

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY**  
**ON TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2010 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present

Cllrs.K.Goodger (Chairman) E.Allen, T.Bennett, M.Brown, S.Dobson, S.Kerr,  
and the Clerk.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the Cllrs.C.Freer and V. Pratley,  
Dist.Cllrs.V.Spikings and D.Pope and C.Cllr.H.Humphrey

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None at this stage of the meeting

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, having been circulated to all  
councillors, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting

**4. Matters Arising**

1. Community Speed Watch – Cllr.Allen confirmed that he had applied for the application  
packs for the Community Speed Watch scheme. As soon as this was received he would be  
contacting all the volunteers and arranging a meeting to move matters ahead.
2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Nothing further had been heard and the matter is  
still in the hands of the Borough Council who are awaiting confirmation from Anglian Water  
on the site they have acquired for the Vacuum Pumping Station.
3. Meeting with adjoining Councils – The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting she  
had contacted all the adjoining Councils who had shown interest in attending the meeting, and  
asked if there was anything they would like to include on the Agenda. It was agreed to leave  
the matter for the month of January to give all councils an opportunity to discuss the matter at  
their meetings, and then try and arrange a meeting on either 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Welney.  
Final arrangements could be made at the February meeting.
4. Flat Earth Society – A further letter regarding the proposed plaque was received from a  
Rev. Richard Greiner of Zanesville, Ohio and it was agreed to thank him and advise that the  
matter is out of our hands and would be dealt with by the local authority. Letters had been  
forwarded to the original persons advising that they must contact Highways for permission for  
such a plaque to be erected. Highways had advised that this is a matter to be dealt with by  
their Bridges Department, who had further confirmed that they would consider the matter once  
an application was received. They did confirm that these issues can be extremely  
controversial and for this reason a plaque of this nature within the highway is extremely rare.
5. Mr.Simon Elliott – Following his visit to the last meeting, all councillors were circulated  
with the information Mr.Elliott had supplied regarding his proposals for the Youth of the  
Village and funding for the activities he wished to carry out. After discussion it was agreed  
that the Parish Council would be happy to support him in his venture, but that there was no  
way that any application for funding could be put in the name of the Parish Council. It was  
agreed to suggest to him that he prepare a report for the Welney News so that the village  
would be aware of his proposals.
6. Local Government Re-organisation – Councillors had all received copies of the  
information from the Boundary Committee regarding the Local Government re-organisation  
and details of the meeting at King's Lynn on 5<sup>th</sup> January. After discussion it was agreed to  
send a similar letter to that which we sent to the Boundary Committee in May of this year and  
to re-iterate that we do not want anything changed, but to leave Norfolk as it is. A copy of the  
letter would also be sent to the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk for their  
information.

## **5. Public Participation**

None.

## **6. First time Sewage Scheme**

Nothing further to report at present.

## **7. Finance**

The following accounts had been received for payment and on the proposition of Cllr.Kerr seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed, the cheques were signed:

Fenland Fire Appliance Company Servicing of Fire Extinguishers at Parish Hall.	41 . 32
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MHB Services Limited Street Lighting Maintenance 13.12.09 to 12.2.10	102 . 33
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Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	14 , 75
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Anglian Water – Water Supply to Pavilion 29.5.09 to 2.12.09	50 . 31
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Anglian Water – Water Supply to Parish Hall 29.5.09 to 2.12.09	29 . 10
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### Paid by Direct Debit

E-On – Street Lighting 16.12.09	59 . 81
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Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary – 5.1.10	255 . 68
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E-On – Electricity to Parish Hall - 6.1.10	75 . 71
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E-On – Electricity to Pavilion – 12.1.10	67 . 81
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Annual Grants – The annual request from the Welney St. Mary PCC for a grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard was received. After consideration it was proposed by Cllr.Brown seconded by Cllr.Allen and agreed, that a grant of £200.00 should be made and the cheque was drawn and signed.

Annual Precept from the Borough Council – The Form for the Annual Precept had been received from the Borough Council and this had to be returned before 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2010. All Councillors had received a breakdown of the Income and Expenses to 31.12.09 together with an estimate of the costs up to 31.3.10 Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Kerr, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed that the precept should be increased by £250, and that the Parish Council should send in the form requesting £8,500 for the year 1.4.10 to 31.3.2011

## **8. Parish Hall**

The electricity meters were checked and the sum of £31.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – Nothing further had been heard but the matter is in the hands of Mr. Michael Anker, the Legal Executive with the Environment Agency and he has promised to contact the Parish Council with details of progress as soon as he had received a respond to his claim from the Land Registry.

