

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2010 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present

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

Also present Dist. Cllrs. D. Pope, Mr.D. Bonner, Mr. T.Eyles and PCSO Esther Bortz

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced PCSO Esther Bortz from Downham Market. She gave brief details of the crime figures for the Parish of Welney over the last six months. She confirmed that a Community Action Panel Meeting would be held at Downham Market Fire Station at 7 p.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, and in response to questions from the floor she explained the workings of the C.A.P. She answered questions from members of the public and councillors and the Chairman thanked her very much for attending and keeping the Parish Council fully informed.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr.C.Freer, Dist.Cllr.V. Spikings and Cllr.Tomkins explained that he would have to leave the meeting early,

**2. Public Participation**

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

Wash Road – The Chairman then gave details of the meeting that had taken place with Highways and the Environment Agency regarding the Wash Road and Flooding problems. A copy of the full report is attached in the Minute Book, and all parties attending have been supplied with a copy. It was unanimously agreed that Dist Cllrs.Spikings and Pope and Elizabeth Truss MP should be kept fully informed. There was then a discussion on developments with questions being answered. The meeting was then re-convened.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

None at this stage.

**4. Minutes of Last Meetings**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November having been circulated to all councillors were approved following the addition of Dist.Cllr.Spikings name under Section 2 – Opening of Welmore Pump, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

**5. Casual Vacancy**

Mr. T. Eyles of Wren Cottage, Main Street, Welney then expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council, and with everyone in favour, he was officially co-opted onto the council and took his place at the table.

**6. Matters Arising**

1. Community Speed Watch – Cllr.Bennett advised the meeting that he had spoken to Mr.F.Humm who had confirmed that the Community Speed Watch is to continue and that the training of new teams could commence. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that once the bad weather had passed, he would contact all interested parties and look into starting the training for the village.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments. Very little to report at present. No new requests for allotments had been received but it was hoped that matters might improve in the new year. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he was looking into the Community Area of the field, and had put an article in the latest edition of the Welney News. Once ideas had been received as to what the village wanted, then the matter could be moved forward with possibly a public meeting.

3.Dog Bins– Cllr.Dobson confirmed that she had placed an article in the Welney News, but that she had not yet had an opportunity of surveying the dog waste bins on the village

4. Public Lighting – The Clerk confirmed that she had received a telephone call from E-On regarding the possible reduction in cost if the street lights were turned off for a period during the

night. The enquiry had been referred to EDF who apparently supply the electricity but no information had as yet been received. No decision would be made in any event, until the thoughts of the residents had been received.

A report had been received of a street light which had been damaged by an accident at Tipps End. This had been referred to MHB Services who had been instructed to repair the light. They had quoted a maximum cost of £160, and as soon as the invoice is received, Council would look at reclaiming this from the Insurance of the vehicle who had the accident and caused the damage.

5. Possibility of bringing shop facilities back into the Village – Cllr.Bennett informed councillors that he had again 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. After discussion regarding this matter, it was agreed that Cllr.Bennett should speak to them again to firm up the proposals which they had in mind so that Council were aware of which way the matter was going. The matter could be discussed again once this information was known..

6. William Marshall School Garden – Cllr.Dobson advised the meeting that the School had been successful in obtaining Lottery Funding to start work on the garden.

7. Meeting with Adjoining Councils- An e-mail had been received from Upwell Parish Council on 16<sup>th</sup> November, advising that they would be hosting the next meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2011. They went on to suggest that each Council should nominate a maximum of two members to attend the meetings, possibly the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Each council should propose at least one item for the Agenda and this should be sent to the clerk of the hosting council two weeks prior to each meeting, action points of meetings should be allocated to a specific council who would be responsible for reporting back at the next meeting, and that a further three parishes should be invited to attend. After some discussion it was agreed that whilst the Parish Council noted the comments, the original idea was to meeting adjoining councils to discuss matters that affected them all and hopefully reach conclusions. If further Parishes were to be invited then the group would become far too large. There is no reason why Parish Councils could not form groups of councils who adjoin them, as Welney had done, and then deal with matters in whatever way they felt best. The whole matter started as a meeting of Adjoining Councils but Upwell's e-mail had entitled it a Joint Meeting of Councils. It was unanimously agreed to reply and state that whilst we understood their position, we feel that this should remain as it is in its present format.

