

Minutes of the Meeting of Welney Parish Council  
held at The William Marshall Centre, Hurn Drove, Welney  
on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs. M.Barker, L.Bombata, H.Cowles, P.Edmunds, G.Rainbird, Dist.Cllr.D.Pope, 6 members of the Public, 2 Prospective Councillors and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2017 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Dist.Cllr.V.Spikings

2. Declaration of Interests.

None at this stage.

3a Public participation

Mr.R.Giles raised the question of when the football team would be starting and whether the football pitch would impact on the Cricket pitch. The Chairman advised that as the matter was not on the agenda it could not be discussed but he did confirm that the football pitch would not interfere with the Cricket Pitch and the team would be up and running in the near future.

3b. Comments from District/County Councillors.

None

4. Two Casual Vacancies

Two vacancies had arisen on the Parish Council caused by the resignations of Mr.Cowles and Mrs. Elliott. Following the required notices being displayed, applications had been received from Mr.Peter Gardner and Mrs.Karthryn Lind and details of both have been circulated to all councillors. Both persons were present at the meeting and following the proposal by Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr. Edmunds and with all in favour, and following the signing of the Acceptance of Office forms, Cllrs.Gardiner and Lind were invited to sit at the table. The Chairman extended a warm welcome to both new councillors.

5. Minutes of meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

Copies of the minutes from this meeting have been circulated to all councillors and they were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

6. Matters Arising

a. R.U.G. And Sandgate Corner Meadow – Despite a reminder nothing had been heard from Mr.Matthew Henry at the Borough Council regarding the possibility of the Parish Council taking over the lease of Sandgate Corner Meadow. The Clerk agreed to try and contact Mr.Henry again.

7. Finance

a. The following invoice has been received for payment and on the proposition of Cllr.Cowles, seconded by Cllr.Edmunds with all in favour, the cheque was signed.

Clerks Expenses	Postage	9 . 91	
	Stationary	3 . 25	
	Tel.Calls	<u>5 . 00</u>	18 . 16

Paid by Direct Debit

Clerks Salary	255 . 68
E-On Lights	91 . 17
E-On – W.M.Centre	19 . 93

b. Grant Applications

A request had been received from Mrs.P.Aisthorpe on behalf of the Welney PCC asking for consideration of a grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Edmunds, seconded by Cllr.Cowles and agreed with 7 votes for and 1 against, that a grant of £200 should be made and the cheque was drawn and signed.

c. Precept for 2017/2018

The Clerk had supplied all councillors with the Income and Expenditure details to the 31.12.16 and expected income and expenditure to 31.3.17. After discussion and information supplied by Dist.cllr.Pope, it was proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr. Edmunds and agreed that we should precept for the total sum of £10,690 (Precept £10,330 plus £360 Council Tax Support Grant)

Cllr.Bombata requested that a spreadsheet style document should be produced showing the expenditure for the coming year, when it was paid and how each item decreased on a month to month basis. The Clerk confirmed that she would produce this before the next meeting and figures could then be updated when the various amounts were confirmed in the new financial year.

## 8. Correspondence

1. Confirmation from Marshall's Charity that the new nominative trustee is Cllr.Edmunds
2. Police Connect Message 7.12.16
3. -do- 8.12.16
4. Better Broadband for Norfolk 9.12.16
5. Op.Randall Newsletter 10.12.16
6. Police Connect Message 13.12.16
7. Ouse Washes Land Partnership 21.12.16 – Details of debate in Ely on 21.2.17
8. Police Connect Message 21.12.16
9. West Norfolk Borough Council 21.12.16 – KLFM Sports Awards
10. Police Connect Message 23.12.16
11. Op.Randall Newsletter 23.12.16
12. -do- 30.12.16
13. Police Connect Message 31.12.16

## 9. Planning Matters

Planning application for new dwelling following demolition of Old Welney Hotel, Bedford Bank had been received from the Borough Council and circulated to all councillors on 13.12.16. . No comments were received and the forms were returned by e-mail on 28.12.16 confirming that Welney Parish Council were in support of the application.

## 10. Highway Matters

Following the recommendation from the last meeting, a meeting was arranged with Mr.Andy Wallace of highways to go through all the outstanding matters. Cllrs.Googer, Barker and the Clerk attended the meeting and Councillors were provided with a copy of the following list of items that were discussed:

1.Mr.Shirley, Main Street – Wrote in September with grave concerns regarding traffic speeding through the village. Passed to highways for attention.

**This matter has already been investigated by highways, but will now be dealt with by the Parish Partnership Application for a SAM2 speed monitoring device.**

2.Mr.Bray wrote in with photographs regarding flooding problems outside his house in Main Street. This was also passed to Highways for attention. Agreed that contact would be made direct with both these persons – Any update?

**Martin Edmunds will investigate this problem and let us have an answer by e-mail as soon as possible.**

3. Road opposite Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank – Still has a serious problem. Dip in the road is much worse and causing vehicles to ground out when travelling in either direction.

