

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 10TH MAY, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present

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

1. New Parish Council.

Cllr.Goodger welcomed the newly elected members of the Parish Council (including himself) who were returned unopposed at the recent elections on 5th May, 2011, as listed above. He also extended a welcome to Cllr.Freer for attending the meeting despite having sustained a broken ankle. Each Councillor then completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, the Declaration to Observe the Authority's Code of Conduct Form and also completed the Register of members Financial and Other Interests forms.

2. Co-option of Mr.S.Kerr to the Council.

Unfortunately Mr.Kerr's forms were not completed correctly and were not accepted by the Borough Council, but as there are at present three vacancies on the Parish council it was proposed by Cllr.Freer, seconded by Cllr.Bennett and unanimously agreed that Mr.Kerr should be co-opted back onto the Council with immediate effect. The Clerk agreed to let him have all the necessary paperwork for completion.

3. Filling of two remaining Vacancies on the Parish Council.

The Clerk advised the meeting that it was now up to the Parish Council to fill the two remaining vacancies by co-option at the earliest opportunity. In this instance it is not open to parishioners to request an election but they would of course be free to do so for any further vacancies arising during the four year life of the new Council. There was a brief discussion regarding possible candidates for the vacancies, and it was agreed to approach these persons to see if they would be interested. If no applications were forthcoming, then a notice would be placed in the Notice Board and also on the Parish Council website to try and fill the vacancies as soon as possible.

4. Election of Chairman for 2011/12

Cllr.Goodger was nominated for the post of Chairman by Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Bennett and unanimously agreed. Cllr.Goodger confirmed his acceptance and there being no further nominations he was duly declared as Chairman. He further confirmed that he would be happy to take on the position for a further year but would possibly wish to stand down at the end of that period and let someone else have the opportunity of taking the Chairman's job.

5. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr.T. Eyles, Mr.S.Kerr, Dist.Cllr.V.Spikings and C.Cllr.H. Humphrey.

6. Public Participation

None.

7. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

8. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr.T.Bennett was nominated for the position by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed. There being no further nominations, Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would be pleased to accept the position. The Chairman then expressed his grateful thanks to Cllr.Bennett for his help over the previous years and for standing in for him when he was unable to attend.

9. Election of Parish Council Committees

a. W.A.S.H. Committee – The Wash Committee comprises Cllr.Goodger, Mr.T.Copeman and Mr. & Mrs. Bray and on the proposition of the Chairman which was unanimously agreed, the committee were re-elected en-bloc. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that future of the WASH Committee should be included on the Agenda for the next meeting when hopefully arrangements

could be made for an Open Morning on a Saturday during the summer months, the Open Morning to possibly double up as a Forum for the Parish Council.

b. Allotment Committee – The whole Parish Council form the Allotment Committee and it was agreed that this would continue. It was further agreed to make an inspection of the allotments at 7 p.m. prior to the next Parish Council meeting on 7th June, 2011.

10. Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 5th April, 2011 having been circulated to all councillors were confirmed by all present and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

11. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – Nothing to report at present.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments. The meeting was advised that no more allotments had been rented, but that at present there were still sufficient tenants to cover the rental for the field. One further allotment holder had confirmed that they would not require their area from the end of the month because of ill health. Mr. Stuart has made a further inspection and will be visiting at the end of the week to cultivate the un-let area and also to clean up some of the vacant allotments. The two allotment holders who are currently situated in the middle of the field will be moving over the next year to the two vacant allotments behind the bungalows and this will then mean that the allotments are all in one area, and it will be a square area of the field which remains vacant. There was a brief discussion regarding what could be done with the vacant area, and it was agreed to discuss this again at the next meeting.

3. Dog Bins– The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the Borough Council regarding the replacing of the dog bin near the Parish Hall with a wheelie bin. They were originally prepared to do this – to supply the bin and empty it free of charge – on condition that the Parish Council provided the lockable housing and standing required under Health and Safety Regulations. However they have now discovered that if we put the bin in the same location as the dog bin, then this is on Environment Agency land and because it is private land they would not be able to supply the bin or empty it. Following a short discussion it was agreed to approach the Borough Council again to ask if it would make a difference if the location of the bin was moved possibly between the bridges on the footpath which comes under County Council Highways.

