

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present

Cllrs.T.Bennett (Vice Chairman – who took the chair for the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.) M.Brown, C.Freer, S.Kerr, V. Pratley and the Clerk.  
Also present Mr. & Mrs. D.Levesley

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. K.Goodger, S.Dobson, T.Eyles, Dist.Cllrs.V.Spikings and D.Pope, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO Michael Scales

**2. Public Participation**

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

Mr.Levesley confirmed to the meeting that Mr. Peter Arnold had agreed to take over the Editorship of the Welney News, and this would mean that it would continue s normal. Mr.Levesley also informed the meeting that he would be helping out as and when required and would also be taking on responsibility for the advertisements. New volunteers are also coming forward to help.

Mrs. Levesley asked whether the Parish Council could prepare an article for the next Welney News explaining the current situation with the proposed new Community Centre and the Clerk agreed to prepare this in readiness for the next edition.

The meeting was then re-convened.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

The Vice Chairman declared an interest in Item 6(5)

**4. Vacancies on the Parish Council.**

As Council were already aware, Cllr.Brown had confirmed that this would be his last meeting on the Parish Council as he was moving away from the Village. The Clerk confirmed that she had also received a letter of resignation from Cllr.Tomkins as regrettably he could not give the position the time it deserves. The Clerk had acknowledged Cllr.Tomkins resignation and thanked him for all his efforts and both resignations would be notified to the Borough Council in the normal way..

**Parish Council Elections** – 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2011. Confirmation had been received from the Borough.Council for the booking for the Parish Hall for the election day.

Candidates election packs were also received and handed out to those councillors present who wished to stand at the elections. Those unable to attend this meeting will be contacted by the Clerk with a Candidates Pack. All nominations must be delivered to the Borough Council Offices from 21<sup>st</sup> March and before noon on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2011. Notices will be displayed from 18<sup>th</sup> March advising anyone wishing to stand where they can obtain the Candidates Packs

**5. Minutes of Last Meetings**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2011 having been circulated to all councillors were confirmed by all present and signed by the Vice Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

**6. Matters Arising**

**1. Community Speed Watch** – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would be commencing work on the Community Speed Watch within the coming month.

**2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments.** Despite further advertisements and notices on the boards and website, no further enquires have been received, However the notices are being left in place in the hope that there might be further interest when the weather improves. The Vice chairman confirmed that he would speak to Mr.Roger Giles to see if they ever had any shrubs etc., which could be used around the boundary of the field.

**3.Dog Bins**– The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Borough Council regarding the possibility of replacing the dog bin near the Parish Hall with an ordinary waste bin. This can be arranged but would take the form of a black wheelie bin. Each parish is allowed one bin free which the Borough Council will then empty free of charge. If there is already one bin in the parish, then

the charge for emptying a second and any subsequent bins would be £85 per year. However it would be up to the Parish Council to provide the housing and fittings for the bin. The Clerk produced some information regarding this with an average cost of between £75 and £80. As soon as further contact is received from the Borough details can be obtained of exactly what type of housing is required and then a decision can hopefully be made at the next meeting. The Environment Agency confirmed that they have no finances available to help but the Welney Angling Club would be more than pleased to help out with the cost if we let them know.

4. Meeting with Adjoining Councils – Following the last meeting an e-mail had been sent to Christchurch asking if they would be prepared to host the next meeting. Nothing had been heard and the Clerk agreed to contact Christchurch again, and to put the item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

5. Maintaining the Street Scene and Public Rights of Way – A letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> February had been received from the Norfolk County Council confirming they had received an excellent response to their questionnaire and that engineers from the local highways office should be in touch with the Parish Council within the next few weeks to talk things through and hopefully move matters forward. The Vice Chairman Confirmed that the contracts for the rights of way cutting are up for renewal and tenders will be requested later this month. He confirmed an interest in this point. However he did confirm that the cutting of the River Banks had been taken out of the contracts, and concern was expressed that these could get overgrown. If this was the case then everyone was urged to complain in the strongest terms.