8. Surgery with Elizabeth Truss MP – An e-mail had been received from Dist.Cllr.Spikings confirming that she had arranged for Elizabeth Truss MP to hold a surgery at Welney on 28<sup>th</sup> January. She had asked to book the Hall but had been advised that the Hall and the Pavilion are both booked on a Friday night. The suggestion was made that possibly this could take place in the School and Cllr.Dobson agreed to make the necessary enquiries and let the Clerk know.

## **7. Meeting Reports**

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that the full copy of the Abberton Report is now available on line at [www.eswater.co.uk/additionalwater.aspx](http://www.eswater.co.uk/additionalwater.aspx)

## **8. 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	45 . 49
D.A. Pest Control Mole Control at the Playing Field	40 . 00
Norfolk Association of Village Halls – Membership 2011	10 . 00

Paid by Direct Debit		
13.11.10	E-On Street Lighting	59 . 81
24,11.10	E-On – Electricity for Pavilion	45 . 81
24.11.10	E-On – Electricity for Hall	73 . 87
1.12.10	Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary	255 . 68

A letter was received from Welney Croft Cricket Club thanking the Parish Council for the donation towards the mower for the Playing Field.

## 9. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked and £51.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – Nothing further had been heard at the present time, but the Solicitors would be contacted in the New Year in the hope that the matter can proceed.

The Clerk reported that the electricity light outside and the light in the Entrance Hall are now working, and also that all the water in the Hal has been turned off in order to prevent the pipes freezing and bursting as last year. A problem had been experienced with a booking on 29<sup>th</sup> November when the water pipe into the building also froze, but the hirers had managed with buckets of water

## 10. Proposed New Community Centre

Following the last meeting the Clerk wrote to Mr.Briscoe giving him all the information he had asked for relating to the Planning Application. Contact was made with him to confirm that he had received all the information.. However he did say that he was about to complete the work on the re-application, but the planning office had advised that if we included the play area, and the teenagers shelter on the re-application, then it would thrown out, and we would loose the free re-application. It would mean starting from fresh with a new application and another fee of £670.00 or possibly more. The application for the children's play area etc. could be submitted at a later date, once the permission for the new Community Centre was received, and this would only attract a smaller fee as it would simply be an application for that area.

The Clerk then spoke to the Chairman and it was agreed that this was the most obvious course of action, and Mr.Briscoe was asked to go ahead with the reapplication simply for the new Community Centre as per the previous plans, but in the new position on the site of the Pavilion. Mr.Briscoe confirmed that he was hoping to re-submit this to the planners, the first week in December.

It was then confirmed that as soon as the Planning Permission is received, funding can be investigated as a matter of urgency,

## 11. Playing Field

The meeting was advised that there had been no further sightings of bats, and that the mole catcher had attended and hopefully dealt with the problem.

## 12. Correspondence

- 1. Marshalls Charity Welney dated 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2010 advising that Rachel Brown has tendered her resignation as a Trustee, and asking if Council will appoint a replacement.** After a brief discussion Cllr.Goodger proposed by Cllr.Dobson should be appointed as the Parish Council representative. This was seconded by Cllr.Bennett and unanimously agreed.
- 2. E-mail from Rachel Brown dated 20<sup>th</sup> November, confirming that the forthcoming edition of the Welney News will be her last as she is giving up the job of Editor. They are hoping that someone will come forward to take on the job.** It was unanimously agreed to write to Rachel thanking her for all her hard work during the time she had been Editor and expressing our grateful thanks for the way in which she had deal with all issues.
3. E-mail from Highways confirming that Martin Edmunds has now moved on from being Highways Engineer for this region, and that Jon Barnard has now taken over the job.
4. Norse Commercial Services (Part of Norfolk County Council) of Norwich – Introducing their services in landscape Development, for playing fields and sports area construction.

