

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2010 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present

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

Also present Dist. Cllrs. D. Pope, Mr.D. Bonner, and Mr. E.Goldie

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from C.Cllr.H.Humphrey, Dist.Cllr.V. Spikings and PCSO Claire Law

**2. Public Participation**

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

Wash Road – The Chairman explained that Highways were still trying to get everyone together for a meeting but that this should happen within the next couple of weeks. As soon as a date is received the Councillors would be informed and also any other interested parties,

Mr. Bonner pointed out that the Road Flooded signs at Lotts Bridge had been open again recently indicating that the road was flooded. It appeared that the sign was damaged and would not close properly. It was agreed to report this to Highways for them to have a look at the sign as soon as possible

Opening of Welmore Pump – Dist.Cllr.Pope gave a brief report on behalf of himself and Dist.Cllr.Spikings on their attendance at the official opening of the Welmore Pump at Welmore Lake Sluice. He confirmed that the official opening had been carried out by Elizabeth Truss MP who had spoken very well, and had also emphasised the fact that the people of Welney were the ones most inconvenienced by the flooded road, and that this matter must be kept at the top of everyone's Agenda

Mr.E.Goldie of Taymor Place introduced himself to the meeting.

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 5<sup>th</sup> October having been circulated to all councillors were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

**5. Casual Vacancy**

Despite notices in the Notice Board, on the Parish Council website and in the recent edition of the Welney News, nothing had been heard from anyone interested in standing for the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that the notices will remain and that a further note will appear in the next Welney News. Mr.Goldie expressed serious interest in joining the Council, and would confirm this interest as soon as possible

**6. Matters Arising**

**1. Community Speed Watch** – Following the last meeting, contact had been made with Sgt.Marsh and he had confirmed that there is no reason why the 60mph speed limit areas could not be monitored but there are obvious safety implications with traffic travelling much faster. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had spoken to Mr.Frank Humm and confirmed that the future of the Speed Watch is in abeyance at the moment. It is currently funded by the County Council but because of financial restraints and cutbacks this funding is likely to be removed. However it is hoped that this may be taken over by the Police and a decision on this should be known by the end of November. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would call a meeting of all interested parties as soon as matters were confirmed.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments. Very little to report at present. Allotment holders have been removing their crops and digging ready for the frosts and next years planting. Grateful thanks were expressed to Mr. D.Stuart for harrowing the area of the field that has not been let for allotments. This had made that area look much tidier. Cllr.Bennett has continued to cut the grass path across the field, and has now also cut the large area of grass which it is hoped will become an amenity area. When the weather permits the grass paths around the individual allotments are also being cut. It would be very rewarding to find a few more people who would like to have an allotment, and it was confirmed that another note will be included in the Welney News..

3.Dog Bins– Following the last meeting, this matter was raised again, and it was pointed out to Council that it is not illegal to put dog waste into ordinary public waste bins. The question was also raised asking whether it would be cheaper to remove dog waste bins and replace them with ordinary bins. As the dog waste bins in the Village actually belong to the Parish Council, it was considered that possibly this would not be cost effective, but Cllr.Dobson agreed to write an article for the next Welney News regarding the use of the bins, and also to see how much use the four bins actually received.

4. Public Lighting – The Clerk confirmed that she had not yet heard back from E-On as to whether there would be much of a saving in our annual electricity costs for the street lights if they were turned off from midnight until 6 a.m. As soon as the information was to hand, an article could be put in the Welney News to get the opinion of residents before taking any action.

5. Possibility of bringing shop facilities back into the Village – Cllr.Bennett informed councillors that he had spoken to the Landlady at the Lamb and Flag and they were very interested in the idea of a shop facility possibly at the Public House. They would be speaking to Elgoods to see how they felt about this suggestion, and as soon as any further information was available, they would let us know. It was felt that this could be a very good idea and could be of great benefit to everyone.

