

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY
ON TUESDAY 6th APRIL, 2010 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

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

Members of the Public:Mr. A.Bye, and Mr. D.Bonner

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. E. Allen, C.Freer, G.Tomkins C.Cllr.H.Humphrey, and Dist.Cllrs. V.Spikings and D. Pope.

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 and wondered if Council had any update t the situation that he had raised at the previous meeting. He was advised that the matter had been reported to Mr. J.Eastgate of Norfolk County Council Highways Department, and that a further meeting was being arranged for April or May and the matter would be discussed again at that meeting. The problem still remains as to how to prevent heavy lorries from entering Welney when the Wash Road is closed, as there is no official place where they can turn round. It was also reported that the Wash Road Closed signs at Upwell Road, March, Padgets Road, Christchurch and Lotts Bridge crossroads are still open showing that the Wash Road is flooded and closed. This would be brought to the early attention of Mr.Edmunds at the Highways Office.

b. Mr. Bye then explained to the meeting that following the work to install the mains sewer in Main Street he had been experiencing shaking in his property and also that cracks had started to appear in the walls. He confirmed that he had written a letter to Mrs.L.Briggs who was acting on behalf of approximately 10 residents of Main Street who were all experiencing problems. It was agreed to ask Mrs. Briggs for an update on the current situation.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th March, 2010 having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed and signed as a true record of that meeting .

5. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – Cllr.Allen was unable to attend the meeting and this item would be included on the Agenda for the May meeting.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting she had received a telephone call from Mr.Nash at the Borough Council confirming that all matters had now been handed to the Council's legal department and the necessary papers for signature should be received by this meeting. However these had not arrived. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that a meeting should be called of all those persons interested in working on the Allotment Committee, in order that the rules, regulations, agreements etc., and matters relating to the field, could be prepared so that as soon as the paperwork is received, work on the field can go ahead without any further delay. It was agreed that the meeting would take place at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 15th April in the Parish

Hall and the Clerk confirmed that she would draw up an Agenda and forward a copy of all Councillors and to those members of the public who had previously expressed interest. Copies of the previous information from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Limited, would be sent to all councillors.

3. Meeting with adjoining Councils – No suggested dates had been received from Manea with regard to the next meeting and hopefully information will be received by the next meeting. .

4. Welney William Marshall School – Accessibility Plan – Cllr. Dobson advised the meeting that the first workshop took place on 25th March. An Action Plan is being prepared and a further meeting will be held in due course.

5. Dog Mess on Footpaths – Following the last meeting the Clerk confirmed that she had made contact with the Department responsible at the Borough Council. A representative call and left a selection of stickers and metal signs for displaying around the village, and these were handed out for Councillors to put up in various locations. The Council are at present reorganising the dog wardens department and then they are planning to make random visits in an effort to try and catch offenders in the act of letting their dogs foul the footpaths etc.

6. Doctors Surgery at Welney – Following the last meeting a letter had been sent asking if there was any possibility of the surgery being reinstated at Welney but to date nothing has been heard,.

7. Christmas Lights – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had spoken to Mr.Wolfe who had advised that he would be holding a yard sale in early May, and if there is anything that will be of use to the village he is willing to donate them. It was agreed that Cllr.Bennett would deal with this.

8. Attendance at Parish Council Meetings – Letters had been sent to Councillors regarding attendance at Parish Council Meetings. The chairman had received a telephone call from Cllr.Tomkins who had confirmed that he still wished to remain on the council but work problems had prevented him from attending as much as he would like. He was advised to send his apologies for absence to the clerk for any meetings that he was not able to attend.

9. Loss of Notice Board at Top of New Road – It appears that the Notice Board at the top of New Road has been removed and despite searches, it has not been found. After a brief discussion Cllr.Kerr agreed to make a new Perspex board which would be fixed to the existing pole.

10. Agenda Items – The Chairman requested permission to move Public Participation to Item 2 on the Agenda for future meetings. This request was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr.Bennett and unanimously agreed.

6.First time Sewage Scheme

A quotation for the possible connection of the Pavilion had been requested from Mr.Paul O'Donnell, but despite the fact that he had visited the site and promised to provide a quotation for the work, nothing had been received. A reminder letter had been sent to him, but this had not brought any response. He did confirm that some three months ago he had been asked to provide a quotation for the work to connect the sewer to the site at the top left hand corner of the playing field where the proposed new community centre would be positioned, and this he had given to Mr.J.Loveday. He also promised to let us have a copy of that quote but again this had not been forthcoming. It was agreed to approach I & A Construction Services Limited, and Barhale Limited for a quotation for the required work.

