

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY
ON TUESDAY 9th MARCH, 2010 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

Cllrs.K.Goodger (Chairman) E.Allen, T.Bennett, M.Brown, S.Dobson, C.Freer, S. Kerr,
V.Pratley and the Clerk.
Dist.Cllrs. D.Pope and V.Spikings
Members of the Public: Mr. & Mrs. P .Heath, Mr. J. Loveday, Mr. P. Cox, and Mr. D.Bonner

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from C.Cllr.H.Humphrey

2. Declarations of Interest

None at this stage of the meeting

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.

a. Mr.D. Bonner addressed the meeting with regard to the problems he had been experiencing with lorries turning opposite his house whilst the Wash Road was flooded. Severe damage had been caused to the wall at the front of his house, and he was disappointed that nothing had been done to alleviate this problem. There was a general discussion about how large vehicles could be prevented from getting as far as the Bridge and then having to turn around. Council agreed to discuss the matter in detail later in the Agenda.

b. Mr. & Mrs. Heath, Mr.Loveday and Mr.Cox inspected the plans for the proposed new community centre and concerns were raised regarding the roadway at the side, and the frontage land which is an asset, as it is in the Village Development Area. The Chairman again confirmed the reasoning behind the Council's decision to apply for planning permission on the top left hand corner of the field. Mr.Cox asked what value the building land had, and he was advised that no formal valuation had been obtained. Mr.Loveday asked if the Council were to sell the frontage land could they look into buying an extra piece of land to make the field larger. It was agreed that this suggestion would be included on the Agenda for further more detailed discussion at the next meeting.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd February, 2010 having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed and signed as a true record of that meeting .

The minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th February having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed and signed as a true record of that meeting.

5. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – Following the last meeting, the Clerk had obtained information from the insurance company regarding the speed watch equipment insurance and had passed this to Cllr.Allen. Cllr.Allen advised the meeting that he had not yet had an opportunity of speaking to Mr.Humm of Upwell but would do so and report back to the next meeting.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Mr.Nash at the Borough Council on the afternoon of the meeting. He had advised that the matter was with the Borough Council's legal department who were prepared the necessary paperwork for the leasing of the field to the Council and that this should be received very shortly. Council agreed that if the paperwork is received within the next few days the Clerk

would let everyone know so that a meeting could be called in order to prevent any further delay. Otherwise the matter could be dealt with at the next meeting.

3. Meeting with adjoining Councils – A total of 27 persons attended the meeting held on 23rd February with representatives from Littleport, Downham West, Nordelph, Upwell, Christchurch, Manea and Welney,. Councillors had all been circulated with a copy of the report of the meeting, and the report had also been sent to all those attending Parishes and also Denver and Hilgay (who were invited but did not attend) (A copy of the report is displayed under the appropriate section of the Parish Council website) An e-mail had been received from Manea who had agreed to host the next meeting in approximately six months time, stating that following their meeting on 29th March they would forward some suggestions as to dates for the meeting. It was agreed that a Press Release should be produced relating to this meeting, and the possible appointment of a Press Officer would be included as an agenda item for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

4. Local Government Re-organisation – The Clerk reported that on 10th February she had received an e-mail from the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk stating that The Secretary of state had announced that he has concluded that the Boundary Committee's proposal for a Unitary Norfolk does not have a reasonable likelihood of meeting the broad cross section of support criteria and therefore the Government will not be implementing the proposal. A copy of the report from the Minister for Local Government was also received.

5. Welney William Marshall School – Accessibility Plan – Cllr. Dobson advised the meeting that following the cancellation of the First Workshop relating to the Accessibility Plan the Workshop would now take place on 25th March, 2010 at 6 p.m. at The School and she confirmed that they would be delighted to see as many councillors as are able to attend.

6. Dog Mess on Footpaths – Problems were being experienced with dogs fouling footpaths in and around the village. It was agreed to contact the Dog Warden at the Borough Council to seek advice regarding possible signs or anything else that we can do to prevent this nuisance.

7. Doctors Surgery at Welney – Following the closure of the Surgery at Welney, feedback had been received from residents stating that this was causing problems for residents who wished to see the doctor but could not travel to Upwell. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Health Centre to ask if there was any chance that the surgery could be reinstated.

