

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs.T.Bennett, S.Dobson, J.Elliott, V.Pratley, G. Rainbird and the Clerk.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T.Bray, T.Eyles and C.Freer, Dist.Cllrs V.Spikings and D.Pope and C.Cllr.H.Humphrey.

2. Public Participation

None at the start of the meeting, but PCSO Tracy Milburn attended the meeting at approximately 8.30 p.m. She confirmed that there were no real problems in the Welney area, but she urged residents to be vigilant especially with regard to scrap metal and oil thefts and hare coursing. She advised all parties to ring immediately anything suspicious was seen or heard. She answered questions from councillors and was thanked very much for her attendance.

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

4 Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November, 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 – Nothing further to report on this matter and it was agreed to consider it again in the New Year.

2. Possible Village Screening – There was nothing further to report at present

3. Review of Parish Appraisal – Agreed to leave on the Agenda but defer for 6 months.

4. Proposed Power and Recycling Centre at King's Lynn – Nothing further to report at present but it was expected that further news would be forthcoming shortly.

5. Joint Meeting of Local Councils – The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted all Councils on the list and they are all pleased that these meetings are to continue with the next one at Welney on 13th February, 2012. An Agenda will be prepared nearer the time. Christchurch have confirmed that they will not be able to attend because it is their own meeting night, but they will forward any agenda items in due course.

6. Dog Bins/Waste Bins – Following the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted Mr.Gillett of the Environment Agency and thanked him for the offer. He had since replied that he would make contact as soon as possible to make arrangements for the purchase of the housing and the wording for the logo. He also confirmed that he was on leave until the beginning of December would hope to be in touch before Christmas.

Cllr. Dobson raised a query from a resident who was having problems with dog waste near her property on Bedford Bank. Apparently some dog owners were leaving the mess on the roadway and others were simply kicking it down the River Bank. It was agreed to put up some signs – Please Take your dog mess home or deposit it in the Parish Dog Waste Bins – Offenders will be prosecuted. The Clerk confirmed that she still had some official printed notices and Cllr.Dobson agreed to collect these and speak to the concerned resident so that notices could be put in the best places. Cllr.Dobson also agreed to put an article in the next issue of the Welney News once again advising everyone of their responsibilities with regard to dog waste.

6. Welney William Marshall School

Cllr.Dobson gave a brief report on a County session she had attended relating to small schools.. She also advised that the School Council had met recently and one of their topics for discussion was "Do you feel safe at School?" The majority answer was yes, but considerable concern was expressed relating to the crossing of the road outside the school, because of the speed of the traffic. She advised that the School Council would be writing to the Parish Council, and it was agreed that until such time as their letter was received, the Clerk would contact Highways and ask them what traffic calming might be available during entry and exit times for the school. Suggestions made were: Lollipop person, Zebra cross, 20 mph speed limit area where the children cross the road. It was also agreed that Elizabeth Truss MP and C.Cllr H.Humphrey should be informed and asked to help in any way possible once the letter had been received.

7. Finance

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

Anglian Water – Water for Pavilion 1.6.11 to 15.11.11 53 . 63

Anglian Water – Water for Parish Hall 1.6.11 to 15.11.11 20 . 68

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses 27 . 78

Paid by Direct Debit

13.11.11 E-On Street Lighting 59 . 81

22.11.11 E-On Electric for Pavilion 42 . 17

-do- E-On Electric for Parish Hall 81 . 00

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

Annual Grants – Council were advised that the request had been received from the Parochial Church Council for the grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard and this would be due for consideration at the January meeting in the usual way.

