

WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Welney Parish Council held at the William Marshall Centre, Hurn Drove, Welney on Tuesday 3 January 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Parish Councillors

Cllr G Rainbird (Chairman)
Cllr P Edmunds (Vice)
Cllr K Goodger
Cllr P Gardiner
Cllr D Denyer
Cllr M Barker
Cllr L Bombata

District Councillors

Cllr D Pope
D/Cllr Spikings

County Councillors

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10 members of the Public

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr K. Lind

2. **Declaration of Interests**

Cllrs Gardiner & Edmunds declared an interest as members of RUG.

3. (a) Public Participation

The following points were raised by members of the public:

Councillors were asked why the agenda was not on the notice boards. It was explained that six were put up and could have been blown off. Council will endeavour to laminate future posting. The public was told that a copy of the agenda is always posted on the Parish Council website.

The issue of broadband for the WMC was raised using the embarrassing situation of a performer invited to entertain the elderly at a Christmas function not being able to do so due to lack of broadband connection. It was announced that installing broadband at the WMC is being considered.

The point was raised about Cllr Edmunds mentioning a figure of £90000 that might need to be spent on the WMC to bring building regulations. It was asked if that was a real quoted figure. Cllr Edmunds said that it was just an imaginary figure mentioned that it might cost to rectify a hypothetical problem

It was asked if the WPC has a strategy for signage and barrier provisions regarding road closure when the Wash Road is about to be closed and during closure. Cllr Goodger explained that a strategy exists that was agreed at a joint meeting between the WPC, Highways and EA. Cllr Goodger is the liaison

A member of the public wanted it on record the recognition of the wonderful work done by Heidi, Karen and Donna in organising the event at the WMC by but asked why the cooker size is smaller than that on the original specification and hence not good enough for purpose to be used at the Christmas lunch. It was asked who changed the specifications (50cm instead of 60cm). It was pointed out by Cllr Denyer that, as a chef, she can confirm that the cooker was good enough and that the food was never going to be cooked at the kitchen as decided by the organisers of the event because they have no catering qualifications. **Note: After the meeting, the cooker size was measured, and it was as per the original specification (60cm)**

Could WPC arrange a signage be put on Back drove to stop people driving along there as it is a Cul-de-sac. Drivers keep going there and getting stuck in the fields. WPC will liaise with Highways to see if a 'Not suitable for road vehicles' sign can be installed.

A member of the audience wants to know who the privately commissioned survey on the WMC has been sent to. The chair responded that this cannot be answered now as it will be 'sub-judice' as the issue about the WMC and WPC handling has been referred to the monitoring officer and is currently being dealt with.

The same member of the public wants to know who the trustees of the Playing Field charity are (chairman answered that there is only one trustee - the Parish Council as sole trustee) and why are the trustees not being asked to provide broadband and CCTV for the WMC. Cllr Bombata answered that the Trustee will be responsible, but the WPC councillors are debating to see if the WPC, as sole trustees, can provide the funding for the broadband and CCTV.

A question was also asked about whether a letter had been received from WREN (one of the funders of the WMC) and it was confirmed that a letter was received. The Chairman explained a response has been sent to WREN.

Another member of the public wondered when all the questions being asked about the WMC for the last 18months are going to be dealt with, The chairman said that the WPC has been answering these questions including arranging a special meeting on August 14th 2017 to deal specifically with the issues of the WMC.

(b) **Comments from District/County Councillors**

No comments

4. **Minutes of Last meeting**

Cllr Barker indicated he was not at the meeting. This was corrected. The Chairman signed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

5. **Matters Arising**

(a) **Sandgate Corner Meadow**

WPC need to write to Paul Fox so that he can confirm if RUG is prepared to agree the terms of the lease.

(b) **Welcome pack.**

Completed and formatted by Cllr Bombata. Ready to be distributed.

(c) **Updated Cascade Sheet**

Done and ready to be distributed. Needs to be updated with STD code in case of non-Welney Residents or mobile phone callers using the phone numbers.

