

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 5th OCTOBER, 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Cllrs.K.Goodger (Chairman) T.Bennett, M.Brown, S, Dobson, (who have sent apologies that she would not be able to be present for the start of the meeting) C.Freer, & V.Pratley and the Clerk.

Also present Dist. Cllrs. D. Pope and V. Spikings, Mr. R. Jankovic, Mr. & Mrs. D. Levesley and Mr. D.Bonner

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Public Participation

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

Wash Road - Mr. Bonner asked whether the information recently printed in the Welney News with regard to Wash Road was completely up to date. It was confirmed that this was the case, but that a meeting was still awaited with Mr. Jon Barnard of NCC, which Council understood was to be arranged before the end of October. Council also confirmed that when the road is flooded, the new barriers proposed for the top of New Road will be monitored especially by the Village Flood Warden, to make sure that it is in place. Further points were raised and these were dealt with under Agenda Item 13 – Highways Matters.

Community Speed Watch - Mr.Jankovic had previously sent an e-mail setting out the fact that he would like to become involved, and he gave the meeting a brief report of the situation regarding speeding at Suspension Bridge and the A.1101 towards Toll Corner. Mr. Levesley had also sent an e-mail confirming his interest. However it was pointed out that from the paperwork it appeared that the Speed Watch scheme could only be implemented on 30 or 40 mph speed limits, and as the speed limit in that area was 60 it would not apply. It was agreed to contact Sgt. Marsh to ask for clarification on this point. It was also suggested that as there had been a negative response from Highways in the past regarding the reduction of the speed limit at Suspension Bridge, a suggestions be put forward at the next meeting with Highways that they consider the possibility of a reduced speed limit as an experiment for six months. It was agreed that this item should be put on the Agenda for that meeting. Following further discussion Cllr.Bennett agreed to take over the organisation of the Community Speed Watch and he would liaise with all interested parties and would contact Mr.Frank Humm of Upwell for advice and assistance. 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 7th September, 2010, having been circulated to all councillors were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

5. Casual Vacancy.

Following the last meeting the Clerk confirmed that confirmation had been received from the Borough Council that we had to fill the vacancy by co-option. Notices had been put in the Parish Notice Board and on the Parish Council website as well as in the latest edition of the Welney News. To date no enquiries had been received. The notices would remain, and councillors were also asked to pass on the fact that we have a vacancy by word of mouth.

6. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – This item was dealt with under Public Participation.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments. A report of current developments had appeared in the recent edition of the Welney News. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had cut the path across the allotment field on two occasions,

3. Meeting with adjoining Councils – Councillors had been provided with a copy of the Minutes from, Manea following the meeting on 11th August. It was confirmed that the next meeting will be at Upwell and that they are looking for dates during February 2011.

4. Notice Board – Top of New Road – It was agreed that this matter was in hand.

5. Dog Bins – At the last meeting a suggestion had been received that possibly some savings could be made by emptying the dog bins ourselves rather than paying the Borough Council to do the work. However after discussion it was agreed that no alteration would be made to this service as the cost was reasonable.

6. Public Lighting – Council considered the possibility that there could be a cost saving by restricting the time in which the street lights were on in the village. After discussion it was agreed to write to the electricity supplier to ask if it would be possible to reduce the timing of the lights and what reduction this might have in the cost. However, no action would be taken on this matter until a Survey of the residents had been carried out through the Welney News.

7. Possibility of bringing shop facilities back into the Village – Cllr.Bennett informed councillors of villages where shop facilities had been re-introduced and were working very well. Councillors were informed that the Landlady at the Lamb and Flag had intimated that this was something that she had been considering. It was agreed that Cllr.Bennett would speak to her to see if anything had progressed, and depending on the outcome, he would then prepare an article for the Welney News to obtain the views of residents.

7. Finance

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

Mrs.P.Copeman Clerks Expenses		15 . 92
Welney Croft Cricket Club Second Half years grass cutting	362 . 50	
Less hire of Field and Pavilion For 7 home matches	<u>175 . 00</u>	187 , 50
Paid by Direct Debit		
13.9.10	E-On Street Lighting	59 . 81
1.10.10	Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary	255 . 68

A request was also received from the Cricket Club asking if the Parish Council would be prepared to make one off grant towards the cost of a new Mower which they had to purchase for the cutting of the Playing Field. After consideration, it was proposed by Cllr.Brown, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed that the Parish Council should make a grant of £200. and this was added to the cheque for the grass cutting.

8. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked and £30.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – Following the last meeting the Clerk confirmed that she had written to Fraser Dawbarns who in turn had written to the Environment Agency. Confirmation had now been received from the Environment Agency that they are prepared to wait until the beginning of 2011 for this matter to be completed when it is hoped that Elgods will have everything in place.

The Clerk confirmed – that a temporary repair had been carried out to the Washbasin in the Gent's toilet so that it was now safe. The door into the storeroom off the Kitchen is in need of repair, and this would be attended to.

The Clerk confirmed that a further letter had been received from the resident who had hired the Parish Hall acknowledging receipt of the return of half of the hire fee plus the cost of the toilet seat. However the cheque had been returned stating that the cost of the hiring was not the issue, and suggesting that the money be donated to a worthy charity. Councillors agreed to consider what action to take regarding the cheque at the next meeting.