Precept – The Annual Precept Forms from the Borough Council had also been received and the Clerk confirmed that details of the financial situation will be presented to the January meeting so that the precept figure can be decided and the form returned by 3s1t January, 2012

Health Centre Car Park – Following the last meeting the Clerk had contacted Upwell for an explanation of the expenses paid to the Borough for the car park. It was confirmed that the annual £2,900 is the contribution towards the future maintenance and repair of the car park, i.e. renewal of white lines, maintenance of street lights, signs and grassed areas, energy charges associated with street lighting and maintenance of the drainage system. No allowance was made for gritting, salting, snow clearance or removal of leaves in the autumn. The Clerk also read out the list of contributors and the amount they currently pay and their increased sums. After consideration it was unanimously agreed that Welney were not prepared to pay any more money. It was pointed out that pro-rata of residents in each of the villages, Welney pay more than enough compared to the others – all of which are much larger – and also the fact that the Health Centre do not take patients from across the other side of the Wash although it is still Welney village. Cllr. Elliott pointed out that when she moved into her house on Bedford Bank West, she was refused at the Health Centre and had to wait six weeks without a Doctor before being accepted at Downham Market.

8. Parish Hall.

The electricity meters were checked before the start of the meeting and £25.00 was removed.

Purchase and Sale of the hall Site – Mrs. Sutton of Elgoods had confirmed that they are still anxious to proceed and as soon as the sale of the property in Peterborough is completed, they will contact us immediately.

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9 Proposed New Community Centre

Community Centre Questionnaire – Cllr. Dobson had collated all the information received from the returned questionnaires and a copy had been circulated to all Councillors. Thanks were extended to Cllr. Dobson and the results would be kept safely on file until such time as they were needed for grant applications.

Phase 1 Tenders – The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Mr. Briscoe and he was going ahead with obtaining a Phase 1 Tender from the four builders originally recommended. He was hopeful that these quotations would be received at the beginning of the New Year, when he would contact the Parish Council again.

Fund Raising – Council were advised that Mr. Steve Kerr had confirmed that his group the Delta Pilots would be more than happy to play for a dance or social or whatever is required, free of charge, to raise funds for the new Community Centre. Grateful thanks were extended to him and his group. As soon as the Tenders were received, and the Parish Council have a better idea of the actual cost of the building, then a Fund Raising Committee would be formed.

Planning Permission for Children's Play Area – The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Mr. Keith Wilkinson at the Planning Office and he had advised that planning permission would not be required for this provided that it was built on land owned by the Parish Council and that it was no more than 4m in height and 200cu.m. in size and enclosed by a fence no more than 1m high. Full details of the regulations can be found on the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 – Part 12 – Class A. Schedule 2/3. It was unanimously agreed to include a note regarding this in the next edition of the Welney News.

10. Playing Field

Possible Skate Park. – Enquiries had been made with regard to hiring equipment for a skate park. However most of the hirers only do this on the basis of bringing the equipment along with a full staff of instructors and the charges for this would be up to £650.00 plus VAT per day at the weekend. After a discussion it was agreed to write to Max Frances advising him of the cost of hiring equipment and also the cost of building a skate park based on figures from adjoining villages. It was agreed to confirm to him that we are keeping his request to the fore and whilst he mentioned the sum of money put aside for play equipment, this would not go far towards building a skate park. Our main priority at the moment is fund raising for the new Community Centre, but we will certainly address the question of Skate Park again as soon as the figures for the new hall are confirmed.

Moles – It was reported to the meeting that there are moles on the playing field again, and it was agreed to ask the mole catcher to attend.

11 Correspondence

1. Cambridgeshire ACRE - 24.11.11 – Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Scheme – Following short discussion it was agreed to ask for more information regarding this and to ask if there was any benefit to the village if we become involved.
2. CGM Landscapes – Introduction to Country Grounds Maintenance Limited
3. The Playing Field – Norfolk Playing fields Association – Newsletter
4. Elizabeth Truss MP – 17th Monthly Report
5. BCKLWN – Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes
6. Various Police reports on incidents around the area
7. National Association of Local Councils – The Localism Act which received Royal Assent on 15th November, 2011.
8. Whitehouse Enterprises – Brochure – Plastic Outdoor Furniture
9. Friends of the Stroke Unit at King's Lynn Hospital – 1948 Torch Trail – 2nd to 5th June, 2012
10. Cambs. ACRE – News Digest 1.12.11

12. Plans and Planning Matters

Site Specific Allocations and Policies – Issues and Options Consultation –The final letter was sent off to the Borough Council regarding this matter on 14th November together with a copy to Elizabeth Truss, Vivienne Spikings and David Pope. A generic reply has been received by e-mail that the comments have been noted and processed, together with an acknowledgement from Elizabeth Truss MP

Contact was also made with Belinda Sutton at Elgoods who put the Parish Council in touch with her Agent, John Maxey who was making a submission on their behalf. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent him a copy of the Parish Council letter and he in turn sent a copy of his submission

Nothing further has been heard at the present.