6. William Marshall School Garden – Cllr.Dobson gave details of a garden project which is being undertaken at the School, to create a garden that the children want and that they can look after and grow their own vegetables and flowers. Working weekends would be held and it was hoped that members of the public might be able to help.

## **7. Meeting Reports**

Cllr.Bennett gave a report on the meeting of the Ely Ouse Essex Water Abberton Scheme which he attended on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Everything is progressing well and the scheme should be on stream in about a years time.,

## **8. Finance**

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

Mrs.P.Copeman		
Clerks Expenses		12 . 45
MHB /services – Lighting Maintenance Charges		
13 <sup>th</sup> October to 12 <sup>th</sup> December, 2010		104 . 55
Paid by Direct Debit		
13.10.10	E-On Street Lighting	59 . 81
1.11.10	Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary	255 . 68

A request had been received from the Welney Parochial Church Council for consideration for an annual Grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard, and this would be considered at the January meeting in the normal way.

## **9. Parish Hall**

The electricity meters were checked and £45.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – The Clerk confirmed that there is nothing further to report at the present time but contact would be made with Fraser Dawbarns (Solicitors) in the new year so that hopefully the matter could proceed to completion..

Following the last meeting, consideration was then given to the returned cheque from a hirer of the village hall. After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed that the money should remain in the Parish Council accounts.

The Chairman confirmed that he would arrange for his electrician to check the outside light and the light in the entrance hall, as these had not been working for some time.

#### **10. Proposed New Community Centre**

Two e-mails had been received from Mr.Briscoe of Peter Humphrey Associates with regard to the planning application for the proposed new Community Centre. After discussion it was agreed to reply as follows, so that he could re-submit the application:

1. Replacement of trees – The trees fronting the present car parking area would have to be removed to make way for the new building, and it was agreed that these would be replaced with native trees and hedging on the eastern boundary of the playing field.
2. Councillors agreed that the size of the Children's play area should be approximately one third of the size of the new hall, and they were happy for it to be in the position as shown on the plan, adjoining the new hall.
3. The site of the possible teenage shelter was also marked on the plan.
4. With regard to the work needed at the junction of March Road and Hurn Drove, a copy of the report received from NCC Highways in August, would be sent to Mr. Briscoe so that he could advise the planning department that we had addressed this matter.  
Hopefully the application could now be resubmitted.

Cllr.Bennett confirmed to the meeting that Mrs. Francis Wood has now changed her job and would be only too pleased to assist us with fund raising for the new Community Centre as and when required.

#### **11. Playing Field**

Following the last meeting, a careful eye had been kept on the possibility that bats were resident in the roof of the pavilion, but they had not been seen anymore. However Mr.John Loveday had confirmed that he had a friend who is licensed to remove bats and he was making arrangements for him to have a look to find out whether or not there are any in residence.

The mole catcher had been asked to attend the playing field to deal with the problem.

#### **12. Correspondence**

1. Norfolk County Council – 15.10.10 Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies., Development Plan Document – Revisions to Pre-Submission Document. Invitation to make representations.by 17<sup>th</sup> December Two large documents and DVD for those who wish to study the matter.
2. NALC – 12<sup>th</sup> October –The Vision for Better Health and Well Being for people with a Learning Disability and their families. Details of how to give feedback on the website and also an address for further information for those without internet.
3. Norfolk County Council – Improvements to Bus Services as follows  
*Barry's Cars have decided, with our encouragement, to run a limited Saturday service on the supported routes from Villages such as Welney, Nordelph, Barroway Drove, Fincham and Stowbridge (west of the river) into Downham Market. This new experimental service starts on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. I suspect that this may be the last good news on the bus front for a while, but at least there is some good news!* (Handed to Cllr.Brown for possible inclusion of an article in the Welney News)
4. Peterborough City Council 8.10.10 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan examination of the Core Strategy. Details of the hearing sessions for those who made representations to the Plans.
5. NALC – 18.10.10. Details of West Norfolk Life which will be launched as a 48 page glossy community magazine in late November. Anything which Parish Councils wish to enter should be sent to Stephen Teverson for inclusion in the November issue by 30<sup>th</sup> November. This magazine will cover the period December and January.
6. Monthly report from Elizabeth Truss MP

