

WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Welney Parish Council held at the William Marshall Centre, Hurn Drove, Welney on Tuesday 6 February 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 (acting Clerk)

District Councillors

Cllr D Pope

County Councillors

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10 members of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Humphries
Cllr Spikings

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Gardiner & Edmunds declared an interest as members of RUG. Cllr Goodger as Chair as WMC, Cllr Denyer as Chair of Management Committee

3. (a) Public Participation

The following points were raised by members of the public:

- Question about recent report re WMC
- How items on the agenda can be known.
- interested indicated by an individual about being involved if the Parish Council is reviewing the Parish Plan.
- Dips in Wisbech Road after the recent resurfacing.
- if people whose trees are overhanging the road had been written to as agreed by the council
- Clarification about who deals with what between Welney Parish Council, Welney Playing Field Charity Trustee and the William Marshall Centre Management Committee.
- What issues were raised with MRC and Assent after the private survey report
- Cricket club might move away from William Marshall Centre
- Has the council looked at other areas to get grants and not just depend on funds from the William Marshals Charity.
- Issues raised about the plan to raise the charges and paying deposit for using the WMC.

(b) Comments from District/County Councillors

Cllr Pope stated that most Parish Council meetings he attends always provide him with a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting. It was agreed that a copy will be sent to him from now on

4. Minutes of Last meeting

Cllr Goodger indicated that an item for payment should be re-titled water Treatment instead of sterilisation. This was corrected. The Chairman signed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

(a) Sandgate Corner Meadow

Email sent to chairman of RUG. RUG has agreed to take on the plot at the specified rate. Contract to be issued for signature.

(b) Councillors Email addresses.

Changes required made. All email will now be sent to Councillors with a copy sent to the clerk. Public made aware on website

(c) Parish Plan

- Cllr Gardiner to take lead to help create a new plan.
- Cllr Bombata has plan in pdf format and will send a copy to Cllr. Gardiner,
- Cllr Goodger said that the last one was done by devising series of questions for Parishioners to answer. Teams of Councillors/ Parishioners then delivered these to residents and then went back to collect them,
- Cllr Gardiner wanted to know if there is any funding available towards creating a new one. Cllr Pope gave the name of a contact at the Borough that might be able to help.

(d) Broadband/CCTV

Cllr. Bombata announced that broadband has been ordered and will to be installed at the WMC soon. Still looking at the issue of CCTV

6. Finance

(a) Budgetary Statement

- Cllr Bombata presented the budgetary statement.
- Cllr Goodger stated that the figures ought to have been provided 5 days before the meeting
- Acting clerk said the reason the figures came out late this time round was that Councillors wanted an up to date breakdown (including December/January Figures). The bank statement that included January figures only arrived the day before the meeting.
- Cllr Goodger stressed the importance of Councillors to be able to see the latest bank statement every month.
- Chairman said this lateness in receiving Bank statements could be overcome if WPC has online Banking facilities,
- Cllr Goodger said that is fine so long as the 2- signatory situation. Any two of Chairman/Vice Chair/Full time clerk can be maintained. Chairman said he will check. Cllr Denyer said it can be done.
- Cllr Denyer suggested that WPC can ask the bank to change statement date. This will be looked at.
- Cllr Goodger wanted to know if the payments to Metrorod and for the water Purification had been made. These were confirmed as paid by the Chairman,

The following invoice was agreed for payment by cheque and/or Direct Debit

Outstanding bill for Training for Cllr Rainbird and Bombata £62.50

Moved by Cllr Bombata to pay seconded by Cllr Edmunds.6 for - 1 Against.

7. Correspondence

The schedule of correspondence.

Letter from Marshall Charity asking us to have survey done. Councillors on Marshall's charity declared an interest.

- Cllr Denyer said that she believed we did not have to have a survey done as the constructor and Inspectors have told us that the construction of the building meets the standards required.
- Cllr Gardiner said we do not have the funds for it, If we must have a survey done this will have to be paid for with funding raised through the precept.
- Cllr. Barker agreed that we should not have to do another survey.
- Acting Clerk said that WPC have written to MRC about the construction of the building asking them to confirm if the building conforms with building regulations and they have responded that it does. He suggested that we should wait for a response from Assent, then respond to Marshalls Charity letter
- It was reiterated that the building has a valid certificate and we had a response from the builder that it conforms to building regulations and is fit for purpose.
- Chairman said we need to consider whether we want to reply to Marshall's charity now or wait till we get a response from Assent Building controls.
- Cllr Gardiner agreed that we should respond to William Marshall's charity after we have received a response from Assent building controls. He also stated that, though he was not a councillor when the building was being designed, from the drawings he has seen, the specification for the building is exactly what we have.
- Chairman asked for agreement that we would write Marshall's charity when we get a response for assent.
- It was agreed that we should publish the documents about the Centre on the Parish Council website as suggested by Cllr. Gardiner.

