

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs.T.Bennett, T. Bray, S.Dobson, J.Elliott, T.Eyles, C.Freer, V.Pratley, G. Rainbird and the Clerk
Also present: C.Cllr.H.Humphrey.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for attending.

The Chairman then introduced Mr.Alan Gomm, Local Development Framework Manager from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Mr. Gomm had been invited to attend the meeting to talk about the Site Specific Allocations and Policies from the Local Development Framework which will affect Welney so that the Parish Council can collate their reply to the Borough before the closing date of 18th November. Mr. Gomm explained that the Borough Council Core Strategy Document had been adopted in July 2011 and Welney falls into the category of Rural Village where the allowance would be for a relatively small scale development possibly with infilling. Councillors had a copy of the new proposed Development Boundary Plan which Mr.Gomm explained would replace the Village Envelope Plan. The main question asked of Mr.Gomm was with regard to the Borough Council's stand on the Flood Risk Zone which apparently affects most of the village. He explained that the current document is a consultation document and that all individuals who put forward parcels of land for consideration and were unhappy with the Borough Council's decision, must present their own cases. Mr.Gomm answered questions from Councillors. He was then thanked for his attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dist.Cllrs V.Spikings and D.Pope.

2. Public Participation

None

3. Declaration of Interests

Cllrs.Goodger and Rainbird both declared an interest in the Local Development Framework Plan which would be discussed under Agenda Item 11.

4 Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 4th October, 2011 having been circulated to all councillors were confirmed by all present and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

1. Possible In-House Training – Information had been received from County Office regarding a Training Session at Narborough during December. However it was felt that the cost was expensive and it was a long way to go. C.Cllr.Humphrey confirmed that Downham West Parish Council had expressed an interest in a training session, and it was agreed to contact them to see if they would be interested in arranging a joint session either at Welney or Downham West.

2. Possible Village Screening – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had spoken to Barton Bendish Council regarding their involvement with the scheme. They had found it to be very successful and had formed a Cinema Club with between 4- & 60 regular attendees. There was a short discussion regarding cost etc. and Cllr.Bennett agreed to make further enquiries. It was felt that this could be a good idea for either fund raising or a new group for the village.

3. Review of Parish Appraisal – Nothing decided at present. Leave on Agenda to fix date in due course.

4. Proposed Power and Recycling Centre at King's Lynn – Various correspondence had been received from the Farmers Campaign asking for financial assistance for the judicial review. After a brief discussion it was felt that this was something that the Parish Council did not wish to be involved with.

5. Joint Meeting of Local Councils – The Clerk confirmed that she had received confirmation from Nordelph, Downham West, Downham Market and Manea that they wished to continue with these meetings. It was agreed to host the next meeting at Welney and the date of Monday 13th February 2012 was agreed. All Councils would be advised and asked for any items to be included on the Agenda. Refreshments would be served on the evening.

6. Dog Bins/Waste Bins –The Clerk reported that she had received confirmation from the Borough Council that they empty the bin outside the school free of charge and that they would supply a bin to be included in the Housing which would have to be purchased. The only other cost would be the emptying at £85.00 per year, but this would be partly off set by the removal of the dog waste bin near the Parish hall and the saving on the cost of emptying that bin. After enquiries it was confirmed that the cost of a suitable housing would be £472.05 plus V.A.T. Contact was then made with the Environment Agency who had confirmed that they would be more than pleased to purchase the housing for the wheelie bin on the understanding that the ongoing maintenance and repair and emptying were the responsibility of the Parish Council. They did suggest that some kind of logo should be put on the housing stating that it was supplied by the Parish Council and the Environment Agency. It was proposed by Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr.Eyles and unanimously agreed that we accept their offer and the Clerk would speak to the Environment Agency to make the necessary arrangements.

7. Better Communication/information from the Environment Agency This was an item brought forward from the last meeting, but it was agreed that nothing more need be done at present.

6. Finance

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

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerk Expenses 12 . 45

MHB Services – Street Lighting Maintenance `13.10.11 to 12.12.11 115 . 78

Paid by Direct Debit

13.10.11 E-On Street Lighting 59 . 81

1.11.11 Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary 255 . 68.

