

**16/01519/F Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Welney Parish Council**  
**held in the Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 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 (who apologised for being a few minutes late), Dist.Cllr.D.Pope, 6 members of the public and the Clerk.

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting was being recorded.

**1. Election of chairman for the year 2016/2017** – The Chairman requested nominations. Cllr.Bombata proposed Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles. Vote carried, and no further nominations, Cllr.Goodger declared Chairman.

Cllr.Goodger expressed his thanks for the proposal and for the continued support of the Parish Councillors. Although the previous year had started off with difficulty, he expressed grateful thanks to everyone for pulling together and achieving great results and for their support over the last few months.,

**2. Apologies for absence** – Received from Dist.Cllr.V.Spikings and C.Cllr.H.Humphrey

**3. Declarations of Interest** – Cllrs.Goodger and Bombata as Trustees of Marshall's Charity.

**4. Election of Vice Chairman for the year 2016/2017** – Cllr.Bombata proposed that Cllr.Rainbird should be appointed as Vice Chairman for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr.Elliott and was carried.. He was appointed in his absence but it was confirmed to the meeting that he was willing to stand again.

**5. Public Participation**

- Mr.T.Bennett advised the meeting that there would be meetings in the County with regard to Rights of Way and that the village of Welney would be affected. Details should be forthcoming from the appropriate department of Norfolk County Council in the near future. Letters would be forthcoming to attend a Special meeting possibly in June, and that it was possible there would be a rolling programme to deal with Rights of Way.
- Mr.J.Loveday raised the question of the surface which had been put on the walkway at the new building. Cllr.Bombata raised a point of order in that the Parish Council had no prior knowledge of the matter being raised. The Chairman fully concurred with the point of order, but permission was given for Mr.Loveday to outline his point but that it would not be discussed at this meeting. Mr.Loveday then produced a sample of material which he had been given sometime ago and it was nothing like the surface now installed. He also confirmed that he had taken the opportunity to consult an independent structural engineer with regard to the foundations and the jacks that support the new building, and he handed copies of a letter to the Parish Council.
- Mrs.V.Pratley then reiterated her comments that all the money spent on the new building must be accounted for under Openness and Accountability, and that blame for any incorrect items must not be apportioned to the old Action Team as the Parish Council should have checked, checked and rechecked everything, as all decisions had to be authorised by the Parish Council.

**6. Welney Archive and Social History Committee** – The current committee comprises the chairman, Mr.T.Copeman with assistance from the Clerk. The Chairman explained that there had been no events over the last year, and he explained that the Committee was set up with help from Awards for All for the purchase of a laptop, printer, camera etc. to provide photographs giving an archive of the village history. At present there were in excess of 1,000 pictures in the Archive with more being added all the time as events took place in the Parish. It was proposed by Cllr.Edmunds, seconded by Cllr.Elliott and agreed that the Committee should continue as at present and the Clerk confirmed that she would produce a CD of all the photographs for each Councillor.

**7. Reports from Village Organisations**

**a. William Marshall Charity** – The Chairman gave a report on behalf of the Charity with details of the Widows Account, Church Account and Public Account. He confirmed that £127,000 had been donated to the new Community Centre, with grants also being made to R.U.G. And the Welney Angling Club for new fishing stages. He

also confirmed that the School building belongs to the Charity and now that it is empty, the Charity were looking into the different uses for the building or event selling. No decisions had been made as yet.

b. Bishops Land Charity – The Clerk gave a report on behalf of the Charity a copy of which is attached to the minute book. She advised the meeting that the Trustees would be having a meeting in June.

**8. Minutes of Last Meeting** – The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April, having been circulated to all parties, were confirmed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

### 9. Matters Arising

a. Village clean up – An e-mail had been received from Mr. Bryan Foster dated 11<sup>th</sup> April (circulated to all councillors) Mr. Foster would not be able to visit the Parish Council to talk about this campaign After discussion it was agreed to leave this matter on file for the time being and possibly revisit in the future.

b. Defibrillator – Cllr. Edmunds confirmed that he had the defibrillator and the cabinet and this would be installed the following weekend. It should go live on the Monday. So far approximately £750 had been raised towards the cost of the equipment. He went onto explain the difference between purchasing outright and leasing the equipment. He gave details of the requirements for telephone and cost involved and that 8 volunteers would be required to for the telephone cascade.

Cllr. Edmunds agreed to try and see if he could raise additional funds, but it was suggested that if necessary, an approach should be made to Marshall's Charity to assist with the remainder of the funding. Grateful thanks were extended to Cllr. Edmunds for his hard work.

