

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present**

Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs.T.Bennett, T. Bray, S.Dobson, T., Eyles, 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 Cllr. C.Freer, Dist.Cllrs V.Spikings and C.Cllr.H.Humphrey, and the Village Police Community Support Office..

**2. Public Participation**

None

**3. Declaration of Interests**

None at this stage.

**4 Minutes of Last Meetings**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 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 – It was agreed to check with Norfolk County Office to see if any local training was available, and if not, In House Training would be organised for the Parish Council on a Tuesday evening at Welney. The Clerk would check available dates, and make necessary arrangements.

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 .

5. Joint Meeting of Local Councils – Councillors were reminded that the next meeting will take place at Welney on 13th February, 2012. The following suggestions were put forward for an Agenda and these would be circulated to all adjoining councils as soon as possible

1. Wash Road

2. L.D.F.

3. Localism Bill

4. Planning matters and Environment Agency flood plan

5. Proposed Power and Recycling Centre at King's Lynn.

6. Volunteer Services to County Councils for Highway Work, cutting rights of way etc.

Final arrangements would be made at the February meeting.

6. Dog Bins/Waste Bins – The Clerk reported that she had had a meeting with Mr.Dave Gillett of the Environment Agency and he had confirmed that they would be ordering the Wheelie Bin Housing within the next few days and this would be delivered to the Clerk's address. Arrangements would then have to be made for the bin to be installed and the Chairman confirmed that he had a large concrete slab which would probably be suitable. Mr.Gillett advised not to start any work to install the housing until such time as the E.A. had confirmed their agreement to the siting of same. As soon as this is received the slab could be installed and the housing fixed to it. A wheelie bin could then be obtained from the Borough Council free of charge, but the Parish Council would be an annual sum for the emptying. Mr.Gillett confirmed that he will make arrangements to prepare a logo to put on the bin housing in due course.

7. Parish Council and the Welney News – Co-operation – An e-mail had been received from the Welney News regarding the possibility of including articles, over the next few issues with photographs and descriptions of the councillors. The WN editor had provided a list of bullet points to cover information from each councillor, and this would be e-mailed to them so that the details could be returned to the Clerk. Photographs of each member would be taken at the end of the meeting and these could then be e-mailed to the WN with the description. It was also unanimously agreed that the photographs and information could also be included on the Parish Council website.

8. Parish Council website – There was a general discussion regarding the PC Website and it was felt that there were ways in which it could be improved. The Clerk was requested to contact the developers of the website to see if the Home Page description could be amended to show say The Official Parish Council Website. It was agreed that links could probably be put in to other sites, and that articles relating to village events etc. could also be included. The Parish Council Welcome to Welney Pack would also be put on the website. A further discussion would take place at the next meeting.

9. Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had attended a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December, and reported that up until then Norfolk had been left out completely and the matter had been dealt with as a Cambridgeshire item. He confirmed that the Partnership is now raising their profile, and further information should be available in due course. All Parish Councils that join the Ouse Washes, will be invited to become involved.

## **6. Welney William Marshall School**

Following a brief discussion at the previous meeting, the Clerk had written to Highways with regard to the school crossing on the A.1101, and the safety concerns which had been expressed particularly by the children. Council had asked if there was any finance available for a zebra crossing, lollipop lady or traffic calming etc., but a reply had been received stating that there is no budget at present for such works or even for a feasibility study as there is no pedestrian accident records. Cllr.Dobson confirmed that letters would be coming to the Parish Council from the School Children in the near future, and it was agreed that she pass on the request that the children also write to Elizabeth Truss MP, C. Cllr.. Humphrey and Dist .Cllr. Spikings and Pope,. The Parish Council would also write at the same time giving our full support to the children's request.

## **7. Finance**

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

Fenland Fire Appliance Limited – Servicing Extinguishes at Parish Hall	£65 . 10
MHB Services Limited, Street Light Maintenance 13.12.11 to 12.2.12	£115 . 78
D.A.Pest Control – Removal of Moles on Playing Field	£50 . 00
Paid by Direct Debit	
13.12.11 E-On Street Lighting	59 . 81
1.1.12 Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary	255 . 68.