(d) **Residents Consultation regarding Footpaths**

Consultation completed. Application for Parish partnership grant has been submitted. Awaiting for response.

(e) **Councillors email address**

Addresses set up. Cllr Goodger suggested that all email set to councillors via the Parish Council email address should be automatically sent to the clerk. It was also suggested that members of the public should be made aware of this. Agree by all and this will be implemented. Councillors log in details will be given to them privately.

6. Finance

(a) Budgetary Statement

Cllr Bombata presented the budgetary statement for December, which was received and noted.

The following invoices were agreed for payment by cheque and/or Direct Debit

Eon - Street Lighting	£85.55
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Moved by Cllr Edmunds to pay, seconded by Cllr Bombata. Carried Unanimously.

Direct debit now changed to come from the trustee account from next month. Bank account address also changed to Chairman's address for now.

Cllr Goodger mentioned two invoices that had been passed for payment that has still not been paid. Metrorod £3384 and for sterilisation £350. The cheques will be sent off as soon as possible. Cllr Bombata propose and Cllr Edmunds seconded. Carried unanimously.

Precept

Cllr Bombata presented a breakdown of precept figures showing how much is needed to cover the needs of the WPC for the financial year 2018/2019. Cllr Goodger did not think the broadband and CCTV should be considered for now as it is costly. Cllr Denver thought otherwise based on conversations she's had with users, Cllr Goodger accepts Cllr Denyer's account. Cllr Gardiner believes the broadband and CCTV is necessary for security reasons.

Borough councillors advised, after the issue was raised by Cllr Goodger, that we might be able to tap into certain funding.

After various discussions and advice from Borough Councillors present it was agreed that the amount of precept indicated is over the percentage allowable. Cllr Pope suggested that we should check to see if we are limited to how much we can raise the precept by. We can then call another meeting before the end of the month to agree a precept.

Getting a loan was mooted but discouraged. We could approach the Parishioners to see if they will support the increase.

It was moved by Cllr Goodger, seconded by Cllr Edmunds that we should increase the precept by the maximum allowed of between 2% and 5% while we check if we can increase the precept by more and if so call another meeting. Agreed unanimously.

7. Correspondence

The schedule of correspondence.

- Letter from 4 parishioners about WMC. To be passed to the trustee
- Information about 1 week Road closure – Welney Road to be closed for one week from 22nd January between Sandgate Corner and Welney Farm House for road works. Access will still be made available to residents and businesses within the area where work is taking place.
- Application for renewal of membership for Norfolk Playing Field Association – Pass over to trustee.
- Neighbourhood Plan Form to be filled in and sent back – Cllr Barker volunteered to look at it. Pass form to Cllr Barker
- Street light at Suspension bridge. Cllr Goodger has dealt with it. Will carry on dealing with street lights. Write to Pat imploring her to write to all contacts on the welneypc@aol email address telling them of the new Parish clerk email address.
- Letter from HMRC forwarded by Pat – re payment due.

8 Council Committees and Lead on Specific areas

Community Speed Watch

Speed watch

- No speed watch over the Christmas period.

SAM2

- Submitted instruction to Wescotec. Installation will take place in about 6 weeks
- Councillors reminded by Cllr Bombata, for the benefit of those not at the December 2017 meeting, that we agreed to use the amount saved from a reduced insurance rate to fund the required amount of £1165 for the SAM2 system.

9. Planning Matters

Summary of discussion

- No objections to any planning application

10. Highways

Summary of discussion:

- Street light done
- Some road damage reported
- Cllr Goodger checked wash water level – level slightly higher further in than shown.
- Some of the signs about water level were faulty but have now been fixed.
- Cllr Goodger checked most of the water level display sign and they were all working fine
- Water expected to be on the road for about a week.
- Cllr barker wanted to know what part of the road os used to indicate depth shown on signboards. Cllr Goodger said it is in the centre of the road the where the monitoring station= which can be 10cm higher than the sides of the road.
- Cllr Barker also wanted to know if there is any penalty for those caught in the wash road when the barriers are up. Cllr Goodger said it depends on the County, Cambridge police tends to give tickets, but Norfolk tends to be a bit more tolerant. Rescue services (AA, RAC) will not go in the water to rescue. Those stuck need to get private rescues service. Fire brigade will not take fire tender in – they might use a boat instead. Some are pulled out by tractors.
- Cllr Denyer reported a problem (a ramp) on the road towards the wetland centre.as mentioned to her by a Parishioner. Cllr Goodger said it was an ongoing problem that well know and is being looked at
- Some Parishioners also asked for the Council to consider having a WPC notice board on the suspension bridge side of the wash.

