

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 4th JANUARY, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

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

Also present C.Cllr.H.Humphrey

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year, and extended a warm welcome to Cllr.Eyles on attending his first meeting,

He then introduced PCSO Tracy Milburn who gave information relating to crime in the area. The Chairman mentioned that there had been several stack fires in the area recently, and she suggested that contact be made with Mr. G.Cotterell at Downham Market Fire Station. She also gave details of PCSO Michael Scales who has been appointed the new Parish Liaison Officer for Welney. She was thanked very much for her attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Public Participation

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

C.Cllr Humphrey reminded the meeting that we should send in our comments relating to Norfolk County Council's Big Conversation - Maintaining the Street Scene and Public Rights of Way and the Chairman confirmed that this would be discussed later in the meeting. He also gave brief details of the proposed incinerator at King's Lynn and stressed that everyone should listen to both sides of the argument.

The meeting was then re-convened.

3. Declaration of Interests

Cllrs.Bennett and Brown both declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5 (8)

Cllr.Eyles declared an interest in Item 11 (10)

4. Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 7th December, having been circulated to all councillors were approved following the changing of the word "by" to the word "that" under Item 2 (line 5) and the addition of the name "Brown" under Item 12 (2), and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – Cllr.Bennett advised the meeting that now the weather had improved, he would be make arrangements for a meeting of all interested parties as soon as possible.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments. An advertisement had appeared in the last issue of the Welney News but at present no further applications for allotments had been received. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that following his article he had received no feedback at all regarding the Amenity Area, and it was agreed to include this matter on the Agenda for the next meeting to discuss the way forward both with the allotments and the amenity area.

3.Dog Bins– Nothing further to report at present as Cllr.Dobson was not able to attend.

4. Public Lighting – No information had as yet been received from EDF regarding the possible reduction in costs by switching off some of the street lights, but the Clerk confirmed that she was still endeavouring to obtain the details. It was agreed to look into this matter further prior to the current contract coming due for renewal.

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. They are very keen to see this matter go forward but it would take the form of a private enterprise with support from the Village. Apparently Elgoods had also confirmed that, in principle, they were keen to see this proposition developed. After discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Elgoods confirming our support, and requesting a meeting prior to the next Parish Council meeting, so that the matter could be discussed further.

6.Meeting with Adjoining Councils- Following the last meeting a letter had been sent to Upwell with copies to all other councils so far involved, stating that we did not feel that the group should be extended further. We feel that possibly they have got the wrong idea because it has always been called a meeting of adjoining councils, and they have suddenly called it a Joint meeting of Councils. Manea had replied confirming that they would be discussing the matter at their meeting, but were of much the same opinion as ourselves. An e-mail was then received from Upwell stating they are intending to postpone the proposed meeting for 31st January so that the various comments they have received can be discussed by full council. It was agreed to leave this matter in abeyance until our February meeting, by which time it is hoped that reply will be received from Upwell. A decision could then be made on the way forward.

7. Surgery with Elizabeth Truss MP – Following the last meeting, Cllr.Dobson had checked to see if the School would be available for the meeting, but later confirmed that it was already booked for a meeting on that date. Cllr.Spiking had been informed that there was no-where available on the date required.

8. Maintaining the Street Scene and Public Rights of Way.- Councillors then considered in detail, the information and forms received from Norfolk County Council. Cllrs.Bennett and Brown withdrew from part of the discussion because of their prejudicial interests, and the form was duly completed for return to the County Council.

6. Meeting Reports

None.

7. Finance

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

Parish Council:

MHB Services – Street Lighting Maintenance 13.12.2010 to 12.2.2011 104 . 55

Anglian Water – Water supply to Pavilion 62 . 28

MHB Services – Replace damaged pole bracket and lantern 217 . 38

This broken following an accident on the Rutland Corner at Tipps End and is the subject of an insurance claim.

Parish Hall:

Fenland Fire Appliance Company – Service of Extinguishers 90 . 59

They also enclosed a letter stating that they recommend some new Signs for the Hall – Fire Exit Signs, Fire Escape Signs etc., and it was agreed to write and confirm that we are hoping to build a new hall within the next two years, and to ask if the current signs are sufficient for the time being.