Annual Grants – A letter had been received from the Welney Parochial Church Council with a request for an annual grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr.Bennett and agreed that a grant of £200 should be made and the cheque was completed and signed.

Precept – The Annual Precept Forms from the Borough Council had also been received and Council had to decide on the sum of money to precept on the Borough Council for the running of the Parish Council for the year 2012/13. All Councillors had been provided with a set of interim accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011 with an estimate of income and expenditure to 31st March, 2012. Following a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr.Eyles with 7 in favour and 1 abstention, that the Parish Council should precept for the sum f £9,400. It was agreed that a brief report would be included in the

next issue of the Welney News to explain the increase which has been necessary because of the rising costs of utilities, insurance, and to have a small sum in reserve in case an unexpected election should be called.

Health Centre Car Park – Following the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted Upwell Parish Council and advised that we were not prepared to increase our annual payment for the upkeep of the Health Centre Car Park on the grounds of pro-rata the number of residents to the contributions of other parishes and also the fact that residents of Hundred Foot Bank were not being accepted at the Health Centre. Acknowledgement had been received from the Clerk, and also a copy of an e-mail from Cllr. Pope requesting that the information should be forwarded to the Upwell Health Centre and that it is unacceptable that residents cannot be accommodated. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Pope for his comments – nothing further had been heard.

## **8. Parish Hall.**

The electricity meters were checked before the start of the meeting and £31.00 was removed. Purchase and Sale of the hall Site – Nothing further had been heard and it was agreed to contact Mrs. Sutton to see how the sale of their property in Peterborough was progressing and if they were any nearer being able to complete this matter.

## **9 Proposed New Community Centre**

Nothing further to report at the present time. Waiting to hear from Mr. Briscoe regarding Stage 1 Tender Documents from the builders he suggested. He has confirmed that he will be in touch the minute he has something further to report.

The Clerk confirmed that there will be a brief report in the next edition of The Welney News regarding the proposed children's play area, and the fact that planning permission is not required provided certain conditions are met.

## **10. Playing Field**

It was confirmed to the meeting that to hire skate part equipment would be out of the question due to the cost, and a letter had been sent to Mr. Francis confirming the current situation in that the Parish Council would consider the matter again, once the costing for the new community centre had been received.

There was then a discussion regarding the previous suggestion of providing a football goal post with a netball hoop attached. Councillors felt that if the skate park was not possible at the present time, then we should revert to the goal so that the young people at least had something to use on the playing field. The Chairman confirmed that he would speak to John Loveday before the next meeting, and everyone was asked to find out as much information as possible regarding purchasing a goal with hoop, so that the matter could be discussed further at the next meeting.

## **11 Correspondence**

1. Cambs Acre – Consultation of Reducing the Burden of Regulation on Community Buildings – Food Safety and registration and how food law applies to community buildings that are run on a daily basis.. Questionnaire has to be completed by 6<sup>th</sup> February
2. Norfolk Police Authority – Invitation to a meeting at Jubilee House, Wymondham on 19<sup>th</sup> January. 2012, in order to set the budget for the coming year.
3. Dynamic Fireworks – Offering services for firework displays for Queens Diamond Jubilee,
4. Modal Grit Bins – Prices and types of bins available.
5. East Cambs District Council – Consultation on draft statement of Community Involvement. Available [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)
6. Elizabeth Truss MP – 18<sup>th</sup> Monthly Report.
7. Norfolk RCC – E-Funding update.
8. Linda Briggs – updated correspondence regarding vibration problems at [www.lindabriggs.org/ZPRIVATE/contents.htm](http://www.lindabriggs.org/ZPRIVATE/contents.htm)
9. Norfolk RCCC – Copy of December issue of Signpost.