9. Proposed New Community Centre

Following the last meeting a letter had been sent to Mr. Briscoe answering the questions he had previously raised with regard to the new site of the Community Centre and surrounds. A letter had also been sent to the Cricket Club and a reply received stating that they are 100% behind the building being built on the existing site. This information was duly passed to Mr. Briscoe but nothing further had been heard from him. A further letter would be sent asking for an update on the current position..

10. Playing Field

The Clerk confirmed that she had been advised by one of the hirers of the Pavilion, that they had seen two bats flying round in the Hall. The bats had disappeared into the roof space but had not been seen since. It was agreed that contact should be made with a Bat specialist to find out the correct procedure in good time before we need to demolish the pavilion. There is also a problem with moles on the playing field and it was agreed to contact the mole catcher and ask him to attend.

11. Correspondence

1. Norfolk County Council – Copy of 2010/11 Year Book, Information that Norfolk Matters newsletter will no longer be produced as a paper document but will be available on their website for individuals to print off. If any one wishes to receive this by e-mail they can register at www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolk matters Details are also included of a new pilot interactive digital TV service for Norfolk County Council and details of how to access it via the digital TV.
2. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Details of a Think Green... There is no plant B session to be held on Wednesday 19th November at Easton College Sports and Conference Centre.
3. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – 15th September. Update on Norfolk's 3rd Local Transport Plan Connection Norfolk with a letter from Adrian Gunson (Cabinet member for Travel and Transport) Updates are being made all the time at www.norfolk.gov.uk/connectingnorfolk
4. Southern Area Road Safety Committee – Minutes of meeting held on 19th July.
5. National Association of Local Councils – Future of the standards Framework for Members of Local Authorities in England.
6. Various Information on Crime from Norfolk Constabulary and Home Watch
7. NCC – Home Fire Risks Checks. Can the Parish Council help to promote this service and generate more requests for visits by the Fire Service. (Copy handed to Cllr. Brown for Welney News)
8. Copy of Your Norfolk
9. Issue 4 of the Littleport Masterplan newsletter.
10. BCKLWN – Council meeting minutes.
11. BCKLWN – 2011 Census – Councillor Handbook/Promotional Material. The next National Census will take place on 27th March, 2011, and they have enclosed information together with a handbook as promotional material.
12. BCKLWN – 13th September – Mini Service Review – Parish Council Elections
13. NCC 30/9/10 Proposed Power Station and Recycling Centre at King's Lynn
14. Essex & Suffolk Water – Abberton Scheme – Invitation to Meeting at King's Lynn on 22nd October (Passed to Cllr. Bennett)
15. Norfolk ALC – Copy of Norfolk Link and an Insurance Company Newsletter etc.
16. BCKLWN – Mayors Civic Aware for Voluntary Service in the Community – Nominations invited
17. Norfolk Police Authority News
18. BCKLWN – Registered Addressed for property – Acorn Holiday Park, Bedford Bank, Welney

12. Plans and Planning Matters

Nothing to report.

13. Highway Matters

1. Following the last meeting, the Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Jon Barnard of NCC Highways. He has now taken over from John Eastgate. Mr.Barnard confirmed the following by e-mail:

As per our conversation, as the Highway Engineer for your parish the issues regarding Wash Road have been passed over to myself for action. Unfortunately due to annual leave I am unable to give you an answer in full. However, at this point in time. listed below are the points that have been actioned.

1. *Road closure enhancement at the junction of New Road to become standard. I am aware that last year we trialled some additional barriers and signage to direct traffic onto New Road when Wash Road is flooded.*
2. *Level Survey by sub-contractor has been actioned and should be carried out within the next 3-4 weeks.*
3. *Feasibility study currently being carried out with regard to dot matrix signage, initial investigation shows that signage and Environment Agency servers can work together.*
4. *I am looking to set up another meeting at the end of October with the various parties for an update of progress with further information gained from survey etc.*

I realise this is slightly sparse on detail however if you have any questions or require any further information please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Councillors were grateful for the information, but it was agreed that Mr.Barnard should be asked to arrange his suggested meeting for the last week in October, so that we would have something to report back to the November meeting, and also hopefully, before any flooding of the Wash Road takes place

2. Mr.Edmunds of Highways at King’s Lynn confirmed that they had cut back the hedge at Rutland Corner, Tipps End. Thanks were extended to Highways for the work that has been carried out, but as one or two people would like to see the hedge totally removed, it was agreed that as the removal was suggested by Highways about two years ago, would they now consider taking this action. It would also cut out the need for any further work in the future.

3. Spraying of Footpath from Old Nursery to Stockyard Farm. – This sprayed had not been carried out and it was agreed to ask Highways again for confirmation when this would be done.

4. Two items were reported for Highways attention
 - A dangerous dip in the road near Flights End on Hundred Foot Bank
 - A large pothole outside the entrance drive for 2 Wisbech Road, Welney – actually situated in Chestnut Avenue.

14. Environmental Issues.

Cllr.Bennett raised concerns about the current state of the Old Croft River, and the Chairman gave an update on the current situation.

14. Items for Next Agenda

1. William Marshall School Garden.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.36 p.m.

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

Dated ...2nd November, 2010.....