6. Possibility of Solar Energy in Welney – This item was raised at the last meeting by Cllr.Eyles but as he was unable to attend it was agreed to leave the matter until the next meeting.

7. Future of the Welney News. – This item was dealt with under Public Participation.

8. Low Water Pressure – Following the last meeting, contact had been made with Anglian Water regarding the water pressure experienced by some residents in the Village. Mrs. Newell's details were passed onto them so that they could arrange for a technician to call and check the pressure, and she would also be able to give them names of the other persons who had complained. Nothing further had been heard and it was agreed to contact Mrs. Newell to see if she had any update.

9. Bottle Banks – Contact had been made with the Borough Council regarding the bin which they had provided and the general state of the area around the bin including broken glass. The Borough Council confirmed they would arrange for the clean-up team to tidy up the area, and as soon as they had more bins in stock they would deliver a second one to Welney in the hope that this would be able to accommodate the bottles donated from the village.

## **7. Meeting Reports**

None

## **8. Finance**

The following invoices have been received for payment –  
Borough Council of KL & WN

|   |                |          |
|---|----------------|----------|
| Emptying Dog Bins for period 1.7.10 to 30.9.10    | 69 . 04        |          |
| Emptying Dog Bins for period 1.10.10. to 31.12.10 | <u>69 . 04</u> | 138 . 08 |

In future the dog waste bin emptying will be invoiced for a whole year a year in arrears. The next invoice will be for the period 1.1.11 to 31.3.11 and this should be received after 1<sup>st</sup> April. There will be no further invoices until April 2012 for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012.

|  |  |          |
|--|--|----------|
| MHB Services – Street Lighting Maintenance<br>13.2.11 to 12.4.11 |  | 106 . 78 |
|--|--|----------|

|  |                |          |
|--|----------------|----------|
| S.Kerr – Plumbing Repairs to Parish Hall | 164 . 83       |          |
| Plumbing Repairs to the Pavilion         | <u>34 . 94</u> | 199 . 77 |

Paid by Direct Debit

|         |                          |          |
|---------|--------------------------|----------|
| 13.2.11 | E-On Street Lighting     | 59 . 81  |
| 21.2.11 | E-On – Elec.for Hall     | 207 . 89 |
| 21.2.11 | E-On – Elec for Pavilion | 75 . 33  |
| 1.3.11  | Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary   | 255 . 68 |

Claim for Street Light at Tipps End. The Clerk confirmed that she was completing the form together with a copy of the Invoice to MHB Services (which has been paid) and this would be sent off shortly.

Parish Council Insurance – The Parish Council Insurance is not due for renewal until 1<sup>st</sup> June, but the Clerk confirmed that she was in the process of obtaining quotations from alternative companies in the hope that we can save some money. The Insurance has been with Zurich for several years and in the past there were only two companies which arranged Parish Council Insurance – Zurich being one of them. There are now several companies who can provide cover, and this would be considered further as soon as alternative quotes were received.

## **9. Parish Hall**

The electricity meters were checked and £77.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – Nothing further had been heard, and it was agreed to contact the Solicitors again to ascertain the up to date position.

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

Councillors were advised that a decision had not been received from the Borough Council on our re-submitted application, because of the queries raised by Sport England. Following the meeting held On 21<sup>st</sup> February, amended plans had been received from Mr.Briscoe, and these had been circulated to all councillors. However, following a discussion between the Chairman and Mr.J.Loveday, two further amendments had been requested, and the new plans were received from Mr.Briscoe on 1<sup>st</sup> March. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the points queried by Sport England had been addressed, and the Parish Council were now unanimously in favour of the new amended plans.

## **11. Playing Field**

Nothing to report.

