

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 3rd AUGUST, 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Cllrs.K.Goodger (Chairman) T.Bennett, M.Brown, S, Dobson, V.Pratley, G.Tomkins and the Clerk.
Dist.Cllr.D.Pope and Mr. A. Bye

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. E. Allen, C. Freer, S. Kerr, Dist.Cllr, V. Spikings, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO Claire Law of Downham Market Police Station.

2. Public Participation

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

Mr. Bye raised a question with regard to the barriers which it had been reported would be put at the top of New Road in the event of the Wash Road being closed, to divert traffic down New Road. He was concerned that vehicles would reverse from the barriers and turn around in his driveway. The Chairman explained that the barriers would only be put up when the road was officially closed and impassable because of the depth of water. Following discussion it was agreed to leave the matter until such an occasion arose and then review it at that time if drivers were found to be using Mr.Bye's driveway to turn around. It was hoped that the improved information which would be supplied by Highways would prevent vehicles from reaching Welney.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

4. Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 6th July, 2010, having been circulated to all councillors were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting following the amendment in Section 13 (2) to read Bedford River.

5. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – Nothing to report.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments. Following an inspection of the Allotment Field at 7 p.m. (prior to this meeting) Councillors agreed that they were very impressed with the work which had been carried out under challenging weather conditions and congratulations were recorded to all those who had worked hard to set up the allotments and the allotment holders themselves for their work. They were advised at the site meeting that there is still work to be done on the field. Cllr. Bennett suggested that the Allotment Association might consider the possibility of holding an Annual Produce Show, and also the possibility of holding an Annual Awards Event. The Chairman confirmed that he will try and make arrangements to rotavate the area of the field which has not been let in order to keep it clean and keep the weeds down. It will also make it easier if the Association are able to let any more allotments in the future. Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he will be looking into working on the Amenity Area of the field later in the year.

3. Meeting with adjoining Councils – The next meeting would take place on 11th August at Manea and all adjoining Councils had been informed. The Clerk had received copies of the Agenda for the meeting from the Clerk at Manea and these were handed to Cllrs. Goodger, Brown, Bennett, Pratley and Tomkins, all of whom expressed an interest in attending. Downham West had already confirmed that three persons would be attending.

4. Christmas Decorations - None available..

5. Loss of Notice Board – Top of New Road – Nothing to report at present.

6. Doctors Surgery at Welney – A letter had been received from Dr. Millard at the Health Centre explaining the situation and confirming that they have no plans to reinstate the village surgeries.

Details were also received from Mrs. Cox, our representative on the Upwell Health Centre Patient Participation Group confirming that a new Pharmacist would be starting on 2nd August and that from that date the Pharmacy would be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

6. Finance

The following invoice had been received for payment

Mrs. P. A. Copeman

Clerks Expenses

10 .46

It was proposed by Cllr. Brown, seconded by Cllr. Tomkins and agreed that the account be paid and the cheque was duly signed.

Paid by Direct Debit:

13,7.10 E-On – Electricity

59 . 81

1.8.10 Mrs .P. Copeman Clerks Salary

225 . 68

7. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked but there was no money..

Purchase of the Hall Site – Nothing further to report at present.

8. Proposed New Community Centre

Following the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted Mr. Briscoe of Peter Humphrey Associates with the request that he reposition the new Community Centre in the corner of the field (in the same position as the existing pavilion, and also to incorporate a children's play area. A letter had been received from him enclosing the amended plans and advising that he had sent a copy of the plans to the planners at the Borough Council for his comments on the new positioning prior to the resubmission of the planning application. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Dobson, seconded by Cllr. Pratley and agreed with 5 in favour and 1 abstention, that the amended plan should be adopted, in the hope that matters can now move forward. The Chairman then advised that he had recently attended a meeting and spoken to a representative from the RCC who advised that funding was available for new projects like Community Centres but only once planning permission was in place. Details of this would be retained on file in the hope that they could be used in the very near future. It was also agreed to contact Mr. Briscoe to see if he had received any feedback from the planning department, and also to remind him that we did ask him advice regarding a possible teenage shelter on the site, which to date he had not addressed.