4. Meeting with Adjoining Councils– All Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the minutes of the meeting held at Christchurch on 18th April. The Chairman confirmed that it was a very useful meeting and several points were covered. It was also noted that Nordelph will be hosting the next meeting in August or September. Two items which arose from the meeting were dealt with as follows:

1. Problems being experienced with the Welney/Christchurch Sewage Lagoons – Following the last Parish Council meeting, the Clerk had written to Anglian Water and received a reply on 28th April which had been circulated to Councillors. This explained the current problems which were being experienced and it was agreed to send a copy to the Clerk at Christchurch and also to ask if they would like to join us on a visit to the site when it is arranged hopefully in August or September.

2. Council Training – It had been previously agreed that In-House Training would be useful since several of the Parish Councillors had not had the opportunity to attend a training session.

Christchurch had also expressed an interest and it was agreed to contact NALC to see if a session could be arranged at Welney and whether it would be in order for Christchurch to join with Welney.

12. Reports from Village Organisations.

1. William Marshall Charity – The Chairman gave a report on behalf of the Charity and confirmed that the income was from the renting of the land. He gave brief details of how the income was divided and also the set up regarding the Charity Trustees. Mr. John Loveday had recently resigned as a Trustee and Mr. Sean Booth had been appointed, One Almshouse had recently become vacant and this was

being completely updated and refurbished and would be offered for rental in due course. Insulation was also being improved in all of the almshouses. He also advised that the Charity were being kept fully informed of the progress relating to the proposed New Community Centre.

2. Bishops Land Charity – The Clerk had prepared a brief report on the year/s activities and this was read to the meeting. A copy is included in the Parish Council Minute Book.

13. Meeting Reports

None

14. Finance

On the proposition of Cllr.Bennett, seconded by Cllr.Dobson, and agreed, the following invoices were approved and the cheques were signed:

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Yearly contribution towards maintenance of Health Centre car park, Upwell 150 . 00

MHB Services Limited

Street Lighting Maintenance Charges 13.4.11 to 12.6.11 106 . 78

Environment Agency

Rental of Parish Hall Site 1.4.11 to 31.3.12 178 . 00

Welney Croft Cricket Club

Half Years grass cutting on Playing Field 362 . 50

Mrs.P.Copeman

Clerks Expenses 24 . 50

Paid by Direct Debit

13.4.11 E-On Street Lighting 59 . 81

1.4511 Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary 255 . 68

Electricity Maintenance Charges Contract – A new Maintenance Contract had been received from MHB Services Ltd. for the street lights in and around the Village. The Clerk confirmed that if the Parish Council took advantage of the 5% discount for a minimum three year contract then the monthly increase would amount to £3.75 plus V.A.T. After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Pratley and agreed that the contract should be signed and returned to this effect.

Claim for Street Light at Tipps End. A cheque for £85.00 was received from Zurich in settlement of this claim and the Clerk confirmed that this had been banked.

Parish Council Insurance – The renewal papers from Zurich for the Parish Council and Parish Hall Insurance had not yet been received, but a decision will have to be made at the June meeting as to which quotation is acceptable.

Annual Accounts to 31st March, 2011

Councillors had all been circulated with a full set of typed accounts for the Parish Council, Parish Hall and Playing Field. Cllr.Freer had checked through the figures and found one small mistake which had been rectified and thanks were extended to her for this. Following a brief discussion regarding the figures it was proposed by Cllr.Pratley, seconded by Cllr.Freer and agreed that the Accounts be formally adopted. The Chairman and Clerk then signed the Annual Return Form and everything will be completed in order that the form can be sent to the Audit Office before the 30th June.

15. Parish Hall.

Purchase and Sale of the Hall Site – The Clerk confirmed that an e-mail had been received from Mr. Norman Davis of Fraser Dawbarns on 6th May confirming that no instructions had been received from Elgoods regarding this matter and suggesting that contact should be made with them to find out the current situation. It was confirmed to the meeting that the purchase and sale to Elgoods was dependent on the planning application for the new Community Centre, and following discussion it

was agreed to contact the Planning Office for an indication as to when a decision on our application is likely to be made. The re-submission was put to the Borough Council in December 2010. Once the planning decision was received, contact would be made with Elgoods to hopefully move the purchase and sale to completion.

16. Proposed New Community Centre

As mentioned above, nothing had been heard regarding the planning application and the Clerk was requested to contact the planning department to ascertain when a decision can be expected.

A leaflet had been received from Mrs.Holly Trundle regarding the cutting down of the trees at the side of the pavilion, fronting the car park. After discussion it was agreed to reply to Mrs.Trundle setting out the facts with regard to the trees. Firstly these are not native trees, and our reason for removing them is to make room for the new building and services. Native trees will be planted on the boundary of the playing field in an effort to replace those removed. The trees are not being removed to make way for additional car parking space, and the cricket club container is of no relevance at all as it will be either removed from site completely or put in a completely new position away from the new building.