Anglian Water – Water supply to the Hall 53 . 42

P.J.Brown – Repairs to Outside Light and hall Light 41 . 73

Paid by Direct Debit

13.12.10 E-On Street Lighting 59 . 81

1.1.11 Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary 255 . 68

Parish Precept for 2011/2012 – Paperwork had been received from the Borough Council to apply for the Annual Precept for the coming year. The Clerk had provided Councillors with an interim set of accounts, and following discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Eyles, and seconded by Cllr.Freer that the precept should be increased to £9,000. However an amendment was proposed by Cllr.Brown and seconded by Cllr.Kerr that the precept should be increased to £8,750. A vote then took place on the amendment with 2 votes for and 5 against – the amendment was therefore defeated. Councillors then voted on the first proposition with 5 in favour and 2 against and it was therefore agreed that we should precept for the sum of £9,000.

Annual Grant - An application was received from St. Mary's Parochial Church Council at Welney for a grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. Following a short discussion it was unanimously agreed to make a grant of £200 and the cheque was drawn and signed.

8. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked and £98.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – Nothing further had been heard at the present time, but the Clerk confirmed that she would be contacting the Solicitors to ascertain the current position.

Grateful thanks were extended to Cllr.Kerr for all his hard work following major problems with the water supply to the Toilets and the Kitchen in the Parish Hall. He had spent a great deal of time mending broken pipes and getting the water system working. At present the gent's urinals are not working because of cracks in the cistern, but Cllr.Kerr confirmed that he would be attending to this problem as soon as a new part could be obtained.

9. Proposed New Community Centre

The Clerk confirmed that two letters had been received from Mr.Briscoe. The first one dated 8th December confirmed that he had lodged the application with the Borough Council and he enclosed a copy of the final plan. The second letter dated 16th December enclosed the Borough Council's confirmation of receipt and also stated that the application should be determined by 9th February, 2011

10. Playing Field

Grateful thanks were recorded to Cllr.Bennett for visiting the pavilion on the evening of 23rd December and turning off the water to the gent's toilet where a pipe had burst. There was water on the floor of the changing rooms and the back area, but it did not get into the hall or the kitchen. Most of the water drained away, and as soon as the weather improves a good clean will be carried out.

The Clerk confirmed that both the Parish Hall and the Pavilion are on water meters, and it was agreed that we find out exactly where the meters are situated. The Chairman confirmed that he has the necessary piece of equipment to turn the water supply off at the meter if required.

11. Correspondence

1. E-mail from Hilary Livesey URSUS Consulting Ltd. They are carrying out four case studies of individual farms in the East of England with the aim of devising a methodology to ensure that the wider benefits delivered by the farms can be properly valued and given more appropriate support to encourage their delivery. The project is being run by GO-East on behalf of a partnership of other organisations including EEDA, Environment Agency, Natural England, Defra, Sustainable Food and Farming Group, CLA and NFU. They want to hold a workshop in the local area for each of the farms one of which is Marc Headings land in the Welney/Manea/Chatteris area.. The purpose of the workshop is to find out from members of the local community what it is that they value about the wider benefits or services provided by the farms in the area and what they would like to see more of in the future. E.g. some of these are well known such as food and fuel and the cultural services that provide benefit to people through recreation and appreciation of nature. They would like to find 12-15 people who know the local area and landscape who would be interested in spending a couple of hours discussing the issues. The workshop will take place on Tuesday 25th January at The Lamb and Flag from 6 to 8.30 p.m. with refreshments provided. They would like to have some names and people interested as soon as possible. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would like to attend,
2. Norfolk Rural Community Council – e-mail. 21.12.10 Threat to Support for Community Buildings in Norfolk. Details are set out in the e-mail and the responses must be in by 10th January.

