

Minutes of the Meeting of the Welney Parish Council
held in The Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 1st December, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

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

1. Apologies for absence – received from Cllr.K.Cowles, Dist.Cllr.V.Spikings and C.Cllr.H.Humphrey

2. Declaration of Interests – None at this stage.

3. Public Participation – The Chairman explained that the majority of Councillors had attended a meeting with the Monitoring Officer at the Borough Council Office at King's Lynn. The meeting had been very constructive and useful. He also confirmed that disrespect or criticism of councillors would not be tolerated at meetings.

The following points were addressed by members of the public

- An update from RUG regarding the progress of Sandgate Corner Meadow – Hoping to hold a Grand Opening Event on Saturday 18th June, 2016
- Current situation regarding work at the Old Welney Hotel.
- Problems with the Dot Matrix Sign – especially the one at Littleport – flashing when no water on the road.
- Request to know the outcome of the meeting with the Monitoring Officer. The Chairman confirmed that if the Council decide to produce a formal statement, then they would meet together and agree the format.
- Can the public now expect the Parish Council to work as a team in a democracy for the good of the village.
- A request that the Parish Council should go forward with a letter of instructions to MRC for the new building.

4. Minutes of Meetings - 3rd and 11th November, 2015 – Copies circulated to all Councillors and with everyone in favour, both sets of minutes were signed as true and correct records of those meetings.

5. Matters Arising

a. Standing Orders – Amended copy of Standing Order No.68 sent to all councillors for inclusion in their packs.

b. Defibrillator and Telephone box – Details from Cllr.Edmunds circulated to all councillors. He confirmed that the cost of the defibrillator will be approximately £1700 but funding is possibly available. Leave item on Agenda for next meeting.

c. Freedom of Information Act Training – Norfolk Training Partnership are not able to help – suggested the Borough Council. Chairman confirmed that himself and the Clerk will be meeting with the Monitoring Officer in due course and this matter would be raised with her.

6. Discussion regarding providing Policy to deal with offensive remarks.

Councillors supplied with a copy of the Equality Act and a copy of the e-mail from PCSO Esther Bortz.

Proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Cowles and unanimously agreed that Cllrs. Bombata and Elliott should meet at their convenience and prepare a policy for consideration by Council.

7. To finalise and Adopt the Communications Policy

Copy of proposed policy including the additional clause already sent to Councillors. Proposed by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Cowles and with all in favour that the policy should be adopted. A final copy would be sent to councillors for their records.

8. Finance

No invoices had been received for payment.

Direct Debit payments	1.12.15	Mrs.P.Copeman, Salary	£255.68
	11.12.15	E-On – electric for lights	£78 . 51

Additional paperwork relating to accounts and copies of bank statements had been forwarded to councillors as agreed.

9. Parish Hall

Electricity Meters - £22.

Councillors had been forwarded a copy of the e0mail dated 20th October from the Environment Agency regarding the Lease – Nothing further heard. Clerk to contact again and ask for urgent reply.

10. Pavilion Committee

a. Probity - Cllr.Bombata had circulated a Contract of Integrity which had been forwarded to all councillors for their consideration.

b. Membership – It was proposed by Cllr.Bombata, seconded by Cllr.Goodger that there are too many members on the Pavilion Committee and that Mr.Peter Cox should be removed from that committee. This proposition was unanimously agreed that Mr.Cox would be advised accordingly.

11. New Hall/Pavilion.

Clerk confirmed that following contact with Revenue and Customs she had written a letter asking for clarification on the VAT question regarding the payments for the new building. An interim reply had been received but full information is still awaited. It was confirmed that this would be raised at the meeting with the Monitoring Officer.

Discussion regarding the letter of intent/order for the building to go to MRC. The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to MRC who advised that if nothing was confirmed by the end of the year then we could be looking at a possible price increase of 3%. It was suggested that a possible visit should be made to MRC to finalise all points. It was then proposed by Cllr.Goodger that the Council should accept the quotation from MRC and get a letter of intent to them. Cllr.Goodger further proposed that we accept the quotation from MRC subject to the Heating system being finalised and the figures being fine tuned. This was seconded by Cllr.Gilbert. The amendment was then proposed by Cllr.Bombata, that the quotation should be accepted subject to fine tuning and that a meeting should be arranged with MRC the following week. This was seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and the amendment was carried with 6 votes in favour and 1 against.