11. Clerk Vacancy

Summary of Discussion

- Still not able to recruit a new clerk. Advert still on NALC website
- A lady in the village might be interested in the role, Not experienced but willing to learn
- Chair said she can look on the NALC website and apply through there
- Cllr Goodger has spoken to a few clerks in the neighbouring Parishes but has not identified anyone suitable or interested.
- Cllr Denyer suggested that we should consider getting any new clerk trained as soon as they are employed

Decision

See if the lady is interested and interview her for the job if she applies

12. Council Equipment

Summary of Discussion

- Waiting for Cllr Goodger to arrange a meeting with the wash group.

13. Training

Councillor to attend training especially the one with the CPD (Continuous Professional Development) certification

No funding available

It was suggested that some Councillors can the training in-house.

Action

Deferred until the budget available for training is known.

14. Communications Strategy

Cllr Barker to prepare for next meeting

15. Frequency of meeting

Chairman suggested alternating Parish Council and Trustee meetings with other meetings called as necessary. Cllr Denyer said that parishioners are set in their way. Cllr Bombata agrees with chairman than having alternating Council and trustees meeting mean that the monthly meeting can finish earlier as it will only be one meeting (Council or Trustee),

Cllr Goodger thinks that we can carry on with two meetings but have good disciplines about debate times. Limit Council meetings to 1.5 hours and Trustee meeting to 1 hour,

Cllr Edmunds asks if we can reduce the items on the agenda is that we can still have robust debates in the decision-making process.

Cllr Barker agrees with strict timing on the debate. We can also look at limiting public participation to only items on the agenda.

Cllr Gardiner stated that he believes we should have bi-monthly meetings. He believes monthly meetings not necessary. Chairman agrees with Cllr Gardiner. Cllr Gardiners moves that we should have a bi-monthly meeting, seconded by Cllr Rainbird (withdrawn).

Cllr Denyer proposed that we should move on to a time-limited meeting (Parish -1.5 and Trustee - 1.0),

Cllr Gardiner moved his motion again seconded by Cllr. Edmunds. Cllr Denyer put an amendment, seconded by Cllr Goodger for a shorter Parish Council and Trustee meeting.

Cllr Edmunds proposed that we should have a shorter Agenda and have alternate Council and Trustee meeting.

Cllr Goodger proposed that we should have a 1 hour 45 minutes Council meeting and a bi-monthly Trustee meeting making sure anything for the trustee should not be on the Council agenda. Seconded by Cllr Denyer.

It was realised that the parish Council cannot decide meeting frequency for trustee, It was moved by Clr Goodger that the council meeting should not last more than 1hour and 45mnute, seconded by Cllr Denyer, Passed unanimously.

- 16 **Community tidy up**
Cllr Gardiner believes the village need tidying up from the bridge to the village. Clean up arranged for the Sunday the 14th of January at 11.
- 17 **Parish Plan** – Done
- 18 **Best Practice Review**
Cllr Gardiner reckons we need check list of our activities. Cllr Gardiner to investigate procedure.
- 19 **Broadband** - Cllr Gardiner said ducting will be put in for the future cabling for broadband. Cllr Bombata suggested that any extra raised on precept should be used for providing broadband at the WMC, New figures for installation and running cost of broadband to be produced. If broadband is installed can it be password protected (yes) and can the password be changed regularly (yes).

- 20. **Items for next agenda**
Notice boards for Other side of the wash

Meeting closed at 21.35

Signed Date.....