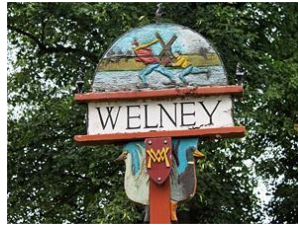


Welney Parish Council

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MINUTES of the meeting of Welney Parish Council Held on Tuesday 8 January 2019 at 7.30 pm in The William Marshall Centre, Hurn Drove, Welney, PE14 9SD

Present:

Cllr P GARDINER (PG) - Chairman
Cllr M BARKER (MB) – Vice Chairman
Cllr G BOMBATA (LB)
Cllr K GOODGER (KG)
Cllr D HARVEY (DH)
Cllr D LOWRY (DL)

Also Present: Mrs Vikki Austin / S Field – Acting Clerks

BCllr V Spikings – Borough Council
7 members of the public

18/19.001 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public and explained the procedure for public participation insofar as if a resident wishes to speak on any item on the agenda they must inform the Clerks by no later than 12noon on the day of the meeting of their request. They will then be afforded 3 minutes (per person) to address the Councillors. A total of 10 minutes public participation is set aside at the beginning of meetings.

A resident raised concerns in respect of the proposed footpath on March Road, specifically:

1. Why cannot any proposed path run on the other side of March Road so that it does not interfere with properties?
2. Path from New Road is on the other side already.
3. Crossing the road at Hurn Drove is on a bend but equally so is crossing the road at New Road.
4. Proposed path would run adjacent to a ditch, any slight deviation, especially in the dark, and particularly for wheelchair users etc could see them stumbling into the ditch. Is the Council taking responsibility for this especially as they have been made aware of the danger?
5. The hedge is currently an important wind barrier against erosion and damage to properties. Currently, even with the barrier, there is occasional damage. Without it, it will be significant.
6. The hedge also acts as a barrier against traffic (safety and noise).
7. The proposed path is 4' wide and 40' long which would take a significant piece of land from properties. What are the proposals in respect of compensation?

The Chairman confirmed that these comments would be taken into consideration when this item was reached on the agenda.

18/19.002 APOLOGIES

None.

18/19.003 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None in respect of items on this agenda.

18/19.004 CO OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Following the resignation of Cllr L Howard there are now two vacancies on the Parish Council and following advice from the Clerk it was AGREED that an extension of time be permitted for other residents to apply for consideration to be co-opted.

One application had already been received and it was further AGREED that any interested party be invited to write directly to the Clerks expressing any interest and that interviews would be held for the two vacancies at 7.30pm on Tuesday 29th January.

If there are successful applicants they will be co-opted onto the Parish Council at the meeting to be held on 5th February 2019.

18/19.005 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

BCllr V Spikings updated the meeting on activity since the last meeting on 5th December. The main priority for the Borough Council now is the setting of their budget and a group meeting would be taking place next week to discuss this.

A lot of large planning applications were currently being considered by the Borough Council (not affecting this Parish) but receipt of householder applications had reduced.

It was suggested that perhaps the Parish Council would like to participate in training in respect of how to respond to planning applications (having regard to the National Planning Framework) and details of available training sessions would be sent to the Clerks for information/booking.

18/19.006 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

No report received.

18/19.007 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018 were duly signed by the Chairman as a true record

18/19.008 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed those present that he had received Cllr L Howard's resignation which had been accepted.

The Chairman read out a statement from the Acting Clerks and this is appended to these Minutes for information.

18/19.009 PRECEPT 19/20

The Clerk updated the meeting in respect of the precept request for the financial year 2019/2020. Due to the amount of work that had been undertaken in preparing a transparent, understandable set of accounts the Clerk suggested that a rate of inflation (2.4%) increase be added to the request which equated to £16,643.00 (inclusive of £180 Rural Settlement Grant). This amount should ensure that the Parish Council have sufficient reserves going forward. Following discussion it was AGREED that the sum of £16,643.00 be requested from the Borough Council and the Clerks undertook to complete the relevant paperwork and submit this to the Borough Council before the deadline of 31st January 2019.

18/19.010 MARCH ROAD FOOTPATH

It was reiterated that the approach by the Parish Council to Marshall's Charity for match funding (with the Borough Council) for this project had been rejected and a decision was required as to whether the grant application be resubmitted. The funding from the Borough Council would only be

available until the end of this financial year (31st March 2019) so a decision was required as soon as possible.

