

Minutes of the Meeting of the Welney Parish Council
held on Tuesday 12th January, 2016
in The Parish Hall, Welney at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs. L.Bombata, H. Cowles, K.Cowles, P.Edmunds, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert, G.Rainbird, 6 members of the Public and the Clerk.

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

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

2. Declaration of Interests – Cllr.Edmunds declared an interest in Item 7b on the Agenda and Cllr.Goodger declared an interest in Item 16.

3. Public Participation – The following points were addressed by Members of the Public:

- Old Bedford Hotel and problems with Badgers. Previous owner of the property had destroyed the badgers and had been fined. The badgers that had been destroying the Bank in this location have been moved and there are now none on site. Meeting also advised that the new owner has permission to live in the caravan on site as he is renovating the property.
- Foot way from Stockyard Farm to Sandgate Corner will be re-gravelled within the next few days and the Highway Rangers would be cleaning up the tarmac path around Sandgate Corner.
- Question of Details of the meeting with the Monitoring Officer on 30.11.15 was raised. (advised this would be dealt with further in the Agenda)
- State of the Car park adjoining the Lamb and Flag and Parish Hall.
- A request was made for the addresses of four councillors – Chairman advised that such a request must be put in writing and it would then be dealt with accordingly with advice if necessary from the Monitoring Officer. The Chairman expressed his feelings that all matters should now move forward.

4. Minutes of Meetings - 1st and 8th December - Copies had been circulated to all councillors. Everyone in agreement and both sets of minutes were signed by the Chairman as correct records of those meetings.

5. Matters Arising

- a. Telephone Box and Defibrillator – Cllr.Edmunds confirmed he had received a fund raising pack with regard to the defibrillator which he was studying. He would then contact the Clerk in order to complete the paperwork.
- b. Freedom of Information Act Training – The Chairman and Clerk had arranged a meeting with the Monitoring Officer just before Christmas but this had to be postponed . It was intended to arrange another meeting before the next Parish Council meeting to arrange the FOI training and also setting of Agenda.
- c. Clean up in the Village – Using persons doing Community Service. General discussion. Agreed to include a short article in the Parish Council Newsletter and Welney News to get the opinion of the Village and make a decision at the February Parish Council meeting.
- d. Contractor Integrity Form – Councillors circulated with copy of form prepared by Cllr.Bombata. Cllrs.Goodger, Bombata, Rainbird and Gilbert confirmed agreement. A further copy would be sent to Cllrs.H.Cowles, K.Cowles, Elliott and Edmunds for their consideration – Decision requested by the end of the week.

6. Policy to Deal with Offensive Remarks – Cllrs.Bombata and Elliott agreed to prepare this for consideration and report back in due course.

7. Finance

a. Payment of Accounts – The following accounts received and on the proposition of Cllr. Edmunds, seconded by Cllr.Elliott and agreed the cheques were signed:

Westcotec – Public Lighting Maintenance – Sept.Oct.Nov & Dec.	266 . 68
PASS (UK) Limited – Asbestos Survey for Pavilion	537 . 64
Paid by Direct Debit: Clerks Salary	255 . 68
E-On Lights	78 . 51

b. Grant Applications – Two applications for grants had been received.

St.Mary's Church – Grant for Grass Cutting in the Churchyards. Agreed at £200 with 7 in favour and 1 abstention

R.U.G. - Grant towards the cost of the rental for the Community Field.- Agreed at £200 with 6 in favour and 2 abstentions.

c. V.A.T. Details and R.U.G. - The Parish Council had been asked by R.U.G. If they could assist with recovering the VAT on a purchase of children's play equipment funded by a grant from a local charity. After taking advice from County Office it was confirmed that the Council are not allowed to assist in this way, and it was agreed to inform R.U.G. accordingly.

d. Consider precept from the Borough Council for the year 2016/17 - Councillors supplied with expenditure figures for the year 1.4.16 to 31.3.17. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Edmunds, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles and unanimously agreed that the precept would remain the same as last year:

Precept £10,330.00 plus Council Tax Support Grant £630.00 = Total £10,960.00

8. Parish Hall

Electricity meters £18.00

Councillors had been supplied with e-mails from the Environment Agency regarding the extension of the Lease and it was now confirmed that the E.A. Would not consider a long term lease but only a year to year lease or licence. In order to give Councillors time to consider the information from the E.A. it was agreed to arrange an Extra Parish Council meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 19th January.

9. New Hall/Pavilion

The Chairman confirmed that the order for the new building had been signed and the Contractor had advised that the building was under construction in their factory. A request had been made to MRC for a breakdown of the figures covered by the WREN grant so that an application could be made to them.

Copy of Asbestos Report received and circulated to all councillors. The Chairman confirmed he had spoken to Matthew Lawrence Demolition regarding the old pavilion and it was proposed by Cllr.Elliott, seconded by Cllr.K.Cowles with all in favour, that contact should be made with Mr.Lawrence advising that if he would be prepared to carry out the demolition for £4,000 then the council would be happy to award him the job. A copy of the Asbestos Report would be forwarded for his information.