Health Centre Car Park – A letter had been received from Upwell Parish Council regarding the annual contributions made towards the maintenance fund of the car park. At present Welney contribute £150 but the request was for us, and the other contributors to increase their contribution to pay for the gritting of the car park during bad weather, which would mean that the contribution from Welney would be increased to £169. The total contributions to the Borough Council amounted to the sum of £2,900. The matter was discussed but before a final decision is made it was agreed to contact Upwell to ask for details of what the £2,900 represents. Once this information is known, the Parish Council would make a decision.

7. Parish Hall.

The electricity meters were checked before the start of the meeting and £13.00 was removed.

Purchase and Sale of the hall Site – Nothing further to report at present, but regular contact is made with Elgoods so that everyone is aware of the current situation.

8 Proposed New Community Centre

Community Centre Questionnaire – The Clerk confirmed that in total 20 questionnaires had been returned, all being in favour of the new Community Centre. Cllr.Dobson agreed to collate the information from these questionnaires and report to the next meeting.

A letter had been received from Mr.Briscoe dated 14th October setting out the details of the proposed Two Stage Tender arrangements to achieve a budget costing for the construction of the new hall. He had included the name of four companies to be included on the Tender list, and these were acceptable. Cllr.Bray mentioned the name of a local company and it was agreed that he would speak

to them to see if they were interested, and then advise the Clerk so that it could be passed onto Mr.Briscoe as soon as possible.

9. Playing Field

Football Goal for the Playing Field - .Nothing further had been heard.

Possible Skate Park. – Details of adjoining villages who have skate parks were given to the meeting together with an estimate of the costs involved. Cllr.Elliott confirmed that the local company who had second hand equipment no longer appeared to be trading, and the Clerk was instructed to find out as much information as possible relating to funding which may be available and also to the cost of hiring skate park equipment.

A letter had been received from Mr.Steve Harrison expressing his concerns if the Parish Council were to go ahead with the skate park and install the equipment on the area of the playing field behind his house. After discussion it was agreed to write to Mr. Harrison and confirm that at this stage we were simply looking into all aspects of this project either possible purchase of the equipment, or hire. As the Parish Council do not have sufficient funds to pay for such equipment then some form of funding would have to be obtained and this is another point we are looking into. It was also agreed that the field itself is an established playing field and has been so for almost 50 years but we would obviously consider the views of all residents before making any decision regarding the siting of such a skate park.

A letter would also be sent to Max Francis advising him of what the Parish Council are currently trying to do so that he is kept fully up to date with developments.

Planning Permission – Following confirmation from the Borough Council that the Skate Park would not need planning permission if it was within a certain size and on land owned by the Parish Council it was agreed to contact the planning department to see if the same criteria applied to Play Equipment.

10 Correspondence

1. Initial Training for Clerks and Councillors (as previously mentioned) from Norfolk Association. Election of members of the Norfolk Association – Executive Committee – West Norfolk, Autumn Seminar, Thursday 17th November 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sandringham Visitor Centre, Sandringham. Cost of £35 per delegate. Copy of Norfolk Link. Copy of Game & Company Parish Council Insurance – Parish Matters Autumn 2011.
- 2.The Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons - Monday 4th June 2012 Application form if interested in erecting and lighting a beacon in this area.
3. Norfolk Rural Community Council – Copy of Signpost Magazine.
4. Norfolk Constabulary – Advice on how to keep property safe during the darker evenings and nights. Following the clocks going back at the end of October there are several steps that can be taken to deter opportunistic thieves. (Agreed to send to Welney News)
5. Elizabeth Truss MP 16th Monthly Report of her activities.
6. Wash Estuary Project Conference – Spread the Word Wash Wide and Beyond. Market House, 9 Market Street, Long Sutton 29th November, Registration from 10 a.m. Conference is free and includes tea, coffee and a buffet lunch. Form to be returned by 8th November.
7. Norfolk Constabulary – A new way to contact the Police for people who want to talk to them about non-urgent cases. – Instead of ringing the current switch board number of 0845 4566 4567 **people should now dial 101.** This number will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and when you call the system determines the caller's location and connects them to the police force covering that area. Calls cost just 15p per call no matter what time of day or the duration of the call. The new number should be used to report vehicles being stolen, property being damaged, suspect drug use or dealing, if people want to give the police information about crime in their area, or if they would like to speak to a police officer. (Agreed to send to Welney News)
8. BCKLWN – Council meeting Minutes and Agenda
9. Sports Development Update from the Borough Council – Autumn 2011 with a nomination form for West Norfolk Sports Awards.
10. Copy of Your Norfolk from NCC
11. Active Norfolk – Details of Village Games coming back to Norfolk in 2012