The following Planning Decisions have been received from the Borough Council.

Ref No. 11/01573/F

Mr. & Mrs. H. Smart

Continued standing of park home and touring caravan at Bluebells, Wisbech Road, Tipps End.

There are 9 conditions attached to this permission and I will bring the paperwork along to the meeting
Planning permission granted 9th November, 2011.

Ref No. 2/01/1624/F

Environment Agency

Retention and installation of open cell concrete erosion protection on the Ouse Washes side of the Middle Level barrier bank over 17 km of the 30 km total length at Old Bedford River, Welney

Only condition attached is that all work shall be undertaken outside both the main bird breeding season and the over wintering period during the months of July to September inclusive.

Permission dated 10th November, 2011

Two possible planning issues were raised and it was agreed to take these up with the planning department :

Welney House, Welney – It was reported to the council by a Parishioner that there appears to be a considerable amount of building work taking place on some of the buildings at Welney House. No planning applications have been received.

Hobby Cottage, Hundred Foot Bank – Sometime ago information was received that an enforcement notice had been served on the residents to remove a post and wire fence. However it was noted that the fence is still in situ and it was agreed to ask planning for an up to date report.

13 Highway Matters

Following the last meeting the various points were reported to Highways and the following reply was received on 7th November:

.With regard to the patching works on the washes, I have looked over the survey carried out and to achieve the result required will require a more substantial scheme than first thought by my predecessor. It is very flat so to raise the edge on the side where the ponding occurs would, during rain fall, leave ponding to the centre of the carriageway thus giving a significant problem especially in icy conditions. In conclusion it would require a significant surfacing scheme to achieve the desired result for which I have briefed up a scheme for inclusion in the future programme. Following receipt of this information Council were extremely concerned that once again Highways had gone back on their promises to try and improve the Wash Road. It was agreed to send a very strongly worded letter expressing our disappointment and annoyance and asking why the work, suggested at least two years ago, could not now be carried out. Also to advise that we are waiting for a further meeting with the Environment Agency to up date them on the road situation. It was also agreed to ask what the new signs posts were for which had been erected on the Wash Road. At present they are just posts with no notices on them!!

We are aware of the dip outside Flights End and have works programmed to resolve. The pothole at Lady Fen Corner will be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Items 4, 7 and 10 from your previous list (4 - Main Street, Welney surface condition, 7 – Footpath from Welney Nursery to Stockyard Farm and 10 – March Road, Welney) will be investigated by Jon Fanneran

and resolved as soon as possible. Nothing has been done regarding these items, and contact would be made with Highways to find out what is happening.

The Clerk confirmed that she had also spoken to Mr. Wallace at Highways on 6th December, regarding the hole/crack on the Delph Bridge. Highways confirmed that this had been passed to the Bridge department and were disappointed to hear that nothing had been done. He promised to chase the matter and if the Bridge Department could not do anything immediately, then Highways would do a temporary repair to make the area safer.

The following item would be reported to Highways for attention:

Large pothole/drop in the road surface near Briard Lodge, March Road in need of attention.

14 Items for Next Agenda

1. Possibly explore ways in which the Parish Council and the Welney News could act together
2. Websites
3. Date of the next meeting – It was agreed that the date of the next meeting, 3rd January, 2012 was not very convenient, and it was unanimously agreed to change this to **Tuesday 10th January, 2012 at 7.30 pm**

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

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

Dated.....10th January, 2012.....