Letter for Loyd Homes about 17 residential properties proposed off the main street

- Cllr Gardiner said that someone from Loyd homes has volunteered to come along That we should call a separate meeting for him to come to explain the plan.
- Cllr Goodger asked if the planning application is on the Borough Council website yet.
- Cllr Goodger said we could invite Loyd homes to come to the next council meeting. He said we should keep an eye on the Borough website for the timeline. He said it is important that we do get Loyd homes around either at the next council meeting or a separate meeting.
- Acting Clerk asked if it might be wise to let councillors who have been assigned the lead on planning to have a meeting with Loyd homes and report back to the council.
- Cllr Gardiner said that it will be better to have a public meeting.
- Cllr Goodger agrees that the meeting should be open and should take place at the William Marshall Centre.
- Chairman asked if we should wait until Loyd home puts in a formal application to the Borough or act on email sent to WPC and the phone call from one of the directors.
- Cllr Goodger suggested that we should invite Loyd home to come to the next Parish Council meeting.
- Cllr Pope reminded councillors that once the application goes in WPC only have 21 days to respond. It might be sensible to have a public meeting within the next fortnight.
- Chairman suggested that we should have a meeting in two weeks' time provided an application has gone in.
- Cllr Barker said that we should just call a meeting anyway since we will need to. Don't wait for the application to go in.
- Cllr Goodger agrees to calling a public meeting with the public allowed to have a two-way conversation with representatives from Loyd homes.
- Cllr Pope stated that it is better to have the meeting to get opinions and pass this on to the planning department before a decision has been made.as it has a better chance of influencing the decision. It is more difficult to have a decision changed once made,

- Acting clerk ask if we should write back to ask Loyd homes to come in and give a presentation.
- It was agreed that we should fix the date as Tuesday the 20th of February 2018.
- Chairman confirmed that is would be a public meeting not a council meeting. Cllr Pope suggested that the WPC might want to decide after the public meeting.
- The Chairman suggested that we can then have a quick Council meeting after the public meeting.
- Acting clerks asked if we could ask Welney News to help notify the public about the meeting.
- Chairman reiterated that we agree to have a public meeting on the 20th of February 2018 and ask Loyd homes to come and give a presentation to Councillors and Parishioners.
- Cllr Gardiner suggested that they could come earlier at about 7 to set up plans

Letter inviting Parish Council's to send two representatives to a meeting arranged by MP Elizabeth Truss with the Minister of state for Media in attendance to discuss Broadband and Mobile communications in Norfolk om 23rd February 2018.

- Chairman asked for volunteers to go. Acting Clerk volunteered. It was suggested that Cllr Denyer should go to represent the management committee. She cannot go due to other prior commitments.
- Acting clerk asked if the invitation can be opened to members of the public as it seems as if no other councillor is free to attend.
- As the invitation specified representatives from the Parish Council Cllr, Gardiner said he will go.

Letters from Parishioners about William Marshal Centre

- Acting clerk mentioned various letter from Parishioners asking questions about the construction of the William Marshall Centre.
- Most of these queries have been responded to but the Parishioners keep writing about the same issues repeatedly.
- The WPC is only allowed to spend a maximum of £450 on any issue which means the Council can only allocate 18 hours maximum to an issue based on a nominal figure of £25 per hour. WPC has this limit and hence does not have to respond to any further requests about the same issues.
- Cllr Goodger added that the queries can also be considered as vexatious. He suggested that we should pass a resolution to put a stop to repeated and vexatious requests as Councils can do and as other councils have done.
- Acting clerk suggested that WPC should publish all relevant publishable information on the WPC website for total transparency. This will ensure that Parishioners have access to information held by the WPC.
- Cllr Edmunds said that the motion passed should apply to all those that are considered as sending repetitive queries especially queries with multiple applicants on the requests. The acting clerk explained that the rule allowed people to be grouped together if the queries can be identified as being co-ordinated.
- Cllr Goodger said the we need to be clear that if it is an issue to do with the building the Trustee is the one to be approached.
- Acting clerk suggest that we should write to all sending queries in that the WPC will no longer deal with queries regarding the construction of the William Marshall Centre. It can be done under the cost or the vexatious route.
- Cllr Goodger said the as we currently only have an acting clerk we can no longer afford to carry on dealing with these repeat requests neither should we expect any new clerk to deal with the same.