### 10. Finance

The following invoices were received for payment and on the proposition of Cllr. Rainbird, seconded by Cllr. Elliott and agreed, the cheques were signed.

Westcotec – Light Maintenance for March and April	133 . 34
BCKLWN – Emptying Litter Bin for year	97 . 37
Mrs. P. Copeman – Clerks Expenses – April and May	41 . 06
Came and Company – Aviva Insurance	1,197 . 46 ***

\*\*\*This insurance renewal is not due until 8<sup>th</sup> June and it was agreed to hold it over until the June meeting by which time the New Hall should be added, and possibly the Parish Hall removed.

On the proposition of Cllr. Bombata, seconded by Cllr. Rainbird and agreed the cheque was signed for:

Environment Agency – Rent for site of Parish Hall & Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2016 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2017	178 . 00
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Paid by Direct Debit	
E-On – Electric for lights	81 . 12
Clerks Salary	255 . 68

#### Income received during April:

BCKLWN – Precept	10,960 . 00
Sport England	40,000 . 00
WREN – Final Payment	19,688 . 17

#### Paid Out:

MRC for new Building (£17,000 & £60,000)	77,000 . 00
AO.com – Cooker, Fridge, Freezer & Microwave	724 . 16
Projector Point – Electronic Screen	246 . 00
Mogo Direct – 9 Large & 15 Small Tables	940 . 77
Ningbo Direct – 82 Chairs	1,914 . 80
Direct 365 – Baby Changer	160 . 00
HSD Direct – 5 Paper Dispensers and Rolls	357 . 44

Copy of the Parish Council Bank Statement for March had been circulated to all councillors, and the April statement would be sent as soon as received.

The Clerk had also received the Annual Return for the Council's Accounts and this would be completed, internally audited and presented to the June meeting. It has to be returned to the Audit Office by 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2016

## **11. Parish Hall**

The electricity meter was emptied before the start of the meeting and £22 removed.

No further communication had been received from the Environment Agency regarding the terms for extending the Lease, but in view of the fact that they had issued an invoice at the old rental figure, and council had agreed to pay this everyone was in agreement that the lease had been extended for one year.

Lease of Hall – It was requested that this item be included on the Agenda to consider when the lease on the Parish Hall should be surrendered but no decision was made in view of the one year extension. It was confirmed to the meeting that when the Parish Council wish to move to the new building then the Youth Group would take over the running costs, insurance etc. Mention was also made of certain items at the Parish Hall which would be removed and taken to the new building, including tables, crockery, cutlery, fire extinguishers etc.

Booking – The Clerk confirmed a booking for the Parish Hall for 23<sup>rd</sup> June for the E.U. Referendum, and also a request to hire the hall on 16<sup>th</sup> June from the Environment Agency who wish to hold an Open Day to explain to residents and anyone interested about the work they will be doing to the Barrier Banks on the Wash. Both events would be held in the Old Parish Hall as printing had to be confirmed well in advance of the event.

## **12. New Hall and Pavilion**

### **a. Up Date of current situation**

- E-On connected the electricity meter on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. UK Power Networks have already made their connection. Electrician from MRC will be attending the new building in the near future to check out all the electrical installations. Water is already connected to the building.
- Insurance Cover to be arranged as soon as the building is handed over.
- Fenland Fire Services will come and arrange an inspection and advise what is required in the way of fire fighting equipment in the New Hall. They will be able to reuse the extinguishers which were removed from the Old Pavilion and which are currently in store.
- Showers – Letter from MRC circulated to all Councillors explaining the situation and with particular reference to the pipes which were giving the water supply.
- Instructions given to Metro Rod to carry out the necessary work for the connection to the mains sewer. It was understood that they would be visiting site within the week to carry out the work.
- Foster Renewable Energies will install the solar panels as soon as the power is connected. They would be notified the next day that the power is now connected. Cllr.Gilbert raised the question with regard to the new feed in tariff which he understood is now very low, and it was agreed to ask Fosters for clarification of this when confirming the power was on.
- Premises Licence to be arranged with the Borough Council once the building is handed over.
- Food Hygiene inspection of the Kitchen Area to be arranged with the Borough Council again once the building has been handed over.
- Work still to be completed to the car park area, disabled car parking spaces and removal of the trees etc. The Access ramps still have to be completed. Concern was raised with regard to the rails and handrails on the access ramps. After discussion it was agreed to draw up a list of problems and a meeting would be arranged with MRC and Councillors to sort out the final details before hand over.