## **9. Proposed New Community Centre**

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been received from Mr. Briscoe of Peter Humphrey Associates, confirming that they were in the process of preparing the necessary documents which will make up the application to King's Lynn & West Norfolk Council. Mr.Briscoe also confirmed that the site falls within the flood risk area requiring the production of a Flood Risk Assessment and he has discussed the scheme with Geoff Beel who they propose to ask to carry out the assessment. We went on to give details regarding floor level requirements and confirmed that he was awaiting confirmation from the Environment Agency on the required

floor level. He confirmed that he would like to visit the site during the week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> December, and the Clerk further confirmed that he visited on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Briscoe also enclosed a copy of a letter confirming Mr. Beel's fees of £500.00 plus V.A.T. for his appointment and requesting confirmation that this was acceptable.

Following consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr. Briscoe confirming that Mr. Beel's fee was acceptable.

Open Morning – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 – Approximately 12 persons attended the Parish Hall to have a look at the plans for the proposed new Community Centre, and it appeared that all comments were very favourable. During the morning the W.A.S.H. slide show was running and as always this proved to be very interesting. Refreshments were served.

A letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> January was received from Mr. John Loveday, and copies were handed to all councillors. Mr. Loveday raised concerns regarding the siting of the new Community Centre and the costs involved with the building of the property, and felt that a public meeting should be held as peoples views may have changed during the time since the new building was suggested. After discussion, it was agreed to reply to Mr. Loveday stating that the approximate cost of £200,000 included all services etc Also to confirm that the Parish Council had no intentions of selling any of the frontage land, unless they could not raise enough funds for the complete building cost. It was also agreed to confirm that we are now too far down the line to make changes as the decision has been made on the site for the building. Plans have already been prepared and instructions given for the planning application to the Borough Council. The Parish Council have held public meetings – indeed a public Open Morning was held on 12<sup>th</sup> December when residents had the opportunity to inspect the plans.

## **10. Playing Field**

Conifer Trees – Following the last meeting, Cllrs. Goodger and Bennett visited the Playing Field and confirmed that some of the trees (approximately 9) are the responsibility of the Parish Council – Playing Field. Contact was then made with Mr. Carter of The Sands to ask if he would contact his contractors to see what they would charge to deal with these trees at the same time as they attended to those on his boundary. At the present time nothing further has been heard. Once the price was received a decision would be made on how the matter would be dealt with.

## **11. Correspondence**

- a. Meet your Local PCSO. The Clerk confirmed that Steve Cockerell telephoned her on the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> December stating that he would be along to collect the key for his meeting in the Parish Hall at 10 a.m. Nothing had been heard since.
- b. Wash Estuary Strategy Group – Renewable Energy Demonstration Event – 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January at R.G. Barwell & Sons, Lutton – Straw firing automated feed boiler system on a working Farm.
- c. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Norfolk Link December 2009
- d. Downham Neighbourhood Policing Scheme – Shoplifters Beware – Extra Police patrols in Downham during the Festive Season
- e. Borough Council – Parish Training and Information – Would anyone be interested in attending a Training Session in Downham Market on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010 at the Town Hall. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- f. Borough Council – Verification of Property Address – Ferndale, Bedford Bank, Welney
- g. Copy of Signpost – Norfolk Rural Community Council Magazine
- h. Borough Council.- Faster Future – A campaign to bring super-fast broadband to King's Lynn and West Norfolk – Register your interest at [www.fasterfuture.co.uk](http://www.fasterfuture.co.uk)
- i. Foolhardy Folk Circus Arts Org. – Would we like them to visit our village next year.
- j. Two Funding Opportunities Leaflets – One for General Funding up to maximum of £5,000 for Community and Voluntary Groups, the second for Funders for disadvantaged groups and causes that some funders consider to be unpopular.

- k. Press Release from Christopher Fraser regarding Flooding in the Fens (copy circulated to all Councillors.
- l. Norfolk Police Authority – 21.12.09 – Open Meeting to discuss the Police Authority Budget for 2010/2011 – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2010 Jubilee House, Wymondham, 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. start and the meeting will conclude no later than 9 p.m. Booking form if anyone is interested.
- m. Norse Commercial Services – Introduction to the Grounds Division – Landscaping services.
- n. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – 21.12.09 King's Lynn & West Norfolk Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document – Representations on the document can be made between 13<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> February. Documents are available for inspection at Councils website : [www.west-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk) It was agreed that all Councillors should study the document and then send all comments and observations to the Clerk so that a letter of representation could be collated at the February meeting.
- o. Fields in Trust – War Memorial Playing Fields – wishing to setup a data base with details of all fields.

## **12. Plans and Planning Matters**

No planning applications or decisions had been received.

Letter was received from the Borough Council confirming that Development Services (Planning) have published their first Newsletter and it is available on the Borough Council's website..