8. Christmas Lights – Cllr.Bennett agreed to speak to the appropriate party to ascertain the situation regarding the availability.

9. Attendance at Parish Council Meetings – It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to Councillors who did not regularly attend the meetings, setting out the situation and the requirements of attending on a regular basis.

6.First time Sewage Scheme

A letter had been received from Anglian Water inviting connection of the Pavilion at the Playing Field to the Mains Sewage. After a brief discussion it was agreed to ask Anglian Water what the cost of connection would be and also to ask whether they might consider making the connection free of charge as a goodwill gesture to the village.

7. Finance

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

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	35 . 02
MHB Services – Electricity Maintenance Charges 13.3.10 to 12.4.10	104 . 55

Paid by Direct Debit

E-On – Street Lighting 13.2.10	59 . 81
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary – 1.3..10	255 . 68

Adoption of Parish Council Standing Orders.

The Clerk confirmed that the only change to the Standing Orders was with regard to Item 76 Code of Conduct on Complaints. These changes were formally adopted at the November meeting following advice and recommendation from the Borough Council. Councillors were provided with amended papers for inclusion in their own Standing Orders, and on the proposition of Cllr.Kerr, seconded by Cllr.Brown and agreed, the Standing Orders were formally adopted for a further year.

8. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked and the sum of £87.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – Confirmation had been received from the Environment Agency that registration of the remaining part of the Welney Hall had been successfully completed and as the entire site was now registered with Land Registry, the Contract and Transfer Deed will be prepared. They asked for confirmation of the Solicitors who will be acting for the Parish Council and this information was given. A letter was also sent to Fraser Dawbarns and to Mrs.Sutton at Elgoods setting out the current situation, and advising the Solicitors that they would shortly be hearing from the Environment Agency.

9. Proposed New Community Centre

Following the Parish Council meeting on 11th February, a letter and cheque were forwarded to Mr.Briscoe at Peter Humphrey Associates with instructions to submit the planning application for the proposed new Community Centre. Councillors were also supplied with a copy of the Charity Commission Document relating to their position as Trustees of the Playing Field.

Details had been received regarding COMMA funding which allocates grants for projects situated within 10 kms of an aggregate site either current or disused. However the projects must be completed by end of March 2011 and the deadline for applications is 14th May 2010. Details had also been received regarding the Peoples Millions 2010 which launches on 10th March. The Chairman gave details of the Fens Adventurers Rural Development Programme and advised the meeting that he had spoken to Marshall's Charity and they had given verbal confirmation that they would be prepared to consider an application from the Parish Council for funding between £80,000 and £100,000.(Maximum) It was also agreed to find out as much as possible regarding funding available, so that this could be discussed at the next meeting.

10. Playing Field

Conifer Trees – A letter had been received from Mr. Harrison of March Road, accusing the Parish Council of getting involved in his dispute with Mr. Carter. However a reply was sent stating that we were in no way involved but were only concerned in the cutting down of the height of the nine or so trees that we owned on the playing field boundary. The Chairman confirmed that it appears that work has started on the work to the trees on the boundary of the two houses. Nothing further had been heard from Mr.Carter regarding the price for the work required to the trees on the playing field boundary.

It was reported to the meeting that a rubbish bin had been upturned and scattered across the field and Cllr.Bennett agreed to clear this up. Mr. Loveday confirmed that the Cricket Club were intending to have a Clean up at the Playing Field on 29th March, 2010.

11. Correspondence

1. Norfolk Rural Community Council – 18.2.10 Summary Business Plan, About Norfolk RCC, Details of Big Lottery Funding for Community Buildings Village Hall Health Check Spring 2010 & Leaflets

2. Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough – Minerals and Waste Plan (Proposed Submission) Consultation up to 29th March, 2010 Guidance Notes, Information and CD together with hardcopy.
3. Southern Area Road Safety Committee – Agenda for meeting on 22nd March at Downham Town Council Offices at 7 p.m. Message from the Chairman and Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September, 2009
4. Norfolk Association of Village Halls – Newsletter March 2010
5. The Playing Field Magazine – Norfolk Playing Fields Association Newsletter together with Various literature relating to play equipment and safety issues.
6. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Norfolk Link Issue 175 – Invitation to an informal meet with Sarita Presland, Parish Liaison Officer at the Wigeon Café, WWT Hundred Foot Bank on 23rd March 10am to 12 noon. Plus leaflets with details of training sessions and a Gypsy and Traveller Conference on 22ND March at the Assembly Rooms, Swaffham 10 a.m, to 3 p.m.
7. Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk – Agenda and Minutes of Council Meetings
8. Copy of Rural Services Network Parish Newsletter.