- Cllr.Bombata raised the question of a telephone line and internet access at the new hall and it was agreed to find out costings for this before the next meeting.
- The Chairman confirmed that the roller shutter blinds to the front and two rear windows of the new building were being installed at the present time.
- The Chairman also confirmed that the floor covering would be laid within the next two weeks.
- Ramps and Handrails – It was proposed by Cllr.Elliott, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and agreed that any matters which arise between now and the hand over of the building should be addressed in writing to either the Clerk or the Chairman, for consideration by the Council.
- The Chairman confirmed that he had been approached by the Chairman of Christchurch Parish Council to say that someone had spoken to them from the Welney Cricket Club asking what they would charge to use their field for Cricket. The Cricket Club had been informed that the charges for matches was going up to £100 per match and this would be far more than they could pay. The Chairman had spoken to Mr.Tony Smart and assured him that the Parish Council had no idea where this information had come from as no charges had yet been fixed. Mr. Smart assured him that the Cricket Club were very much looking forward to playing at the Playing Field and using the New building.
- The Clerk confirmed that she had only received a response from two families with regard to the name for the new building and both had suggested William Marshall Community Centre. A final decision on the name would be made at the next meeting.

#### b. Official Opening of the New Building

It was provisionally agreed that this would be 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2016. Confirmation had been received from Mr.J.Gilbert – Chairman of Marshall's Charity – that he would be delighted to “cut the ribbon”. Confirm date and time as soon as possible. Cllr.H.Cowles confirmed that entertainment for the opening event had been booked and the Bar-B-Q would be available and everything was ready to go.

#### 13. Playing Field.

Following the Trustees meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, a request was sent off to the Charity Commission (copy forwarded to all councillors) – only an acknowledgement has been received at the present time. In order to keep things moving, it was agreed to have a meeting of the Parish Council and all the User Groups to make arrangements for the hire fees for the new building and it was agreed that the meeting would take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May at The Parish Hall. Clerk to let all user groups know the date and time.

#### 14. Correspondence

1. **A note had been received from Sue Dobson confirming that since the closure of the school, the building has now been cleared and she has in her possession the plaque from Lauren Wright's bench which reads “Friendship bench – In memory of Lauren”. She wondered whether a place for this could be found somewhere in the village. She does not have contact details for the RUG group and wondered whether they have a bench that it could be fitted too if it was though appropriate, or whether there is anything on the playing field. She asks if the Parish Council could consider this and she is quite happy for us to pass on her contact details to any interested party.**

Cllr.H.Cowles confirmed that she had spoken to the person who made the original bench and he would be prepared to make a new one. After discussion it was felt that the bench should be placed on the deck at the new Community Centre.

2. Police Connect Newsletter – Operation Randall - 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 – Circulated to all
3. Police Connect Newsletter – Operation Randall - 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2016 –do-
4. Police Connect Weekly Crime Summary 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 – Circulated to all.
5. Police Connect message – Crime Summary 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 –do-0
6. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Information about a Scam Donation Request 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 – Circulated to all.
7. Norfolk County Council - 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 – Market Fair Scheme – Circulated to all.
8. Police Connect News – Operation Randall 30<sup>th</sup> April – Circulated to all.

**15. Planning Matters**

a. Sandgate Corner Field – Letter sent to the Borough Council following the last meeting (circulated to all councillors) setting out our objections to the development. It is understood that 121 objections were received before the closing date. Dist.Cllr.Pope gave details of a test case on a similar nature that was happening in Heacham in the middle of May, and he considered this was a test case especially as the field is outside the original planning area. Cllr.Pope was thanked for his information.

b. Planning application 16/00615/0 – Land East of the Zion Baptist Chapel, Tipps End. Following circulation to all councillors, no objections were received and the form was returned to the Borough Council recommending approval. E-mail then received from Mr.M. Baker at Tipps End. This together with the reply setting out the Council's position was circulated to all councillors 27<sup>th</sup> April. Borough Council had advised that the application was for Outline only with all matters reserved except access, and therefore the Parish Council's comment form was not required.

c. e-mail from Ms.Ann Wardle regarding the LDF and the five year plan and her request that Council should consult neighbours before speaking to land owners regarding planning of their land was circulated to all councillors for information. Cllr.Gilbert confirmed that he is still working on the plans showing possible areas for the five year plan for Welney, and he confirmed that there was no way in which neighbours of properties submitted would be approached in the first instance. The plan would be submitted first and then neighbours would be notified and complaints (if any) received.

**16. Highway Matters**

a. The Broken cover on the Anglian Water inspection chamber has been mended

b. The broken road verge at Tipps End has been repaired and the pothole near Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank has been inspected and surrounded by white paint in readiness for attention.

**17 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> June, 2016.....