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

Welney Parish Council

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	
Cheque No. 101056	29 . 85
Norfolk Rural Community Council – Membership 2010/2011	
Cheque No. 101057	15 . 00
Norfolk Playing Fields Association – Membership 2010/2011	
Cheque No. 101058	15 . 00
Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Membership 2010/2011	
Cheque No. 101059	118 . 63
Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk	
Yearly Contribution towards upkeep of Health Centre car park	
Cheque No. 101060	150 . 00
Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk	
Emptying Dog Bins 1.10.09 to 31.12.09	
Cheque No. 101061	50 . 41

Welney Parish Hall

Peter Humphrey Associates Limited	
Preparation of planning application, drawings etc. for the proposed New Community Centre	1,468 . 75

Paid by Direct Debit

1.3.10 Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary	255 . 68
13.3.10 E-On – Electricity for lights	59 . 81
31.3.10 E-On – Electricity for Pavilion	69 . 08
31.3.10 E-On – Electricity for Parish Hall	187 . 56

8. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked and the sum of £42.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – At the present time nothing further had been heard from the Environment Agency, Fraser Dawbarns or Elgoods regarding the purchase/sale and it was agreed to contact them to ascertain the up to date situation.

9. Proposed New Community Centre

A letter was received from Mr.Briscoe confirming that the planning application for the new Community Centre had been registered with the Borough Council and a copy of the formal letter from them was also included. Approximately 10 days later the planning application was received from the Borough Council for Parish Council consideration. Obviously this should not have been sent as we cannot comment on our own application and the form was therefore returned confirming this fact. It is understood that a decision should be received by the middle of May.

The Clerk then advised the meeting of several funding sources which she had found and these will be kept on file to await the decision of the planning department. It was agreed that following the next meeting, when the decision will be known and in the hope that it is successful, a letter should be sent to Marshalls Charity asking for written confirmation of what they would be prepared to grant towards the new building. It was also agreed to speak to Mr. Mike Carter at the Fens Adventurers Rural Development Programme, as it was understood that there may be funding available from them. Cllr.Bennett advised the meeting that he had spoken to Mrs.Frances Wood who works for the National Lottery and she would be very interested to help in any way with fund raising and advice regarding applying for grants. It was agreed that Council would approach her possibly to join a working group once the planning decision was known.

10. Playing Field

Conifer Trees – The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Mr.Carter of The Sands regarding the conifer trees along the boundary of the playing field. He advised that his tree surgeons had

discovered that two of the trees belonging to the Parish Council were dead and that they were prepared to remove them free of charge and leave them on the playing field for Council to remove. The Chairman had confirmed that he would be prepared to remove them and they were instructed to go ahead. They were also asked for a quotation for the cutting back of the remainder of the trees belonging to the Parish Council. However the tree surgeons were stopped from doing the work, by a third party, and consequently left site without removing the dead trees.

Showers in the Pavilion – No copy of the necessary certificate from the electrician who installed the showers had yet been received by the Parish Council. It was understood that Mr.Loveday had this, and it was agreed to write and inform him that until such time as we have a copy of the necessary certificate, the showers are not to be used under any circumstances, as they are not covered by our Insurance.

Possible Valuation of Frontage Land at the Playing Field – It was agreed to contact two local valuers, to see what they would charge for providing a valuation of the frontage land at the playing field.

Purchase of Any Additional Land – There was a general discussion and it was agreed to leave this in abeyance until such time as we receive the result of the planning application.

11. Correspondence

1. The following e-mail received from Simon Elliott dated 30th March, 2010

Hi Pat, Simon Elliott here again

As requested, here is an e-mail for the attention of the Welney Archive & Social History Committee/Welney Parish Council. I am currently in the process of applying for funding which aims to engage young people in Welney. The proposed project will focus upon Roman Fens, Victorian Welney, Ice-Skating and Vermuyden via the medium of film. On completion the film will be premiered in the Village by young people, and at Wisbech Museum. The "heritage partner" will be Wisbech Museum. The project also encompasses numerous workshops and field trips (free of charge to the young people) and the first of which will be to the British Museum in London. I would like to access and use several of the images from your Archive for Education and Research Purposes with the young people of Welney. On completion the young people will then donate their research archive to your organisation at the celebration event/premier. In order for this to happen it would be beneficial to have a letter which in principle supports the proposed activities addressed to "Heritage Lottery" The projects title is The Story of Welney. If you have any further questions regarding this project feel free to contact me direct on 07725 531697 or 01354 610076.