## **12. Correspondence**

1. Mobile Libraries - e-mail 21.2.11 with details of the new timetables for the Mobile Library Van which visits Welney. The van will apparently be visiting every four weeks and the planned introduction date for the revised service is from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Customers at affected stops will be given a letter detailing the new timetable.
2. West Norfolk Voluntary & Community Action – Membership Form and Database form to complete. We do receive regular communications from them but have never paid a membership fee which would be £25.00 per year.
3. Monthly Report from Elizabeth Truss MP
4. Invitation from Cambridgeshire ACRE – The Ouse Wash landscape Partnership Scheme – Partnership Opportunity - 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 – 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Sutton Glebe Hall, Sutton, Cambs CB6 2RB. (Handed to Vice Chairman)
5. Norfolk County Council – 10.2.11 Details of the planning for the new power and recycling plant at Saddlebow, and advising that the Borough Council's poll was about to begin.
6. BCKLWN – Agenda for Council Meetings and Minutes of same.
7. NALC – Policy Consultation Information regarding the Public Forest Estate. Consultation period closes on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Letter from the Leader of Norfolk County Council asking for councils to send in their observations to them before 11<sup>th</sup> March so that all information can be collated before the end of the consultation period.
8. Norfolk Association of Village Halls Conference and AGM 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Sedgeford Village Hall.
9. Norfolk Age UK – Campaign for Later Life in Norfolk – Asking for a donation so that they can continue with their work.

10. Community Biodiversity Directory – Details of local community groups that are tackling environmental projects for inclusion in their database so that information can be shared. Once details are received they will send a survey form to the particular group.
11. Norfolk Constabulary and Home Watch – Details of crime in the area – week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2011.
12. East of England Rural Forum – Vibrant Rural Communities – Action Plan Consultation – Holding three workshops – Hylands House (11.2.11) Santon Downham (4.3.11) and Wyboston Lakes (18.3.11)
13. Rural Community Council – Members discount scheme.
14. Norfolk County Council – Waste Development Framework CD for information and consideration.

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

e-mail received from Mrs. Rayner of Wisbech Road, requesting as many people as possible to send an e-mail in support of her appeal against the refusal of her planning application. – circulated to all Councillors for information.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received full details of the Borough Council pre-application advice and charges relating to planning applications and this would be help on file.

Council then had a brief discussion regarding the proposed Incinerator plant at King’s Lynn.

### **14. Highway Matters**

Following the last meeting, the following items had been reported to Highways:

1. Business Open as Usual signs when the Wash Road is flooded. – The Vice chairman confirmed that it appears that whilst Highways are not prepared to pay for any signs relating to specific businesses, if the businesses themselves are prepared to pay for them then they could be put up at the appropriate times.
2. Road flooded signage – Nothing further heard. The Vice Chairman confirmed that he had met Mr.Barnard at King’s Lynn and he had confirmed that new signs had been ordered for Road Flooded/Road Closed. It is hoped that the levelling work on the Wash Road will be carried out fairly soon. However, the dot matrix signs are not on the cards at all at the present, because of financial restrictions. An e-mail together with telemetry print outs had been received from Mr.Rob Bakewell of the Environment Agency regarding timing of road closures, etc., and this had been circulated to all councillors. .
3. Pollarding of the Willow Trees on the Wash Road - nothing further has been heard.
4. Hole on the Bridge and broken Chevron at Tipps End – A telephone call had been received stating that these had been inspected and schedule for repair.

The following items were raised for attention by Highways:

1. The broken barriers at Suspension Bridge, which are in a very dangerous state, and have been left unattended for far too long.
2. A drain situated in Chestnut Avenue, near the entrance to the field, appears to be blocked because as soon as there is any rain, a large “lake of water” appears in the road.

### **15 Environmental Issues.**

1. The Vice chairman requested that a letter of thanks for his community spirit should be send to Mr.A.Hankins, who regularly clears up “road kill” in and around the village, and buries them
2. There was a brief discussion regarding how the water levels in the Old Bedford River have been fluctuating recently giving cause for concern.

### **16 Items for Next Agenda**

None.

Before finally closing the meeting, the Vice Chairman recorded sincere thanks to Cllr.Brown for all his hard work and help during his years as a Councillor. There being no further business, the Vice Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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

Dated.....5<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.....