**Mr.Edmunds explained that this problem will need major works to achieve any satisfactory result. Martin Edmunds has the problem in hand and a further patching scheme is proposed as a temporary measure.**

4.Willow Trees on The Wash Road. Apparently some of the trees have been pollarded but a considerable amount of work is still required to keep them in good condition. Any update regarding future planned works?

**The Willow Trees on the Wash Road are the responsibility of the Environment Agency who have an ongoing programme of pollarding. Highways responsibility/boundary is the top of the ditch on the side of the Wash Road.**

5.Sometime ago the Parish Council wrote regarding the possibility of a TROD on March Road to give better access

to the new Community Centre. A ball park figure was given and the Council asked if this figure included the filling in of the dyke along the right hand side of March Road. Any update?

No further information at present. The filling in of the ditch (which would mean a piping scheme would be expensive) provided that the owners of the adjoining properties were in agreement.

6.A request was made regarding the possibility of highways providing a sign pointing from Main Street, pointing down New Road to indicate the way to the William Marshall Centre. Strangers to the village are still having problems finding the new building. Also possibly a sign at the bottom of New Road indicating the approach along March Road.

Mr.Wallace confirmed that he will look into the provision of a sign indicating the way to the William Marshall Centre from Main Street down New Road and along March Road. He was hopeful that signage would be provided in the near future.

7.A request was also made for the consideration of a sign at the entrance to Chestnut Avenue stating "Children at Play – Please drive carefully".

Highways would not even entertain this request. If such a sign is needed then it would be up to the residents to put one up themselves

8. Road name sign at the bottom of New Road (March Road junction) has been damaged and either needs re-siting or renewing.

This is the responsibility of the Borough Council so a request has been sent to Nathan Johnson for them to look at the road sign and repair or renew. Now passed to Clean-up for their attention.

9.Speeding vehicles through the village (particularly on Main Street) are still causing much concern to residents. Is there anything that can be done – possibly Speed Watch or more regular Police speed checks.

Following some lengthy discussion the suggestion was made to apply to the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme for 50/50 funding for the SAM2 monitoring system. This is a monitor that records time, date, volume and speed and comes complete with software and leads to download the data. As the deadline for applications for the 2017/18 year is 16<sup>th</sup> December it was agreed that an application would be made immediately. Confirmation of prices was obtained from Westcotec who supply the system and then if successful with the bid, half the cost would be provided by NCC and half would have to be raised by the Parish. Following correspondence everyone should be aware that the total cost is £3,281 plus VAT and we shall therefore have to raise £1,640.50. There is no time scale for this and we will have at least a year if we are successful, and it can be carried over to the next financial year if more time is needed to raise the funds.

10. Overhanging trees etc. - Serious problems are arising with trees and bushes overhanging the carriageway, particularly in the Tipps End area. Can Highways contact the offending residents?

Mr.Wallace confirmed that he will look into the problems detailed regarding overhanging trees and bushes and in the first instance Highways will write to the owners of the properties asking for them to be cut back. After two requests, if nothing is done, then Highways confirm that they will cut the offending trees etc and send the owners the bill.

11. Vehicles parking on the A.1101 at Lakes End. Whilst we know this problem is not in our Parish but is actually in Upwell, it is causing grave concern to residents and locals who use the road. Vehicles are parked on the road outside the cottages which open onto the A.10 and this is causing a serious hazard. They are left there sometimes after dark with no lights on, and when approaching from the Wisbech direction, it is impossible to see what is coming round the blind bend leading to Clayton's corner.

Mr.Wallace confirmed that this is a Police matter, and an e-mail has been sent to Esther Bortz our PCSO asking if she can look into this and possibly also attend our next meeting to give any advice.

12. There are serious potholes on the road to Tipps End, near the village sign on the opposite side of the road. Apparently there are two at the moment, but shortly they will become one large hole!! AND

13. A1101 Welney – Sandgate Corner to Stockyard Farm- the edge of the carriageway is starting to breakup and needs attention.

Martin Edmunds (Engineer) will investigate 12 & 13 and programme as necessary, as soon as possible.

Thanks were extended to Cllr.Barker for attending and it was felt that the face to face meeting was most helpful.

The meeting was also advised that an e-mail and photographs had been received from Mr.David Bonner regarding the water which was appearing on the Wash. The photographs showed the signage previously used when the road was flooded and which proved to be very effective. It was agreed that the photos should be sent to Highways asking them to use the same set up if and when it became necessary.

11. Parish Website

Cllr.Bombata explained that this item was related to the Parish Council website and some councillors confirmed that they had found it difficult to find and get information. Some present found that it was not suitable for purpose and it was agreed that Cllr.Bombata would find out the costings for an alternative website, as of course the current one is provided free from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils. It was also agreed to look at the existing website and see if it could be improved. It was confirmed that all the information required under the Transparency regulations is available on the web site. The matter would be discussed further at the next meeting,

12. Items for Next Agenda

- a. Highways – Crossing the A.1101 from Delph House
- b. Litter

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.

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

Dated .....7<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.....