

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY
ON TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY, 2010 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Cllrs.K.Goodger (Chairman) E.Allen, T.Bennett, M.Brown, S.Dobson, C.Freer, V.Pratley and the Clerk.

Dist.Cllrs. D.Pope and V.Spikings

Members of the Public: Mr. & Mrs. P .Heath, Mr. J. Loveday, Mr.R.Giles, Mr. & Mrs. P. Cox, and Mr.& Mrs. B. Jones.,

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Cllr.S. Kerr, and C.Cllr.H.Humphrey

2. Declarations of Interest

None at this stage of the meeting

The Chairman then introduced Sgt. Marsh from Downham Market Police Station. He briefly explained the situation regarding fixed penalty fines for drivers entering the Wash Road when the road flooded – road closed signs are in place. He explained that Norfolk Police have no plans to attend and give out tickets simply to those drivers who enter the water, but would consider such fines for anyone entering who would put their lives, or the lives of others in danger by their actions. He also went on to explain that there had been a drop in crime this winter and the weather had kept antisocial behaviour to a minimum. He answered some questions from those present, and was thanked very much for his attendance.

3. Public Participation

In view of the attendance by members of the public the Chairman asked Council's permission to move public participation to Item 3 on the Agenda. Council agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

The members of the Public were then invited to speak and the main topic raised was the proposed New Community Centre. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council members were also Custodian Trustees of the Playing Field, as well as Charity Trustees and when making the decision to build on the playing field itself, they had to be sure that they were doing the best for the village and for the future of the residents, Questions were raised regarding the possibility of selling off the frontage land to the playing field which is included in the Village Development Area., and the Chairman explained that this land is an asset, and it would be most inadvisable to build on the asset. He also confirmed that the Charity Commission had confirmed that they had no objections to the new Community Centre being built on the Playing Field, and indeed they did not want to be involved, as long as what was proposed upheld the recreational use of the field and was of benefit to the whole village. Plans of the proposed Community Centre and siting of the same were shown to those present and after further questions and answers, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and reconvened the meeting.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th January, 2010 having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed and signed as a true record of that meeting following the amendment to the wording of the final paragraph under Item 13 Highway Matters.

5. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – Cllr.Allen confirmed that he had obtained the necessary forms but before continuing clarification was required relating to the Insurance requirements. The Parish Council have to arrange a cover of £750 for the equipment to be used, and also have to confirm Public Liability for Councillors and members of the public who form part of the team. It was agreed to check with the Insurance Company and ascertain whether this would affect the annual premium.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Mr.Nash at the Borough Council and he had confirmed that he had just finalised the sale of the land to Anglian Water for the Pumping Station, and has requested the Legal Team to prepare the paperwork for the hiring of the field to the Parish Council..

3. Meeting with adjoining Councils – The Clerk confirmed that all adjoining Councils had confirmed they would be prepared to attend a meeting a Welney and it was agreed to hold this on 23rd February, 2010. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to finalise the Agenda and circulate this to all Councils as well as the Welney Parish Councillors.

4. Flat Earth Society – Nothing further had been heard about this and it was agreed to wait and see if any approach was made to the Highways Bridges Department..

5. Mr.Simon Elliott – Youth Club – Following the last meeting a letter had been sent to Mr.Elliott explaining the situation. A request had also been received from Kim Patel to know if there was a Youth Club in Welney. The Clerk confirmed that she had put both parties in touch and they have now booked the Parish Hall for 8 sessions (one per week) commencing on 5th February from 6-8 p.m. for 8-14 year olds. Mr. Elliott did state that if the sessions go well, they will look into possible funding to set up a Youth Club for the village.

6. Local Government Re-organisation – The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting, another letter setting out our case had been sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government requesting that Norfolk retain the status quo. Copies had been sent to the Borough Council ad also to the Borough Councillors. A letter was received from the Borough Council dated 27.1.10 giving details of the reply which they had been sent and the web address where the letter and its Appendices could be inspected.

7. Local Development Framework – Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk
Nothing had been received to formulate a representation and the meeting was advised that the Site Specific details will be the next item for consideration – It was agreed to leave this matter in abeyance for the present,.

8. Welney William Marshall School – Accessibility Plan – Cllr. Dobson advised the meeting that the First Workshop relating to the Accessibility Plan would be held in School at 6.30 p.m. on 25th February. The Parish Council confirmed that they would be prepared to support this and Cllr. Dobson confirmed that they would be delighted to see as many councillors as are able to attend.

6.First time Sewage Scheme

The Chairman confirmed that Anglian Water were hoping to be able to pump sewage through the system within the next couple of weeks. It was assumed that this must relate to the Christchurch part of the scheme, as no properties in Welney have yet been invited to connect..