12. Fenland Citizens Advice Bureau – AGM 8.11.11
13. Norfolk Rural Community Council 23.11.11 Joint Meeting with Norfolk Rural Forum “Saving Fuel Costs in Rural Norfolk “
14. Marshalls Charity, Welney 26.10.11 Asking for the appointment of new Nominative Trustee to replace Mr.S.Kerr. Cllr.Rainbird confirmed that he would be prepared to become the new trustee.
15. BCKLWN – Details of new property address – Mill Cottage, Bedford Bank, Welney
16. Cambs ACRE – News Digest 1st November, 2011
17. Active Norfolk Sports Partnership 2012 Pledge.

11. Plans and Planning Matters

Local Development Framework – Site Specific Allocations and Policies – Following the talk from Mr.Alan Gomm at the beginning of the meeting, Councillors discussed at length the points and items which needed to be stressed to Borough Council. All comments have to be submitted before 18th November. Several points were put forward and the Clerk agreed to draft a letter which would be submitted to all Councillors for their consideration before it was sent to the Borough Council.

The following planning decisions were received from the Borough Council:

Ref No. 11/01353/F

Mr. & Mrs. Bettis

Single storey extension to the rear of Rutland House, Wisbech Road, Tipps End

Permission granted 11th October, 2011

Ref No 11/01493/F

Mr. & Mrs. Shaw

Rear two storey extension to existing dwelling Hobby Cottage, Hundred Foot Bank. Welney

Permission granted 10th October, 2011.

It was noted that sometime ago an order had been made for certain fencing at this property to be removed and it was agreed to ask the Borough what action had been taken regarding this.

The following planning application was received for consideration, at which point Cllr.Elliott left the room while the matter was considered.

Ref No. 11/01748/F

Mr & Mrs. Elliott – Construction of a one and a half storey house including demolition of existing dwelling at Bluebell Spinney, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney.

After consideration it was agreed to recommend this application for approval.

Cllr.Elliott then rejoined the meeting.

12 Highway Matters

A letter was received from the Environment Agency dated 11.10.11 giving details of the improvements to the flood warning service along the Hundred Foot Washes. A new flood alter system covering the Washes was to be introduced on 26th October but the go live for this is dependent on the current weather conditions on that day. A copy of the Leaflet and plan was supplied to all Councillors, and a copy would be put in the Parish Notice Board

A letter was also received from NCC Highways with updates on Highway Services. NCC are requesting that Parish Councils consider taking on cleaning of road signs and also gritting of footpaths, but after consideration it was felt that the Parish Council could not be involved in either of these matters.

Highway Problems

1. Speed limits and white lines on the Wash Road etc. C.Cllr.Humphrey confirmed that he had spoken to Highways regarding these matters and the Parish Council should have received information from them. To date nothing had been heard.
2. There was a brief discussion regarding the Vibration problems on Main Street, and it was considered that this problem might be helped if Main Street was completely resurfaced.
3. Several of the points on the list supplied to Highways at the meeting in August have still not been attended to, especially the work to level areas of the Wash Road, and these would be taken up with Highways with a copy of the correspondence to C.Cllr.Humphrey
4. Hundred Foot Bank near Flights End has an extremely bad dip. This has been temporarily repaired previously, but is now in a dangerous condition. (Report to Highways)

5. There is a dangerous pothole in the road near Lady Fen Corner, Hundred Foot Bank (Report to Highways)
6. Cllr.Bennett reported that the roadside gully (especially on Wisbech Road) is blocked by leaves and debris and in need of a clean) (Report to Highways)
7. Fly tipping has occurred again at Gypsy Corner on the Wash Road and this would be reported to the Clean-up team.
8. Cllr.Rainbird requested a copy of the road map of the village which appears in the Welcome Pack and it was also agreed to include the Welcome Pack on the website.

13 Items for Next Agenda

None.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

SignedK.Goodger..... (Chairman)

Dated....6th December, 2011.....