General discussion regarding heating in the new building – Chairman had received an approximate price of for the Air Condition System and hot water, which would cancel the need for a plant room to be built, but it was agreed to ask MRC for a firm price for these items. Solar panels on the roof would still be considered. It was also agreed to ask MRC for the cost of wall heaters in the new building. Quotation had been circulated from UK Power Networks in the sum of £837.60 for the disconnection of the electricity supply and taking it back to the nearest pole, and £1,330.80 for the supply of three phase electricity. It was proposed by Cllr.Elliott, seconded by Cllr.Edmunds with all in favour that the items above should be looked into and that a cheque should be drawn and signed for the disconnection of the electricity. As soon as this work is completed, the demolition of the building can be arranged.

Copy of 1st invoice from MRC circulated to councillors – Brief discussion Proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles and agreed to apply to WREN, Sport England and Marshall's for a share of their grant monies to cover this first invoice.

It was then agreed to have a site meeting on Sunday 17th January in order to start stripping out the old building. It was agreed that the Cricket Club container would need to be removed, Cllr.Edmunds would

look into the possibility of cutting down the tree nearest to the building, the Chairman would contact UK Power Networks to get the cable sleeved for safety and Cllr.Gilbert would make arrangements to disconnect the water.

In order to keep matters moving, the question of the heating would form an Agenda Item for the extra meeting to be held on 19th January, 2016.

10. Playing Field – Grateful thanks extended to Cllr.Edmunds for cutting the grass on the playing field on 7th December.

11. Correspondence

1. Following the last meeting I wrote to better broadband for Norfolk (copies to Councillors) E-mail from Karen O'Keefe – Better Broadband for Norfolk circulated confirming that a new fibre cabinet planned for Welney to be implemented during Summer 2017 – more information as soon as available.
2. Police Connect – Independent Custody Visitors – Volunteers required dated 17.11.15
3. King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council – Change of Address : Clovelly, Main Street, Welney is now known as Encwele, 1A Chestnut Avenue, Welney.
4. Ouse Washes Project Briefing – Forwarded to Cllrs. 21.12.16
5. Request from Mr.J.Loveday requesting a report and outcome of the meeting with the Parish Council and Monitoring Officer on 30th November, 2015. The Chairman advised that as it was an informal meeting the Parish Council would not be issuing a report, and if anyone required any further information then they should write to the Monitoring Officer, Emma Duncan.

12. Planning Matters

- a. Planning Application for Mr.L.Winters – Approved by the Borough 3.12.15 (Councillors advised 4.12.15)
- b. Badgers at The Old Welney Hotel – Situation confirmed by e-mail from Cllr.Gilbert dated 7.12.15 (circulated to all councillors) and also information given by resident under Public Participation.
- c. Neighbourhood Area – e-mail from Jemma at the Borough Council following her talk at the December meeting forwarded to Councillors on 2.12.15, for consideration and possible further action. Cllr.Gilbert gave a brief report. He explained that the matter would require formulation of a document with the support of the village for more development to allow for the expansion of the village over the next five years. Matter to be discussed further at the next meeting.

13. Highway Matters

Advised by Cllr.Elliott that the dip in the road near Flights End, Hundred foot Bank has now received a temporary repair from Highways and is much improved.

Councillors advised on 5.1.16 that information from Dave Gillett at the Environment Agency confirmed that the road at Sutton Gault was under water. The E.A. were letting water off quicker than it was coming on at the present time so did not anticipate that the Welney Wash Road would flood. However they were monitoring the situation and would keep us informed. The combination of high wind and lots more water, meant that the water was on the road on Thursday afternoon 7.1.16 This was reported to the Environment Agency and to Highways but the Westcotec Flashing Signs were not activated, although the old sign in Main Street was turned on. Various contacts with Westcotec have not solved the problem of why some of the signs are working and some are not. Some also showing incorrect depth. Westcotec advise that their monitoring equipment measures the depth at the crown of the road and not in the deepest parts. The Chairman confirmed that he would be attending a meeting in Downham Market on 15.1.16 and would be taking this matter up with Highways and the E.A. Dist.Cllr.Spikings would also be attending and would take the matter up as well.

The following points to be reported to Highways

Pot hole on the A.1101 near Stanborough House, Lakes End

Broken Signs and road surface at the junction of New Road and March Road where a vehicle went off the road.

14. Houses in Chestnut Avenue

Wrote to Freebridge Housing on 4th January (councillors copied in) but no reply has been received as yet. Agreed that another letter be sent and that Dist.Cllrs.Spikings and Pope and C.Cllr.Humphrey should be copied in.

15. William Marshall School

Everyone is aware the School closed on 18th December and each child was presented with an iPod engraved William Marshall School 18.12.15 "be the best you can be". Grateful thanks were extended to all those who had an input in trying to keep the School open. Brief discussion regarding whiteboards in the School and if one is available it would be useful in the new building.

16. Bishops Land Charity – Annual Payout

Cllr.Bombata confirmed that he had been approached by a resident who had concerns in the way the charity monies were paid out – During a one hour session on one day of the year. His comments were noted and would be passed to the Trustees for their consideration at their next meeting.

17. Items for Next Agenda

None.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

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

Dated2nd February, 2016.....