Contact would be made with MRC in the hope that their representative would be able to meet the Council on 8th December. All Councillors would be sent a copy of MRC's quotation.

On the proposition of Cllr.Elliott, seconded by Cllr.Cowles with 6 votes for and 1 against the Press Release which had been approved by WREN was approved by Council and would be sent to all the local papers.

The Clerk confirmed that three quotes for the demolition of the building had been received and these would be discussed further in due course.

12. Playing Field

e-mail received from Paul Fox requesting that the grass on the playing field be cut one more time so that it is possible for dog walkers to play their ball games. Cllr.Edmunds confirmed that he would arrange for this and grateful thanks were recorded to him.

E-mail from Cllr.Edmunds dated 19th November to say that there was a fallen tree on the Playing Field and that arrangements for the tree to be cleared away, would be made as soon as possible.

13. Correspondence

Cllr.Edmunds declared an interest in Item 2.

1. Police Connect e-mail dated 26.11.15 re Hare coursers caught at Ten Mile Bank. (circulated to Cllrs)

2. e-mail from Paul Fox regarding Sandgate Corner Field and request for co-sponsorship with the Parish Council specifically with regard to the VAT. (Circulated to Councillors on 24.11.15) Cllrs. Confirmed that they would be only too happy to assist RUG but confirmation is required that we are legally allowed to do

this. Mr.Fox agreed to supply full information.

3. Better Broadband for Norfolk – Information sheet circulated to all Councillors on 6th November. A further e-mail had also been received from Ms.Ann Wardle. *It was agreed to contact the authorities again and press hard for the whole of the village to be included and upgraded as soon as possible.*
4. Details of the problems with the road flooded Warning Signs were also circulated to Councillors. Two or three more complaints from motorists that the signs have been going off randomly (especially the one at Littleport) had been received and these have been reported and hopefully dealt with.
5. Confirmation by letter from the Borough Council that the name of a property in Back Drove Off Bedford Bank (previously known as Meldrew Cottage, has been changed to Evergreen Cottage.
6. Safer Neighbourhood Meeting Agenda and letter – Circulated to all on 27.11.15

14. Planning Matters

Parish Approval had been sent to the Borough Council following the last meeting for the two storey side extension to the dwelling at 4 Wisbech Road, Welney

Councillors had met with Jemma Marsh and Brian of the Borough Council Planning Department at 6.30 p.m. (before this meeting), in order to obtain information and an overview of the steps required to produce a Neighbourhood plan for Welney. (Apologies had been received from Cllrs.Rainbird and Elliott.) The estimated cost of producing a plan was in the region of £4,000 and general guidance was given as to how to go about this. Council were advised that the idea is to produce a plan and to try and get more development than has been allocated. Jemma confirmed that she would forward the necessary information for consideration by the Council and the matter could be considered again at the next meeting.

15. Highway Matters

Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the e-mail from Highways dated 17th November answering the questions we had raised. Dip in the road near Flights End is giving cause for serious concern and it was agreed to contact Highways again and ask that they deal with this as a matter of grave urgency.

E-mail from Mrs.Sue Hayward regarding the hedge and ditch around Sandgate Corner circulated to Councillors. It was confirmed that this was a matter for the Borough Council and Dist.Cllr.David Pope confirmed that he would be prepared to visit the site and see what action could be taken.

16. Houses in Chestnut Avenue

Councillors received a copy of e-mail from Robert Clarke dated 19.11.15. Contact Freebridge again and ask when they are intending to meet and discuss their proposals for the four boarded up properties, with the Parish Council.

17. William Marshall School

Clerk confirmed that she had tried to contact Norfolk County Council regarding the clarification of the catchment schools and which schools would qualify for free transport. No success at all. Cllr.Bombata agreed to deal with the matter and see if he could obtain further information.

18. Items for the Next Agenda

- a. Possibility of arranging a village clean up by persons on Probation.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending, reminded them that the next meeting would be on the 12th January, 2016 at 7.30 p.m, and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

SignedK.Goodger.....(Chairman)

Dated12.1.16.....