12. Plans and Planning Matters

The following planning application was received shortly after the last meeting and was considered by councillors following the meeting on 11th February in order to comply with the 21 day deadline Ref: No. 10/001123/F

Mr. & Mrs. Smart, Bluebells, Wisbech Road, Tipps End, Welney

Continued standing of park home with lobby and touring caravan

After consideration it was recommended that the application should be approved.

On 2nd March an e-mail was received from the Borough Council stating that a technical objection to this proposal had been received from the Environment Agency because the site lies within Flood Zone 3 of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. However, following additional information and a site visit, the Environment Agency withdrew their technical objection and no further input was required from the Parish Council.

The Chairman, a Councillor and the Clerk confirmed that they had received a telephone call from a concerned resident of the area regarding this planning application, and advised that any objections should be submitted to the Borough Council in the normal way.

A letter was received from the Borough Council regarding

Ref No. 08/02415/NMA-2

Non Material amendment to Planning Consent – Alteration and extension to dwelling at School House, Suspension Bridge, Welney – Removal of 2 windows to side elevation and replacement with one pair of French doors. Amendments approved by the Borough Council.

13. Highway Matters

Following the last meeting, the following matters had been reported to Highways

1. Major potholes on the A.1122 between Salters Lode & Nordelph (These have now been attended to)
2. Potholes on the corner of March Road near Mr „James’ property. (These have received some attention from highways)
3. Large potholes and uneven surface on Silt Road at Nordelph. (Highways have confirmed that these will be dealt with in due course)

All Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the report of the meeting held on 5th February with Highways from Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, the Environment Agency, Police. M.P. and Councillors. Copies had also been circulated to all parties who attended the meeting. Following discussion it was agreed to write to Mr.Eastgate of Norfolk County Council to ask if he was yet in a position to visit Welney again to update the Parish Council on the points raised at that meeting. with particular reference to the Dot-matrix Signs and levelling out parts of the Wash Road. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that since the meeting on 5th February he had taken a series of photographs showing the water levels on the road, and he understood that Mr.Eastgate was anxious to see these.

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that the water will be officially clear of the road tomorrow morning and the signs should be removed. The water had risen very quickly in the beginning of the period because

of the exceptional high tides, but it had been possible to let the water off very quickly because of low tides.

Following the information given by Mr. Bonner under Public Participation, it was agreed to write to Mr. Eastgate with a copy to the M.P. to ask if there is any way that we can prevent lorry drivers (particularly foreign ones who do not appear to understand any of the existing signs) from getting as far as Welney. Travelling from Wisbech, the last sign is at Lotts Bridge cross roads and if this sign is missed, then there is nothing else until drivers actually reach the bridge. There is then no alternative but to turn round and retrace their journey. Suitable signs are urgently needed to prevent lorries getting as far as Welney, especially in view of the recent damage caused to Mr. Bonner's wall.

Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he had been approached by Mrs. Wood of Tipps End who was concerned that lorries were still using the road through Tipps End. It was felt that there was nothing more that we or Highways could do, in view of the fact that Highways had already installed signs stating that the road was unsuitable for HGV's.

Cllr. Freer reported a large and dangerous pothole on the top of the Delph Bridge, and this would be reported to Highways for attention.

14. Environmental Issues.

Cllr. Freer reported that following the last flooding of the Wash Road a great deal of rubbish had been left at the side of the road at Suspension Bridge. The Clean-up Team would be asked to remove this.

15. Parish Action Plan

Following the last meeting a letter of thanks was sent to Dr. Williams for all his help at the Welney Surgery over the past years.

16. Additional Items for Next Agenda

1. Notice Board at Top of New Road – It was reported that this had been stolen and the question of a possible insurance claim needed to be looked into.
2. Possible valuation of the frontage land at the Playing Field.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

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

Dated6th April, 2010.....