7. Finance

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

Welney Parish Council	
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	18 . 68
<u>Paid by Direct Debit</u>	
E-On – Street Lighting 15.1.10	59 . 81
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary – 1.2..10	255 . 68
Welney Parish Hall	
Geoff Beel Consultancy	
Flood Risk Assessment for New Community Centre	575 . 00

A. Mackenzie – Plumber
Repairs to Burst Pipes at Parish Hall – Jan 2010
and repairs to Water Heaters carried out in June 2009

146 . 00

Adoption of Financial Regulations

On the proposal of Cllr. Freer, seconded by Cllr. Allen and unanimously agreed, the Financial Regulations of the Welney Parish Council were formally adopted for a further year.

8. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked and the sum of £59.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site –The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Mr.Anker, the Environment Agency Legal Department regarding the purchase of the Hall Site. He had advised that he was awaiting confirmation from the Land Registry that everything was in order and this was expected very shortly.

The Clerk confirmed that on 11th January she and her husband had visited the Hall for the usual clean and tidy up to discover two burst pipes – one behind the bar area, which had flooded half of the Hall Floor and the second behind the small sink in the Kitchen which again had flooded about half of the Kitchen. Mr. Copeman was able to turn off the water to the Bar Area and the Kitchen area, and they then spent approximately three hours mopping up the water and trying the dry out the hall. After a call to the Chairman, she contacted Mr.Mackenzie who came along the very next morning and repaired both the burst pipes. Grateful thanks were recorded to Mr. Copeman for his invaluable help.

9. Proposed New Community Centre

Following the last meeting, the Clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr John Loveday following receipt of his letter explaining the situation with regard to the siting of the proposed new Community Centre.

A letter was also received from Mr..Tony Smart, a copy of which was circulated to all Councillors. It was understood that Mr. Smart had now spoken to some Councillors, and it was agreed that a letter be sent acknowledging his letter and setting out the position.

Councillors had also been circulated with copies of letters received from Mrs.P.E.Rix, Mrs. M. Heath and an e-mail from Mr.P.Cox. All communications had been acknowledged and persons advised that the letters would be considered at this meeting.

Councillors were also advised that a letter had been received from Mr.R.Giles, and an e-mail from Mr.M. Wallington, but as these had only been received the day before the meeting,. they could not be considered. Items for consideration at the meeting have to be received by the Clerk at least seven days before the date so that they can be circulated in good time prior to the meeting. However Councillors were handed copies of the letters and if possible a reply would be sent to both parties once they had been considered. Similarly a letter had been handed in on the evening from Mr.C.Westly. Councillors would be supplied with a copy for consideration and a reply sent in due course.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a letter from Mr.Briscoe of Peter Humphrey Associates enclosing the Site Survey and Location Plans, Existing Pavilion Survey, Proposed Block Plan, Hall Plan and Elevations and Site layout and Elevations, together with Design and Access Statement, Contaminated Land Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment for the proposed Planning Application.

Following much discussion and consideration of all points raised by the members of the Public and the various correspondence received, it was proposed by Cllr.Allen, seconded by Cllr.Dobson , and agreed with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions and the Parish Council move forward with the Planning Application for the proposed new Community Centre. The cheque for £670 made payable to the Borough Council for the planning application fee was drawn and signed.

It was also agreed to ask Mr. Briscoe if he would be able to give an estimate of the cost of the installation of services (water, electricity and sewage) to the site

10. Playing Field

Conifer Trees – Nothing further has been heard at the present time.

Pavilion – The Clerk confirmed that she and her husband had also visited the Pavilion on 11th January. Everything was in order in the Kitchen, Hall and Ladies Toilet but a pipe had burst in the showers leaving water all over the floor of the back area. The water was turned off, and an effort was made to clean up. However no contact has yet been made with a plumber to repair the leak because approximately a year ago, Mr. Mackenzie had inspected the existing showers and condemned them. They were taped up and the fuses removed. However, the Cricket Club had decided to install new showers, without asking permission, and although a request had been made for a copy of the qualifications/certificate from the person who installed them nothing had been received. In view of this it was felt that if anything were to happen to anyone using the showers, then the Parish Council would be liable for something they knew nothing about. It was agreed to write to the Cricket Club pointing out the problems and asking for the appropriate paperwork for the installation work.

11. Correspondence

1. Borough Council of K.L. & W.N. Agenda and Minutes of Council Meetings
2. Wash Estuary Strategy Group – Wash Week – 7th to 15th August, 2010 –Details of events and how to be involved.
3. Norfolk County Council 15.1.10 – Top Priority Salting Routes – Map available on their website.
4. BCKLWN – 15.1.10 – Annual Monitoring Report – Available for inspection – Details of website given.
5. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Invitation for a Coffee and a Chat at WWT Welney on 23rd March 2010 – 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Form to send back if anyone interested in attending and meeting Sarita Presland (Parish Liaison Officer)
6. War Memorial Trust – 8.1.10 Half Day Conference – Looking after War Memorials – 4th December 2010 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
7. Norfolk Association of Village Halls – Conference and Annual General Meeting – 20th March at Newton Flotman Village Hall.
8. BCKLWN – 27.1.10 – Parish Training Planning Matters 5.3.10
9. BCKLWN – Inter village Tennis Tournament.
10. Community Action Group Meeting – 7 p.m. on 9th February and Downham Market Fire Station.

