

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE, 2010 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present

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

Dist.Cllrs. D.Pope and V.Spikings

Members of the Public: Mr. D.Bonner, Mr.P.Barr and Mr.T.Copeman.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. E.Allen and S.Kerr

**2. Public Participation**

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

1. Mr.Bonner addressed the meeting and gave details of problems being experienced when the Wash Road is flooded, and also gave ideas as to how these problems could possibly be rectified in readiness for discussion at the meeting of the Highways and the Environment Agency to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. His points were noted and would be used in discussions at that meeting.
2. Mr.T.Copeman then handed out a brief report on behalf of the Welney Allotment Association to give councillors an update on the state of the field and the work done so far. Cllr.Bennett advised that he had spoken to Mr.R.Gifford of Christchurch Gardening Club, who had arranged for an advertisement to appear in the next edition of The Heron informing interested parties that there were still allotments available at Welney.

. The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr.Goodger confirmed an interest in the Welney Allotments.

**4. Minutes of Last Meetings**

The minutes of the Annual Genrral Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2010, having been circulated to all councillors were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting

**5. Matters Arisiing**

1. Community Speed Watch – Cllr.Allen was not able to attend and hopefully an update would be received at the next meeting..

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – The meeting was advised that the field had been cut., sprayed, ploughed and power harrowed, and approximately 15 allotments had been marked out. A signed copy of the Licence for the field from 3.5.10 to 1.7.10 had been received from the Borough Council together with a receipt for the pro-rata rental of £40.41 It was also confirmed that Mr.Copeman had been able to obtain the sum of £500 by way of compensation from Freebridge Community Housing, for the use of an area of land as a compound by the company who are currently connecting the Chestnut Avenue Estate to the mains sewage system and this figure had been paid into the Parish Council accounts. The meeting were further advised that the fencing would be repaired around the field, and once the contractors had finished with the area for their compound then the frontage would be fenced and gated. It was intended to install a native hedge around the field and also between the allotment area and the area which is still down to grass. At the present time 14 persons had expressed an interest in taking an allotment, and some had already paid and started work. Following a request from the Allotment Association it was proposed by Cllr.Tomkins, seconded by Cllr.Bennett and agreed that the Parish Council make a contribution of £250.00 to assist with start up costs for the allotments (fencing, gates etc.) The allotment accounts would be dealt with by the Clerk and would form part of the Parish Council accounts

3. Meeting with adjoining Councils – The Clerk confirmed that Manea Parish Council had advised that the date for the meeting would be 11<sup>th</sup> August at Manea. Some Councillors confirmed that they would be able to attend. The Clerk confirmed that she would be advising the adjoining Councils who had previously attended, and would liaise with the Clerk at Manea closer to the day, for the preparation of thee Agenda.

4. Christmas Decorations - Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he was dealing with this.

5. Loss of Notice Board – Top of New Road – Cllr.Kerr was not able to attend, so hopefully an update would be received at the next meeting.

6. Openness of Parish Council Meetings. – Cllr.Bennett raised the matter for discussion as to how the Parish Council could be more pro-active and give out more information particularly at meetings. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council are doing everything they possibly can to keep members of the public informed on all matters. .

## **6. Finance**

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

Zurich Insurance – Insurance Premium for Parish Council Insurance

Due 1.6.10	Premium	1,010 . 66	
	Less Credit	<u>21 . 17</u>	£1,080 . 49

Zurich Insurance – Parish Hall Insurance

Dye 1.6.10	Premium	647 . 02	
	Less Credit	<u>34 . 29</u>	£ 612 . 73

Welney Croft Cricket Club

Half years grass cutting on Playing Field £ 362 . 50

Mrs.P. Copeman – Clerks Expenses

£ 36 . 75

Anglian Water – Half years water rates

For Pavilion at Playing Field £ 66 . 28

Anglian water – Half years water rates

For Parish Hall, Bedford Bank £ 70 . 73

Following receipt of the Invoice from the Environment Agency, the Clerk confirmed that she had written explaining the situation and had received an acknowledgement.

### Paid by Direct Debit

13,5,10	E-On – Electricity for Street Lights	59 . 81
1.6.10	Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary	255 . 68

Money paid into the Parish Council Account:

14.5.10	Recycling Credits from BCKLWLN for years 2008/9 and 2009/10	£52 . 00
24,5,10	BCKLWN – Displaying posters for election	6 . 00
24.5.10	Freebridge Community Housing – Compensation	500 . 00

Money paid into the Parish Hall Account

24.5.10	BCKLWN – Hire of Hall for Election Day	30 . 00
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The Clerk also presented a Form from the Bank to applying for a telephone banking membership number and password, and on the proposition of Cllr.Brown, seconded by Cllr.Freer and agreed, the form was signed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk.

## **7. Parish Hall**

The electricity meters were checked and the sum of £9.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Fraser Dawbarns to find out the current situation regarding the purchase and sale of the site.and had received a letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> May advising that they are hoping to be able to proceed shortly. However it was suggested that if

we have any matters we wish to raise with Elgoods when we should speak to Belinda Sutton direct. The Clerk confirmed that she would try and arrange to speak to Mrs.Sutton as soon as possible.

## **8. Proposed New Community Centre**

Council were advised that the Planning Application for the proposed new Community Centre on the Playing Field had been refused on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 for the following reason:

‘Whilst the development of a new village hall on the application site is acceptable in principle, the impact upon the neighbouring dwelling to the north by virtue of noise and disturbance from vehicular movements and general activity in the car park is considered to be unacceptable. The proposal is therefore considered to be contrary to the provisions of PPS1.’

