Stockyard Farm towards Sandgate Corner is becoming dangerous and in need of attention.
3. Pavement in New Road – Advised several months ago that it had been schedule for work but nothing has been done.
4. Hurn Drove Access road to the Playing Field – Meeting advised that this is an unadopted road. The Action Team confirmed that a meeting with Highways is to be arranged with regard to this road and to ascertain what work is required. Request clarification from Highways on the status of Hurn Drove.

Following matters have been attended to:

Grass has been cut on the Wisbech Road verges.

Footpath around Sandgate Corner has been cut and is now fully accessible.

Request to the Clean up Team to remove a TV and stand and other articles which have been dumped on the dyke side on the corner of the road leading from Welney to Tipps End.

#### 14. Councillors with Portfolio

Cllr.Bombata explained that if each councillor was responsible for a particular section of Council Work then matters could be dealt with between meetings, and would not take up so much time in discussion at the actual meetings. It was agreed to consider the matter further at the next meeting.

In the meantime it was proposed by Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr.K.Cowles and agreed that before the next meeting, the Clerk would provide all councillors with a copy of the financial standing of the Council's accounts for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 so that all councillors would be aware of income and expenditure. Copies of the bank statements would also be available. This arrangement would run for a period of 3 months.

15. Possible Tour of the Parish

The Chairman suggested a possible tour of the Parish to see the actual boundaries and inspect any possible problems. It was agreed to try and arrange this for early to mid July.

16. Items for Next Agenda

None

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

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

Dated .....7<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.....