12. Plans and Planning Matters

The following planning application was received for consideration

Ref: No.10/000348/F

Mr.Stephen Drury, GSM Limited, Girton Road, Girton, Cambs CB3 0LW.

Conversion of disused water tower to dwelling, Welney Water Tower, Main Street, Welney,

After consideration and discussion it was agreed by a vote of 7 with 1 abstention, that the Parish Council object to the application, because of access disturbance and the fact that it would be overlooking existing properties. The change of use would also extend the height of the Tower.

13. Highway Matters

Following the last meeting, a request had been made to C.Cllr.H.Humphrey to assist with a possible reduction of the speed limit to 50 mph from Bells Drove in preparation for the bridge turn, At the time of the meeting nothing had been heard.

Christopher Fraser MP had also written providing a copy of a reply he had received from the Norfolk County Council regarding this speed reduction. Norfolk County Council confirmed that the speed limit will not be reduced at this location because it is a straight stretch of A class road with little frontage and below average accident rates.

Norfolk Constabulary and Fixed Penalty Fines – Nothing had been heard from the Police but following a report on 22d January on BBC Local Radio, the chairman had contacted both Norfolk

and Cambridgeshire Constabulary requesting confirmation on the statement that was given out that the Police would issue Fixed Penalty Notices (£60 fine and 3 points on the licence) to drivers who entered the Wash Road when the Road Closed – Road flooded signs were in place. Following confirmation from Sgt.Marsh at the start of the meeting that Norfolk would not actively seek to issue these notices, the Chairman was still awaiting written confirmation from Cambridgeshire and it was hoped that this would be received before the Meeting to take place on 5th February. The Chairman also confirmed that he had been interviewed by BBC East with regard to the Wash Road and the problems it caused. He had also explained that we were having a meeting with all the parties responsible for signage etc. on Friday and they would be conducting a further interview after the meeting.

Meeting – Friday 5th February, 2010

It was confirmed to the meeting that this will take place in the Parish Hall at 10 a.m. on 5th February and the following persons had confirmed that they would attend:

Cllr.Goodger (Chairman) Cllr.Bennett (Vice Chairman) Cllrs. Brown, Dobson and any other Councillors who are available

Dist. Cllrs. D. Pope and V.Spikings

Christopher Fraser MP

Mr.Rob Bakewell (Environment Agency, Brampton) Mr.Dave Gillett (Environment Agency, Ely)

Mr.John Eastgate and Mr. Martin Edmunds (Norfolk CC Highways)

Mr. Steve Dighton + 1 other (Cambridgeshire CC Highways)

Mr.Peter Riches (Norfolk Police Traffic Management Officer) and a similar representative from Cambridgeshire Police.

The Clerk would also be attendance to take notes and provide refreshments.

The Chairman and Vice chairman agreed to prepare an Agenda for the meeting, which would be forwarded to the Clerk for printing and handing out at the meeting.

The followings problems would be reported to Highways:

1. Major Pothole on the A.1122 between Salters Lode and Nordelph
2. Pot Holes on the March Road around the corner from Mr.James property
3. Large pothole on Silt Road at Nordelph.

The Chairman also reported that rubbish had been dumped along the side of the Wisbech Road at Tipps End between Grange Farm and Pates Farm, and the Clean up Team would be asked to attend to the removal of this.

14. Environmental Issues.

1. The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting she had reported the damage to the grass area at the entrance to Chestnut Avenue to Highways and Mr.Edmunds confirmed that he would be making an inspection.
2. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that Stella Bayliss of the Ouse Washes Management Team would be happy to attend our next meeting and it was agreed to confirm that she would speak during the Annual Parish Meeting at 7 p.m.
3. Cllr. Bennett confirmed that the Gate on the High Bank on the South East Side is broken and that he would be reporting this to Mr.Dave Gillett of the Environment Agency.

15. Parish Action Plan

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he is in the process of finalising the update document which will then be typed and kept with the Parish Action Plan. The Action Plan is to be reviewed on an Annual Basis.

Upwell Health Centre have confirmed that they have no intentions of reinstating the surgery at Welney on a Monday because of re-organisation at the Health Centre. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Dr.Williams for all his help over the past years.

16. Items for Next Agenda

1. Problems with Dogs leaving mess on footpaths
2. Doctors Surgery at Welney
3. Mr.B.Wolfe – Christmas Decorations
4. Attendance of Councillors at Parish Council Meetings.

The Chairman then requested permission to change the date of the next meeting from 2nd March to 9th March, 2010, and after consideration this was approved. The Annual Parish Meeting would therefore take place at 7 p.m. prior to the meeting of the Parish Council. It was also agreed that the Plans for the new Community Centre Planning Application would be available for inspection.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

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

Dated9th March, 2010.....