7. Various Police and Homewatch News Items via e-mail.
8. Active Norfolk – Village Sports Initiatives. Details of what is planned for West Norfolk and Breckland and invitation to attend their meetings.
9. Norfolk County Council – Comprehensive spending Review – Full proposals published on their website [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk) and any comments are required by 10<sup>th</sup> January.
10. New Websites Campaign against incinerator plans for King’s Lynn For information the websites are [www.klwin.com](http://www.klwin.com) and [www.armerscampaign.org](http://www.armerscampaign.org). You can also phone for information on 07522 659478 or 01533 840640.
11. Citizens Advice Bureau – Copy of annual report and request for donation towards running costs.
12. Letter from Elizabeth Truss MP offering to meet Councillors to discuss any problems
13. HM Customs and Revenue – UK Border Agency – Maintaining Security in Norfolk and Suffolk. Requesting details of Village Magazines for an article (Handed to Cllr.Brown for Welney News)
14. Norfolk Playing Fields Association – Newsletter for Autumn 2010
15. Castle Rising Parish /council 1.11.10. Copy of a letter to Lord Sasoon at Treasury regarding the NCC Waste Incinerator Proposals.
16. Downham Market Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel – Meeting Agenda for 4.11.10.

### **13. Plans and Planning Matters**

The following planning permission had been received from the Borough Council

Ref No. 10/01300/F – Mr. & Mrs. Hall

Construction of 2 dwellings following demolition of agricultural buildings at High Hill Farm, Main Street Welney. Permission dated 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2010

13 Conditions are attached to the permission and these were read out to the meeting.

### **14. Highway Matters**

Following the last meeting, three e-mails had been received from Mr. Jon Barnard of Highways with regard to a meeting with all parties regarding the Wash Road. He had asked all parties for dates when they would be available within 3 weeks from 28<sup>th</sup> October, and would confirm a convenient date and time as soon as possible. The Clerk confirmed that if she had not heard anything within the next few days then she would contact Mr.Barnard for an update.

Mr.Edmunds of Highways at King’s Lynn had been contacted with regard to the following points and replied as follows

1. Pothole in Chestnut Avenue – Has now been filled
2. Dip in the road near Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank – This would be programmed for the work to be carried out as soon as possible to make the highway safe.
3. Spraying the Footpath from Old Welney Nursery to Stockyard Farm. The spraying was carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> October.
4. Hedge at Rutland Corner – He agreed to speak to the owners of Rutland House to see if they are OK with the hedge being completely removed.

The following points were raised for attention of Mr.Edmunds:-

1. Footpath from Old Welney Nursery to Stockyard Farm. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that this part of the footpath had not received any attention, as it appeared that the highways team had sprayed the wrong area. He also requested that Highways be asked if they could provide a proper surface to this part of the path so that residents had a much better surface to walk on.
2. There is a large pothole on the top of the Delph Bridge which needs attention.
3. Part of the surface in Main Street, Welney is breaking up and needs attention.
4. There is a pothole on Rutland Corner at Tipps End.
5. Hedge at Rutland Corner – Council are at a loss to understand why the owners of Rutland House have to be approached with regard to the removal of the hedge, as previously Highways had confirmed that the hedge was not owned by Rutland House, and that Highways would be prepared to move it completely.

### **15. Environmental Issues.**

1. Mr.Goldie mentioned the problems which he and other residents had been experiencing with noise from the Social Services House in Back Drove. However this problem has now ceased at the house is currently empty.

2. It was reported that the telephone box near the school appears to be in a poor condition. It was confirmed that this is a card only telephone box but it was agreed to ask BT to check on the condition.

**16. Items for Next Agenda**

None

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

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

Dated.....7<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.....