Also following the last meeting the Clerk had contacted Highways and had a site meeting with them regarding the planning requirements that the roadway from March Road to Hurn Drove must be made up to their specifications and requirements. Councillors were handed a copy of an e-mail received on 3rd August setting out the requirements and details and estimating a price of approximately £20,000 for the work. This matter would be addressed again, once the question of the planning permission was resolved.

9. Playing Field

Nothing to report.

10. Correspondence

1. Linda Briggs – Update on the latest situation confirming that a Dr. Smith from Cambridge is on the case and that he was visiting her house to measure the vibration on Friday 23rd July.
2. Norfolk Rural Community Council – e-mail and a copy of a letter which he has sent to all Norfolk's MPs urging them to use their influence to address the problem with the recent budget announcement relating to employer national insurance payments because the people of Norfolk will not be able to benefit as Norfolk is part of the excluded Eastern Region.
3. An update of the Real Consequences of Waste Incineration for King's Lynn.
4. Monthly report from Elizabeth Truss MP
5. Norfolk Policing Plan Summary June 2010
6. Southern Area Road Safety Committee – Minutes of AGM and Agenda and Minutes for meeting on 19th July.
7. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – 7th July 2010 An update from the Standards Committee regarding Notification Procedures. Also Council meeting Agenda and Minutes
8. Wash Estuary Strategy Group.- Wash Week 2010 7-15th August – Details of events.

9. Safer Neighbourhood Area Panels in West Norfolk - Details of various meetings arranged in the Downham Market Police Station which they are inviting all parishes to attend
10. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – Development of Garden Land Briefing Notes following the Government Announcement that Garden Land would be taken out of the Brownfield category.
11. Norfolk Constabulary – Home Watch information and Crime Details during July.
12. Glasdon Products for Local Councils.
13. Norfolk Police – Personal safety Courses – 9th, 16th and 23rd September, 2010 at Downham Market
14. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – Minerals and Waste Plan Submissions – CD for information

11. Plans and Planning Matters

The following points were raised by Cllrs. for Clarification from the planning department:-

1. Hobby Cottage, Hundred Foot Bank – An enforcement notice had been issued sometime ago and Council wondered what the current position was.
2. Welney Maid Signs – Sandgate Corner – Council wondered whether planning permission is required for the signs which have been erected advertising the business. A question was also raised with regard to access to the premises which is situated right on the very dangerous Sandgate Corner.

Council were advised that the Welney Water Tower is now back on the market For Sale with planning permission for conversion to a residential house. As Council had previously recommended that this application should be refused, the meeting was reminded that they had the opportunity to attend and possibly speak at the Planning Control Board meetings, and Dist. Cllr. Pope confirmed that District Councillors can also represent Parish Councils and put forward the parish decisions.

12. Highway Matters

Information had been received from Norfolk County Council regarding Highway and Community Rangers. There would be an opportunity to discuss and help shape this new venture on 4th August 2010 at Fincham Village Hall from 4 – 6 p.m.

It was noted that nothing had been heard from Mr. Eastgate at Norfolk County Council following the meeting on 3rd June, and it was agreed to ask him for an update on the situation.

Cllr. Bennett raised the question of the spraying of the footpath from The Old Nursery to Stockyard Farm. Highways confirmed earlier in the year that this was included in their programme, but so far nothing had been done.

13. Environmental Issues.

1. Following the last meeting the Clerk had contacted Environment Agency with regard to the untidy state of the river banks (particularly near the parish hall) and they had confirmed that the work is already included in their programme and should be done by the middle of August.
2. The Environment Agency also confirmed that the weed boats were working in the Bedford River in an effort to clean up the river, and they should have reached Welney by the end of July.
3. Council wondered whether the Dog Wardens had attended the village following the information which was received from the last complaint. The problem with dog fouling seemed to have reduced but Cllr. Dobson reported that there is a serious problem on the Environment Agency bank
4. Cllr. Brown confirmed that he would be approaching the Environment Agency for a report on the work they are currently carrying out in the Hundred Foot River, and also to ask them for details of their programme of Summer and Winter work in the area.
5. Council discussed the question with regard to the large number of vehicles which had been parked on the grass area at the entrance to Chestnut Avenue, and advertised as being For Sale. It was agreed to contact the Borough Council so that the situation could be addressed before it became a complete eyesore.

14. Items for Next Agenda

None

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.44 p.m.

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

Dated7th September, 2010.....