3. Norfolk Constabulary – Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Friday 7th January at Downham Market fire Station at 7 p.m. Multi-Agency Surgery, Priory Centre, Downham Market Monday 17th January 11am to midday.
4. Norfolk County Council – Gritting Routes and advice on Winter Driving.
5. Norfolk County Council – Temporary Road Closures – Details will be forwarded of any future road closures and they are asking that Parish Councils advertise them and let all local business know.
6. East Cambridgeshire District Council – Copy of the Littleport Masterplan Newsletter No.5
7. Monthly report from Elizabeth Truss MP on her activities in the area.
8. NAALC – Copy of the Localism Bill. Also available at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/localism/documents.html>
9. Norfolk Constabulary and Home Watch – West Norfolk Home Security Reminder
10. Linda Briggs – Copy of e-mail to the contractors regarding Vibration in Welney since mains sewer installation and update of the situation. Cllr.Eyles also gave brief details of how matters are progressing..
11. Norfolk County Council – Norfolk’s Big Conversation Consultation – Meeting on Thursday 6th January at County Hall, Norwich – Details required a.s.a.p. of anyone wishing to attend.
12. Norfolk Rural Community Council – Copy of Signpost Magazine
13. Police Budget – Consultation Event – 20th January, 2011 at Police HQ at Wymondham at 7 p.m Invitation to attend, and a form to complete if anyone is interested.
14. BCKLWN – Standards Committee Agenda
15. Norfolk County Council – The Willows Proposed power and recycling centre in West Norfolk Explanatory leaflet and details of Cory Wheelabrator who have been appointed preferred bidder for the project.
16. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Copy of Norfolk Link, Parish Council Guide of what to do in the event of snow and ice, Community Led Design: Can your parish or town council really make a difference to how places and spaces are developed – Workshop on 8th March 2-4.30 p.m. at Old Costessey.

12. Plans and Planning Matters

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

A copy of the appeal decision had been received from the Planning Inspectorate and the appeal has been dismissed because sustainable development would be compromised. The property extensions are too large and the original property would be lost.

Ref No.10/01393/0 – Mrs. B.Rayner

Construction of a chalet bungalow and double garage at Biangi, Wisbech Road, Welney
Confirmation had been received that the matter will be considered by the Development Control Board on Monday 10th January at 10 a.m. at the Committee Suite, King’s Court, King’s Lynn. If anyone is interested in attending and speaking then confirmation must be received by 12 noon on 7th January. An e-mail was received from Mrs. Rayner asking if any Councillor would be able to attend and speak in support of the application. However following discussion it was agreed to confirm to Mrs. Rayner that whilst we supported the application because we wished to see additional further development in the village, and also to support residents, it would not be possible for anyone to speak because we were aware that the application was outside the Village Development Area, and therefore convenes the planning regulations.

The Clerk also confirmed that all the paperwork and plans had been received relating to the New Community Centre for Parish Council decision. However as this application is in the name of the Parish Council we were not allowed to make comment.

13. Highway Matters

Following the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted Highways with four items needing attention:

1. Potholes in Main Street (Highways confirmed that these are programmed for repair
2. Damaged barrier at Suspension Bridge – Cllr.Freer had also taken this matter up with Highways and provided a copy of their reply to her, in which they confirmed that the barrier had not been repaired yet because it is due to be upgraded to meet Department of Transport standards and is currently being redesigned. An order has been placed for a replacement and final design is awaited before carrying out the work.

3. Dip outside Flights end, Hundred Foot Bank – This matter is being investigated again and hopefully will be rectified in the near future.
4. Pavement Lift on Bedford Bridge – This matter has been referred to the Bridge works department who should be attending shortly.

The Clerk confirmed that she had also reported a broken Chevron Sign at Rutland Corner, Tipps End which was damaged following a recent accident.

The Chairman confirmed that he had seen Highways Vehicles in and around the village who were “retexturing” the road. No one knew exactly what this referred to and it was agreed to ask Highways for clarification.

Meeting on 6th December – Following the last meeting, copies of the report had been circulated to all parties who attended. Mr. Bakewell from the Environment Agency had replied with some amendments relating to the method of informing the members of the public when the Wash Road is likely to be flooded and amended copies of the report had been forwarded to all parties.

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 9.15 p.m.

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

Dated.....1st February, 2011.....