In response to the statement by members of the public, within public participation, it was confirmed that the ditch would be backfilled so this concern would be extinguished.

As regards the siting of the path, the proposed location had been decided by the County Highways department and any concerns should be directed to them along with queries on wayleaves paid as this was their responsibility.

Following discussion it was unanimously AGREED that the grant application be updated and resubmitted to Marshall's Charity. The Clerks were requested to revisit the documentation and prepare a submission for as soon as possible.

18/19.11 VILLAGE PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

To be carried forward to the February meeting in order for the Clerks to be updated as to the relationships between the Parish Council and the other village trusts/charities to ensure transparency and legality.

18/19.12 FINANCE

012.1 Financial Statement

The Clerks presented the Chairman with the schedule of receipts and payments and the bank reconciliation for signature. The Clerk also confirmed to those present that these papers would be posted on the website on a monthly basis (redacted as appropriate for personal information).

012.2 Confirm Payments from 4 December 2018

The following payments had been made out of meeting (from 4th December 2018 to 7th January 2019):

Date	Cheque Number	Payee	Amount
04/12/2018	Direct Debit	Wave (Anglian Water)	£28.22
04/12/2018	Direct Debit	Initial	£46.81
04/12/2018	101467	Wages	£358.02
04/12/2018	101468	Cleantech	£420.00
04/12/2018	101469	Westcotec	£133.34
04/12/2018	101470	St Mary's Church	£200.00
11/12/2018	Direct Debit	Eon	£113.33
12/12/2018	Direct Debit	Eon	£117.11

012.3 Authorise signing of orders for payment

The follow cheques were presented to the Parish Council for signature:

Cheque Number	Payee	Amount
101472	Compleat Office Stationery	£28.32
101473	Wages	£347.60
101474	Wages	£311.00
101475	SLCC – New Arnold-Baker book	£108.79
101476	Westcotec	£133.34

18/19.13 CLERKS FOLLOW UP DIARY

Accounts - The clerks have spent a lot of time getting the current financial year accounts in order and preparing for precept and the new financial year.

Village sign and Street naming – The request for these matters have not yet been investigated due to the amount of work undertaken by the Clerks in respect of the accounts. This would be followed up for the meeting due to take place on 5th February 2019.

18/19.014 PLANNING MATTERS

No applications received

DATE OF NEXT FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TO BE CONFIRMED

5th February 2019.

Items for inclusion on the next agenda

Village Sign

Co-Option of Councillor(s)

Street Lighting

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations - adoption

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

Signed :

Chairman

DRAFT

STATEMENT FROM THE ACTING CLERKS OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL

8TH JANUARY 2019

Myself, Su Field, and Vikki Austin have been appointed as the Acting Clerks of Welney Parish Council to assist the Parish Council going forward to ensure legality, transparency and effectiveness.

The past is past and we must now look to the future.

Since our appointment on 3rd December the majority of our time has been taken up with trying to ensure that the accounts are transparent and fit for purpose. This task, we believe, has now been completed and provides the Parish Council with a good base for the new financial year starting on 1st April 2019 (budget headings will be reviewed to ensure their relevance!).

From today's date all agendas for Parish Council meetings will be posted on the village noticeboard in accordance with legislation, ie at least three clear days prior to the meeting. It is our usual practice (with other parishes) to post agendas at least the week before.

Draft Minutes of meetings will be passed to the Chairman for scrutiny within 36 hours of the meeting having taken place and once agreed by him/her these will then be posted on the village noticeboard immediately thereafter. These draft Minutes only become final upon acceptance at the next meeting.

We have this evening received the access codes to the website so the updating of the website will be our main priority. Agendas, draft Minutes and accounts will be posted monthly.

Please can everyone also ensure that any correspondence relating to Welney Parish Council matters be sent to the Clerks in the first instance either by email (clerk@welneypc.org.uk) or in writing c/o The Barn, Main Street, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1PH. We will then distribute accordingly to all Parish Councillors.

We, as the Acting Clerks, are the Proper Officers of the Parish Council and as such we are responsible for certain statutory functions (Local Government Act 1972) which includes the serving of the summons and supporting the Parish Council in it's day to day administration which includes handling face to face, telephone and email queries about the council, updating and managing the content on the website, issuing public notices, follow up actions from meetings etc, etc.

Please feel free to contact either Vikki or myself if you have any questions but rest assured we will be doing our very best to ensure that the Parish Council runs efficiently and transparently from this moment onwards.

Thank you.

Su Field