5. Norfolk County Council – E-mail dated 16<sup>th</sup> November – People of Norfolk urged to unite to save R.A.F. Marham .with details of petitions etc. and comments from various Council leaders.
6. Elizabeth Truss MP copy of Monthly report of her activities.
7. BCKLWN – Agenda and Minutes of Council meetings
- 8. BCKLWN – Parish Training and Information – Details of training events for Planning Systems at Town Hall, King’s Lynn on 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> January. Details of anyone wishing to attend to be sent in by 17<sup>th</sup> December.**
9. UK Power Networks will be the new name for EDF Energy Networks with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November. Information sent relating to our street lighting.
10. BCKLWN – 17<sup>th</sup> November – Local Development Framework, Core Strategy = CD enclosed for information.
11. Southern Area Road Safety Committee – Minutes of the meeting held in September and an Agenda for the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.
12. CGM Landscapes, Cambridge – 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2010- Hoping to tender for playing field maintenance.
- 13. Norfolk County Council – 19<sup>th</sup> November – Maintaining the street scheme and Public Rights of Way – could your Council and community play a bigger part? Questions and answers as information for what is required and also forms for completion if we would be interested in taking over some sections, paid or voluntary basis, such as gritting pavements, cutting certain areas etc. in order to keep the village clean and tidy.** It was agreed that a copy should be circulated to all Councillors so that the matter could be discussed at the next meeting.
14. Norfolk Association of Village Halls Newsletter – December, 2010
15. Glasdon Limited – Brochure of Products and Equipment available for Parish Councils
16. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Local Council Precept Data.
17. Norfolk Police – Various e-mails regarding crime in the area during the Month.
18. Big Lottery Funding – Jubilee Peoples Millions – Details received, Deadline for applications 4.2.11
19. Journal of Local Planning available to Download four times a year at a cost of £50.00

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

The following planning information has been received from the Borough Council White Cottage, Back Drove, Welney – Mr. Matthew Cowell.

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State in relation to the Borough Planning Authority’s refusal for planning permission for the first floor and two storey extension to the dwelling. The Secretary of State has accepted the appeal and will determine the matter on the basis of written representations submitted by both parties and a site visit by an inspector.

Ref No. 10/01393/0 – Mrs. B.Rayner

Construction of a chalet bungalow and double garage at Biangi, Wisbech Road, Welney.

A site visit was arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> November, and following the visit it was agreed that although the application was outside the village development area, we would recommend approval.

The forms were duly returned to the Borough Council.

An e-mail was subsequently received from the Planning Department stating *As your members may be aware there has been a previous attempt to develop this site in 2005 under application ref no. 05/01249/0 This was refused on the basis of the principle of development a new dwelling in the countryside, detrimental effect upon the character and appearance of the countryside and access affecting the A1101 which is a Corridor of Movement. This decision was appealed and the Planning Inspectorate dismissed the proposal affirming the first two reasons but not the highway issue. Planning policies contained within the development plan have not changed significantly in the interim and the fundamental issues remain unchanged. In light of this information I am asking whether or not your members wish to review their support for the development of this site*

After consideration it was unanimously agreed the Parish Council are happy to stand by the decision previously made – to support the application – and the Borough Council would be advised accordingly,.

### **14. Highway Matters**

Following the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted Highways with five items needing attention, and although no confirmation had been received, it was noted that some of the items had been attended to and that some would need to be referred to highways again.

The following items were raised for Highways attention:

1. Large pothole outside the entrance to Grange Farm in Main Street
2. Repairs urgently required to the damaged barrier at Suspension Bridge
3. There is still a very dangerous dip in the road surface outside Flights End on Hundred Foot Bank
4. Pavement lift on the west side of the Bedford Bridge needing attention.

Meeting with Highways and Environment Agency regarding Wash Road was held in the Parish Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> December as previously recorded under Public Participation. There was a brief discussion regarding the meeting and Councillors agreed to wait and see how things worked out in the event of road flooding this winter.

**15. Environmental Issues.**

None

**16. Items for Next Agenda**

None

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9p.m.

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

Dated...4<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.....