Thanks for your time, Simon Elliott

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that a copy of the W.A.S.H. CD would be made available provided that Mr.Elliott was prepared to sign a note stating that the images would only be used for the purpose outlined in his e-mail and not for any other gain. It was also agreed that Council would write a letter of support addressed to the Heritage Lottery, once clarification had been received to confirm that this would not affect any applications that we might wish to make to the National Lottery for the proposed new Community Centre.

2. Downham Market Community Action Group – Next meeting is at Denver Village Hall on Wednesday 7th April, 2010 at 7 p.m.

3. Norfolk Rural Community Council – e-mail dated 12.3.10 – Details of Joint meeting with Norfolk Rural Forum on 27th April – and General Meeting n 3.11.2010 from 6 p.m. to elect a new Board of Trustees

4. Borough Council – Poster for Display regarding Forthcoming Election. Displayed in Notice Board.

5. Borough Council – 8.3.10 – Copy of Additional Parish Training Session held on 5th March regarding Introduction to the Planning Process.

6. East Cambs District Council – April Copy of Issue 2 of the Littleport Masterplan Newsletter

7. Environment Agency 30.3.10 Great Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan – Briefing Note for Consultation Event on 14th May, 2010

8. BCKLWN – 30.3.10 Derelict buildings – Asking for confirmation of any derelict buildings within the Parish - It was agreed to report the Old Welney Hotel, Bedford Bank, and the Cottage behind the Old Chapel of Meadow Lane.

9. Norfolk County Council Highways 1.4.10 – Encroachment of Highway at Hundred Foot Bank, Welney – copy of a letter sent to the house owner asking them to remove the fence which encroaches on the Highway.

12. Plans and Planning Matters

1. A letter was received from the Borough Council dated 30.3.10 regarding the Planning Application for continued use of Park home with lobby and touring caravan at Bluebells, Wisbech Road, Tipps End, confirming that the application had been withdrawn.

2. Ref No. 10/000038/F Conversion of Disused Water Tower, Main Street, Welney
Despite Council returning the form confirming our objections to the original application, a letter was received from the Borough Council enclosing drawings and plans relating to the access road to the Water Tower. Cllrs. Goodger and Kerr declared an interest as Trustees of Marshalls Charity. After discussion it was agreed to confirm our objections with the following comments
 1. The access road to the Water Tower is not owned by the owners of the Water Tower
 2. There is no area suitable for storage of materials or construction equipment etc on the actual plot – it may well mean encroaching on land belonging to the neighbouring properties.

13. Highway Matters

Following the last meeting, the following matters had been reported to Highways
Large and dangerous hole on the top of Delph Bridge. Confirmation was received that this work had been programmed, and has now been completed.

A letter was sent to Mr. John Eastgate of NCC Highways regarding an update following the joint meeting held on 5th February. Also included was the request from Mr. Bonner regarding better signage to prevent lorries entering the village, and then having to turn around. A reply was received dated 12th March confirming that he was hoping to arrange a meeting for 12 or 13th April to look at the photographs that Cllr. Bennett had taken and discuss the way forward.. He confirmed that a feasibility study is taking place to consider three options of providing real time flood warning variable message signs and this would look into the technological issues, signs message and value for money, based on capital and revenue costs for the scheme. He hoped to have feedback by June. He also confirmed that the signs for lorries can be discussed in detail at the forthcoming meeting.

A meeting had provisionally been arranged for 13th April but this had had to be cancelled and suggestions for new dates are awaited from Mr. Eastgate. Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he had taken approximately 80 photographs of the Wash Road during various stages of flooding and it had been the intention to show these on the screen at the proposed meeting. However, the Chairman suggested that the photographs be printed off say 8 or 10 to a sheet and given to Cllr. Bennett so that he could put titles to each photograph. They could then be scanned in, and forwarded to all interested parties in advance of the meeting, so that all parties would have this prior information.

14. Environmental Issues.

Cllr. Bennett confirmed that there had been fly tipping at Gypsy Corner on the Wash Road and this would be reported to the Clean up Team
Cllr. Bennett also reported that a problem was being experienced with dog walkers on the High Bank. Apparently they are bagging up their dog mess and then leaving the bags behind.
The Chairman also reported that there had been a break in at the Cock Fen Pumping Station.

15. Items for Next Agenda

1. Discuss Possible Openness of Parish Council Meetings.

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)

Dated4th May, 2010.....