17. Playing Field

The Clerk confirmed that the Cricket Club had provided a list of their home matches and these have been entered into the diary. It was also reported that the first match which was booked for Sunday 15th May had been changed to the Saturday without any prior notification. It was agreed to write to the Secretary to point out that dates cannot be changed without prior notice to the Clerk, as in the event of the pavilion having been previously booked, then the Cricket Club would loose out.

Over the past couple of weeks the pavilion had been subjected to attacks of vandalism. Contact had been made with the Police to ask them to check on the area of the pavilion when they are in the village. The Clerk reported that only this evening she had spoken to Cllr.Kerr and asked him to board up the broken window into the changing room, to repair the broken glass to one of the front windows, to attend to the earth wire on the outside pole which appears to have broken, and also to check the lock to the front door of the pavilion after a report that it was not working correctly. If the lock is broken then it was agreed that it would need to be replaced and the Cricket Club would have to collect the key from the Parish Office for their weekend match. Once the new Community Centre is built then no keys will be handed out to any organisation, but keys will have to be collected before each event and returned to the Office at the end of the event. This will be put in place for everyone in order to safeguard the building and to ensure that the correct insurance cover can be obtained.

18 Correspondence

1. E-funding update from Norfolk Rural Community Council. – Details of current funding which is available for various projects.
2. Leaflets and brochures from Glasdon for all their products including litter bins, dog bins etc.
3. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk- Agenda and Minutes for Meeting on 28th April, 2011
4. Elizabeth Truss MP – Eleventh Monthly report on her activities.
5. Linda Briggs – Copy of her e-mail to Elizabeth Truss and Elizabeth's reply regarding Vibration to properties in Main Street, Welney. They now have the Managing Director of Anglian Water involved and AW are making a second visit to measure and identify the vibration.
6. Norfolk Association of Village Halls – Newsletter and Chairman's Report
7. The Playing Field – Spring 2011 Magazine.
8. Norfolk Wildlife Trust – Getting to Know Urban Wildlife – Saturday 7th May, 2011 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Green Quay, King's Lynn
9. Gaywood Valley Project – Wild about the Valley in the Walks., King's Lynn, Sunday 8th May 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
10. Norfolk Constabulary – Warning residents regarding thefts and phone deceptions over the last few days in the area.
11. Norfolk Rural Community Council – Signpost Magazine – March 2011
12. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Copy of Norfolk Link
13. Cambridgeshire ACRE Newsletter – May 2011.
14. Linda Briggs – Update on Vibration Problems – Confirming that a gentleman had spent a whole day

Measuring vibrations on the road when vehicles were passing and with his own vehicle.

15. NALC – Copies of Norfolk Link and various brochures.
16. NpLaw – Legal Services
17. Environment Agency – Abberton Scheme – Licence Variations.

19. Plans and Planning Matters

The following planning permission was received from the Borough Council and was circulated to all councillors.

Ref: 11/00256/F

Mr. & Mrs. Porto, Single Storey and Two Storey Extension to comprise Kitchen, Dining Room, Bedroom and Bathroom at Stanborough House, Main Road, Lakesend.

Permission dated 26th April, 2011

20 Highway Matters

Following the last meeting, the items listed below were reported to Highways for attention:

1. Potholes in Main Street
 2. Potholes and dangerous surface on March Road from Howard Kent's property to the first property in Tipps End
 3. Tipps End – Series of overgrown hedges to the north side of the road causing problems for vehicles
- The Clerk confirmed that she was not sure if these items had been attended to as no confirmation had been received from Highways.

The following items were reported to Highways for the attention of the Highway and Community Rangers

1. Dyke alongside the A.1101 (Wisbech Road) from Chestnut Avenue to the Old Welney Garden Centre which is badly in need of cleaning.
2. Request for work to be done to the footpath from the Old Garden Centre to Stockyard Farm
3. Tipps End Hedges (as above)

Again no acknowledgement was received, but a team of workers did appear one day and did some work to clean up the footpath around the Sandgate Corner.

The following items were raised for Highways attention:

1. A hole has appeared on the west side of the New Road/March Road corner at Welney
2. The barriers still have not been replaced at Suspension Bridge and are now a complete eyesore as well as being very dangerous. It was agreed to take this matter up with Highways and to copy the letter to Elizabeth Truss MP to ask for her assistance. Council were previously advised that the work would be carried out in late April or early May, but nothing has been done..

21 Environmental Issues.

None.

22 Items for Next Agenda

None.

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

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

Dated.... 7th June, 2011