A copy of the refusal was received from Mr.Briscoe of Peter Humphrey Associates together with a letter suggesting that a site meeting should be held with the Planning Officer to see if the siting issues could be resolved. Mr. Briscoe subsequently confirmed that the planning officer would be prepared to attend a site meeting on either 18<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> June. The 18<sup>th</sup> of June at 10 a.m. at the Playing Field was agreed and the Clerk would confirm this to Mr.Briscoe, and send a reminder to all councillors nearer to the date.

One point which arose from the issue of the planning refusal was the fact that it was displayed on the Borough Council website long before the applicant was informed. It appeared that the decision was known by certain parties before the Parish Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May, but no notice was received by the Parish Council as applicants, until three days later. Dist.Cllr.Spikings agreed to make enquiries regarding this and to see if it was possible to ensure that the applicant was advised of a decision before it was made known to the general public.

## **9. Playing Field**

.Very little to report at the present time. The Thursday Yoga Group and Friday Carpet bowls are still meeting regularly, and the Cricket Season has also started..

## **10. Correspondence**

1. Great Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan – Have your say on managing flood risks. Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> May confirming that the consultation period has been extended to 9<sup>th</sup> July, although they would like any comments by 18<sup>th</sup> June., An additional public meeting has been arranged at their Brampton Office on 18<sup>th</sup> June for anyone wishing to attend.
2. Norfolk Association of Village Halls – Newsletter June 2010
3. Norfolk Playing Fields Association Newsletter Spring 2010 together with various literature
4. Southern Area Road Safety Committee – Minutes and Agenda for meeting.
5. West Norfolk Sports Council – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 AGM on Thursday 120<sup>th</sup> June at Lynnsport at 7 p.m
6. Whitehouse Enterprises – Brochure of Outdoor Furniture and Play Equipment.
7. Norfolk Accident Rescue Service – May 2010. Requesting a donation towards their work.
8. Norfolk Police Authority – Independent Custody Visiting Scheme - Details of the scheme and a poster which has been put in the notice board.
9. BCKLWN – Council meeting Agenda and Minutes.
10. Downham Safer Neighbourhood Team – Update of policing outcomes  
Following a joint force police investigation into the theft of tractors and other farm machinery for sale abroad, officers from Norfolk Drugs and Serious Crime Squad arrested two men in Dover and Welney on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Stolen vehicles were recovered in Dover and a small cannabis Operation was found in Welney. Outcome to follow.  
A Nordelph man has been charged with cannabis production after a police search of his home in the village. A bedroom full of plants and growing equipment were found. Outcome to follow.
11. Norfolk County Council – 21.5.10 Minerals and Waste Development Management. Development Plan Documents and CD – Representations by 23.8.10

The following item was listed under correspondence for the last meeting.

Allotments A growing pastime – Meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June at Sprowston Parish Council Offices – a short talk identifying and relating to request for allotments, and the issues to be aware of including tenancy agreements, livestock and buildings, security, administering waiting lists etc., followed by a walk around the allotments. It was felt that this could be useful to the Allotment Association and Mr.Copeman and the Clerk will hopefully be attending..

## **11. Plans and Planning Matters**

Notice had been received from the BCKLWN – Planning Department confirming that the Development Control Board will consider the planning application submitted for the Welney Water Tower, on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 at 10 a.m. at King’s Lynn. .

## **12. Highway Matters**

Following the last meeting, the following items were reported to Highways and their response is shown below:

1, Hedge at Rutland House Corner

*I have sent a letter to the owners of Rutland House requesting they cut back their hedge.*

2. Drainage Problems outside Bridge Farm House ( Cllr.Freer)

*This drainage has been put on a forward programme to be done within the next financial year.*

3. Broken Chevrons and footpath sign – Jerry James’ corner

*This has been programmed to be repaired*

4. Break up of the road edge on the corner just past Cllr.Tomkins House.

*Martin Edmunds confirmed that he had driven the section of road but could not identify the problem*

*I suggest that he either contact Grant or our Chairman for clarification.*

5. Footpath around Sandgate Corner overgrown and in need of spraying

*This has been programmed to be done*

6. Broken Inspection Chamber Cover outside Old Nursery, Wisbech Road, Welney

*I have reported thus to BT for them to repair or replace the cover.*

Meeting with Highways, Environment Agency and Police regarding Flooding of the Wash Road and Signage. The meeting will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Parish Hall. Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the photographs and notes which Cllr.Bennett had prepared, and the Chairman agreed to show the photographs at the meeting so that everyone would be aware of the situation. It was confirmed that Mr.Eastgate and Mr.Barnard from Highways would be present. Also Mr.Peter Riches, and 2 representatives from the Environment Agency. There was then a discussion regarding the points to be raised at the meeting including possible Dot-matrix signs at Suspension Bridge and New Road, better local signage with clearer information, possibility of preventing through traffic getting as far as the Bridge by diverting into New Road, possibility of having the road flooded signs written in another language for foreign drivers, etc. It was also agreed to ask the Highways representatives to speak to Mr. Bonner following the meeting in order to include his comments into their improvements.

The following points were also raised for Highways attention

1. Grass verges in need of attention at Rutland Corner, Tipps End

2. Grass verges around the village in need of attention – Some of which have been cut by the Drainage board.

## **13. Environmental Issues.**

1. Cllr.Brown informed the meeting that gates had been removed letting cattle out from the Wash Fields. He advised the meeting that if anyone found a similar thing happening in the future, to contact him and he would make necessary arrangements.

2. It was also reported to the meeting that the Post Box appeared to be missing from Suspension Bridge.

## **14. Items for Next Agenda**

1. Doctors Surgery – To be re-instated on the Agenda for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.33 p.m.

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

Dated .....6<sup>th</sup> July, 2010.....