- It was suggested that a resolution be moved to write to those identified as sending in repeat request that due to cost reasons the WPC can no longer respond to the request.
- Cllr Gardiner pointed out that it is not only cost reasons applicable in this instance that these requests are vexatious as well.
- Cllr Bombata then moved a motion that due to cost and vexatious reasons, the WPC should write to those identified that their requests will no longer be dealt with, Seconded by Cllr; Goodger. Passed unanimously.
- Letter to be drafted accordingly.
- Cllr Pope asked the WPC is we have considered the new Data Protection act as it ties in with what we have been discussing. Acting clerk said it will be on the agenda for the March 2018 meeting.

Letter from Highways about rangers visit,

Cllr Gardiner wants us to write to highways specifying what need to be looked at,

8 Council Committees and Lead on Specific areas

Community Speed Watch

Speed watch

- New camera obtained. Much lighter, Has a range of 457 meters. Standing by the Church it can take readings just as people come around the Sandgate corner bend.
- Cllr. Barker announced that any member of the public can volunteer to join the speed watch. It is Council led but anyone can take part. The more people the better,

SAM2

- Order is placed. Waiting for it to be set up. About 3 weeks to go..

9. Planning Matters

Summary of discussion

- Plan for 17 dwellings already discussed

10. Highways

Summary of discussion:

- Letter from highways about rangers visit
- Have 10 days to respond
- Cllr Gardiner to send list of things we want ranger to look at to acting clerk
- Acting clerk to send the list to highways.
- Ditch near Sandgate Corner dug up need to be tidied up
- People at Suspension bridge want to see if there can be a speed restriction – we should make representation on behalf of the residents
- We can write in to ask if we are expected to comment on any proposal made on speed
- We should get data from SAM2 camera to use as evidence before making representation about speed restriction

11. Vacancy - Councillor and Clerk

Summary of Discussion

- Cllr K. Lind resigned and sent a cheque for £25 with her resignation letter as a refund for the training she was sent on.
- It was suggested that we should write thanking her for her time served as Councillor
- It was also suggested that we should return her cheque.
- A councillor said that she said she would feel better if we took the money. So, we will respect her wishes.

- Tell Borough about Councillor resignation
- Post a notice within Parish about Vacancy for two weeks – then consider co-option
- The Parish Clerk vacancy is still on the NALC website and on the Parish Council website
- We can look at advertising in local Papers as well as the Job Centres
- Talk Directly to other Parish Councils to see if their Clerks are willing to take on the roles.
- We will keep looking.
- Acting clerk will look at other site to post vacancy.
- It will be nice to have someone who know the rules.

12. Council Equipment

Summary of Discussion

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

13. Communications Strategy

- Cllr Barker said the we have a lot of information coming our way
- We need to be more proactive in the way we deal with these
- We need to push information out more
- Have Facebook page
- Utilise points within the village – maybe about 3 places
- Nowhere to pull in safely to read notice
- If there is a need – send out a leaflet and get volunteers to deliver.
- Is there any space in the defibrillator station to post notices – not ideal
- We can put some information at the pub
- Find other prominent places within the village
- Publicise the Parish Website more
- Ask the WWT
- Ask the Builders to consider putting a notice board within the new proposed development
- Why not re-start the Parish Council Newsletter – Consensus is to print leaflets as necessary and post or distribute. Not regular newsletter
- Cllr Barker volunteering to lead. Cllr Denyer in support.
- Question asked if there is a best guide policy on communications.

14. FOI Strategy

- Motion moved by Cllr Bombata to exclude the public and press to discuss a matter of a confidential Nature. Seconded by Cllr. Edmunds.
- Cllr Goodger questioned if it is necessary to discuss the issue in private. Cllr Bombata said that if the motion is not supported then we will have to discuss in public. Motion passed. 6 in favour - 1 abstention.
- After the public left, the Freedom of information act was discussed and the WPC strategy re-iterated.
- It was then debated and agreed that letters should be sent out to named individuals based on repeated and vexatious request (hence the exclusion, as identified individuals cannot be named and debated about in public)

15. Items for next agenda

Review Communications strategy
 Debate new Data Protection act

Meeting closed at 21.35

Signed Date.....