## **13. Highway Matters**

Following the last meeting the clerk had reported the following matters to Highways:

1. 1. A1122 between Salters Lode and Nordelph – Nasty Ramp left following road works  
(Reply: Remedial works are to be programmed at this location)
2. Barriers at Suspension Bridge  
(Reply: Repairs are programmed to be done so I will chase it up)
3. Large Potholes on March Road  
(Reply: The potholes have been programmed to be repaired)
4. 50 mph speed restrictions on A1122 between Salters Lode and Outwell.  
(Reply Will contact our traffic engineer Paul Sellick and inform him to contact you direct about this.)

Paul Sellick replied that

*Norfolk County Council's road safety team has undertaken route studies on all Norfolk's A and B class roads. This section of the A1122 was highlighted in that study and a recommendation was made that when taking into account the accident records and due to the scattered frontage development and sinuous road alignment it would be appropriate to introduce a 50 mph between the existing village speed limits. No such intervention measure was highlighted on the A1101 accident route study. I have also talked to the traffic engineer for this area and he confirms that outside of these accident based route studies, typically when setting new speed limits as part of the traffic management programme, we follow national guidance set by the Department of Transport. The key factors would include level of frontage development, accident history, road class/function, road geometry and existing recorded speeds (ie likely compliance) Typically on straight A class roads with little frontage property and a below average accident history the speed limit would be 60 mph (national speed limit)*

On the same subject the following reply was received from C.Cllr. Humphrey:

*I will certainly make the request for speed restrictions. However I anticipate that the response will include the comment that a speed limit of 50 mph would not stop people travelling too fast approaching Suspension Bridge. From experience I think that the full length of the road would not be considered appropriate for 50mph because it is straight with few dwellings. There could be a case for speed reduction approaching Bell's Drove in preparation for the Bridge turn. What do you think? This would stand more chance of success*

Following discussion it was agreed to ask Cllr.Humphrey to see if he could assist with a 50 mph speed limit from Bells Drove in preparation for the Bridge turn..

Finally from Christopher Fraser MP

*Thank you for sending me a copy of your recent e-mail to Harry Humphrey about the issue of a speed restriction on the A1101 from Suspension Bridge to Toll Corner. I recall that I raised this*

*matter with Norfolk County Council a while back and would be more than happy to support efforts by Harry to persuade them to reconsider. I have written again to Mike Jackson pointing out the restriction on the A1122 between Salters Lode and Outwell and requested a review of the situation in the light of the accidents on the local road. I shall of course let you have a copy of any reply that I may receive and I shall be in touch with you again as soon as I have any news.*

Welney A1101 Wash Road – Periodical Flooding –Nothing further had been heard from Norfolk Constabulary following their letter of acknowledgement, and the Clerk was instructed to contact them again.

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had contacted Mr. Rob Bakewell regarding the flooding of the Wash Road and had initially agreed with him to arrange review meetings on a regular basis. Cllr.Bennett advised that he would confirm the date of the next meeting as soon as possible.

**14. Environmental Issues.**

a. Ouse Washes Strategy Group – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that at present there was nothing to report back.

b. Grass Area at the entrance to Chestnut Avenue – Cllr.Bennett advised the meeting that the grass area on the left hand side as you enter Chestnut Avenue, had been badly damaged by a Tractor and Trailer calling at a property to empty the cesspit. There were very deep ruts and tyre marks on the grass and a quantity of soil and mud had been deposited onto the roadway. It was agreed that the matter be reported to the Borough Council, as they are still responsible for these areas, in the hope that the party causing the problem may be held responsible.

c. Noise Nuisance – Back Drove Property – Council were informed of a report from a resident in Taymor Place of noise nuisance from a House in Back Drove. The Clerk confirmed that enquiries had been made of the Borough Council who were aware of the problem, and after discussion it was agreed to write to the Borough Council expressing our concern, and also to write to the person who reported the problem advising him of our action,

**15. Parish Action Plan**

Councillors then considered the update notes that Cllr.Bennett had prepared for the Parish Action Plan. It was agreed that the clerk and Cllr.Bennett would get together to finalise the update document which could then be kept on file for reference, and it was further agreed that the Parish Action Plan should be reviewed at the January meeting each year.

Two points for attention :

1. A letter should be sent to the Upwell Health Centre expressing hope that the Monday Clinic at Welney will resume as soon as possible.
2. Contact the PCSO's for this area., to find out if they had any records of break-ins in Chestnut Avenue that had occurred during the last few months.

**16. Items for Next Agenda**

1. Cllr.Dobson – Would the Parish Council be prepared to join a Working Party from the William Marshall School to prepare an Accessibility Plan?

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

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

Dated ...2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010.....