

**Minutes of the meeting of the Welney Parish Council**  
**held at The Parish Hall, Welney**  
**on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs.L.Bombata, H.Cowles, P.Edmunds, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert, G.Rainbird, approximately 12 members of the public and the Clerk.

The Chairman requested permission to alter the Agenda – Item 6 moved to Item 3 and the other items moved down one place to No.7 – Agreed.

1. Apologies for absence – Received from Cllr.K.Cowles, Dist.Cllr.V.Spinkings, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO E.Bortz

2. Declaration of Interests – Chairman declared an interest in Marshall's Charity and The Old Croft River.

3. Update to Standing Orders - Councillors had been supplied with a copy of an update to the Standing Orders regarding Public Participation at Council meetings. Following short discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Cowles and agreed that Council meeting should not be adjourned for Public Participation in line with the information received from County Office. The Clerk would reprint Standing Order No.68 and circulate to all Councillors.

4. Public Participation

- Question raised – Had the Parish Council written to thank Marshall's Charity for their financial support for the new building? Advised yes, on more than one occasion
- Thanks expressed to the old Action Team for their part in the funding of £43,000 from Sport England.

5. Minutes of Previous meetings

Copies of minutes of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> October had been circulated to all councillors. It was requested that an item under correspondence from 6<sup>th</sup> October should be deleted and this having been done, the Chairman signed both sets of minutes as a correct record of those meetings.

6. Matters Arising

None

7. (a) Debate implementation of Policy to deal with racist, sexist and offensive remarks at Council Meetings

Short discussion – Agreed that the Policy should cover racist, sexist, religious and homophobic comments. The meeting was advised that if should a comment was made and missed by the Chairman, then Councillors have the perfect right to raise the matter immediately. Also agreed that advice should be sought from Norfolk Association of Local Councils and also from the Police regarding appropriate action. Matter to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Cllr.Elliott left the meeting during this discussion.

(b) Meeting with Monitoring Officer – Meeting arranged in King's Lynn for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 4 p.m. 5 Councillors confirmed that they were hoping to attend.

(c) Freedom of Information – Monitoring Officer suggested that the Council and Clerk should receive some training regarding this and it was agreed to see if such training was available from the Norfolk Training Partnership (County Office)

8. Discuss Communications Policy – Councillors had received copy of proposed Policy. Short discussion and additional point to be included that all e-mails into and out of Council Office should be circulated to all Councillors. This was proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Gilbert and agreed. The Clerk would send an amended copy to all Councillors with this addition.

9. Finance – On the proposition of Cllr.Cowles, seconded by Cllr.Gilbert with all in favour the cheque for the following invoice was duly signed:

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses £70 . 05

The following invoices had been paid by direct debit

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary 255 . 68

E-On – Electric for lights 81 . 12

Income information for Hall and Pavilion had been circulated to Councillors.

10. Parish Hall – Electricity meters checked - £11 removed.

E-mail from the Environment Agency 20.10.15 confirming that in principle they will not have a problem with renewing the lease early but are waiting for a few clarifications from the relevant asset custodian. Also asking for the position regarding Elgood's application? Advised nothing known about Elgood's and will await hearing further as soon as possible.

11. Proposed New Hall/Pavilion - Confirmation of Grant from Sport England has been received, paperwork signed and Acceptance Form returned to them. Confirmation also received from WREN that the Entrust part of their offer is now in place and that the form agreement, for signature will be sent out very shortly. Nothing further has been heard regarding the Nationwide Application and this would be checked with Mr.N.Fleming. Query arisen with regard to the VAT payments and clarification would be sought on this matter from Revenue and Customs.

12. Playing Field – Charity Commission amended scheme will be dealt with by the Trustees at their meeting following.

13. Correspondence

1. NCC – 26.10.15 – Re-imaging Norfolk – Strategic and Financial Planning 2016/19 Consultation period from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January – [www.norfolk.gov.uk/reimaging](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/reimaging)

2. NCC – 30.10.15 – NCC prepare for Winter – are you? Circulated to all councillors 31.10.15

3. NCC – 30.10.15 – Access to high speed broadband doubles in Norfolk as first Better Broadband contract completes ahead of schedule and under budget. Circulated to all councillors 31.10.15

4. Signpost Magazine – Community Action Norfolk – Autumn 2015

5. AGM of Norfolk Association of Local Councils will be held in The Edwards Room, County Hall Norwich on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

6. Cambridgeshire ACRE – 13.10.15 – The Ouse Washes DVD – Tales of Washes, Wildfowl and Water – If anyone would like to borrow please let me know.

7. Post Office – Details of Changes to Mobile Post Office Services – Consultation Period ends 26<sup>th</sup> November. From the info circulated to all councillors it appears that Welney will not have the Mobile PO on Monday and Thursday 15.50 to 16.20 and Tuesday and Wednesday 15.15 to 16.00

4. Planning Matters

Confirmation that Jemma Marsh and Alex Fradley will be attending Parish Council at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December to provide an overview of the steps to producing a neighbourhood plan.

Report from Cllr.Gilbert following his attendance at the Basic Planning Training on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Councillors have all been circulated with details of the planning application as follows:

Ref No. 15/01641/F

Mr.L.Winters - Two storey side extension to dwelling at 4 Wisbech Road, Welney.

Cllr.Gilbert confirmed that he had looked at the site and could see no problems at all.

Unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the application.

15. Highway Matters

a. Hundred foot Bank Road near Flights End. - Still nothing done. Report to Highways again as a matter of urgency.

- b. Problems have also been reported with March Road near Mill Farm bungalow which is sinking and cracking. Also signs and posts that need replacing on The Wash Road. Dangerous potholes in Chestnut Avenue were repaired by the Highway Rangers when they visited at the beginning of October,
- c. Requested figures relating to how much the Council could be paid if they were to take on the responsibilities of cutting the rights of way etc. Nothing heard so far – contact Highways again

16. Croft River

The Chairman declared an interest in this item. Cllr.Gilbert asked for this item to be included. The Chairman confirmed that the Drainage Board will be cleaning out the Croft River . It is hoped to slub out the River but the material has to be taken away – no time scale given.

17, Houses in Chestnut Avenue

Concern expressed regarding the four boarded up houses in Chestnut Avenue. Confirmed that 21 has been let, 22 is still empty, but all others are now occupied. Wrote to Mr.Davison at Freebridge for an update but he is away on sick leave – no information available. Agreed to write to Mr.Andrew Edmunds asking for the current situation regarding the four houses.

18. William Marshall School

Councillors supplied with copy of a letter from Children's Services confirming School will be closing on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015. After brief discussion regarding catchment schools and transport, agreed to write for clarification as to the catchment schools and the provision of free transport for Welney pupils.

19. Consider acquiring a defibrillator

Cllr.Edmunds asked for this item to be included. He explained that it is possible to purchase a defibrillator to place in the telephone box. As the box is now redundant, it is possible to acquire this for £1.00. Short discussion, proposed by Cllr.Edmunds, seconded by Cllr.Gilbert, all in favour that we acquire the telephone box at this stage and look into funding etc. for a defibrillator in due course. £1 handed to Cllr.Edmunds.

20 .Items for Next Agenda

None

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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

Dated .....1/12/15.....