## **12. Plans and Planning Matters**

Site Specific Allocations and Policies – Issues and Options Consultation – Nothing further has been heard from the Borough Council at present. A brief report of the Parish Council's submission will appear in the next issue of the Welney News.

CPRE in partnership with the National Association of Local Councils supplied a copy of the new Guide Book – Planning Explained. Councillors were advised that a PDF copy can be downloaded from [www.planninghelp.org.uk](http://www.planninghelp.org.uk)

The following planning decision had been received from the Borough Council:

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. Permission dated 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

The following properties had been reported to the Borough Council for investigation and replies had been received as follows:

1. Hobby Cottage, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney – Enforcement Team at Borough Council confirmed that the fence is classed as permitted development and therefore does not require formal planning permission.
2. Welney House – Outbuildings to the rear of the dwelling. Both have had new roofing installed with no addition or alteration to the heights or profiles. These works are within the permitted development rights of the property.
3. Holly House, March Road, Welney – Some of the works being conducted with require the submission of an appropriate planning application if they are to remain. The owner will be contacted and advised accordingly.

The following planning application was received since the last meeting, and following the circulation of details to all councillors, the form was returned recommending approval

Ref No. 11/02061/O

Mr.J.Barry, Outline application for replacement 3 bedroom detached dwelling house with detached double garage at the Old Welney Hotel, Bedford Bank, Welney

The following planning applications were received for consideration:

11/02149/F

Mrs. S. Russell, Two storey side extension and front porch at Bedford Villa, March Road, Welney

11/02091/FM

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Extension and deepen a treatment pond to a reservoir on grassland near the Welney Wetland Centre known as Lady Fen Land at Hundred foot Bank, Welney.

Following consideration of the plans and paperwork, both applications were recommended for approval.

Parish Council Update – a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> January was received from the Borough Council regarding training sessions being planned to ensure Parish Councils are up to date with planning system. These are on either 27<sup>th</sup> February or 29<sup>th</sup> February and it was agreed to leave this until the next meeting and see if any councillors would like to attend.

## **13 Highway Matters**

Following the last meeting a letter had been sent to Mr.Wallace at Highways expressing Council's disappointment and concern that no work would be done to the Wash Road in the near future A copy of the letter had been sent to each Councillor. No reply had been received other than an e-mail apologising for not having replied and confirming that a reply was in the post. The Clerk confirmed that if this was received the next morning, she would e-mail a copy to each councillor.

Hole in the Delph Bridge – Following the report to Highways that nothing had been done, a temporary patching job was carried out but this has now sunk again, and is almost as bad as before. This will be reported to Highways again in the hope that it can be completed once and for all by the Bridge works team.

The following items have still not received any attention and would be reported to Highways yet again::

1. Large pothole/drop in the road surface near Briard Lodge, March Road in need of attention.
2. Main Street, Welney – Surface condition
3. Footpath from Welney Nursery to Stockyard Farm
4. General bad condition of March Road, Welney.

It was also reported to the meeting that Highways had recently resurfaced a stretch of road from Stockyard Farm northwards on the A.1101, and it was agreed to ask them why, when this was possibly the best piece of road surface in and around the village. No confirmation was received that this was going to be done.

following points were raised at the meeting for Highways attention:

1. Hole in the road at the top of Bells Drove, Welney
2. .Ask why the mechanical grip diggers make the grips so deep on the side of the Fen Roads that they cause problems with the sides of the roads breaking up.

All matters requiring Highways attention would be copied to C.Cllr Humphrey for his information and possible assistance.

The following points would be passed to the Borough Council for attention:

1. Road Sign at the top of Bells Drove is broken and needs replacing
2. Road Sign indicating Back Drove at the junction of New Road has disappeared and needs replacing.
3. Road Sign indicating Wisbech Road (opposite the entrance to Chestnut Avenue) has disappeared and needs replacing.

#### **14 Items for Next Agenda**

1. Water pressure problems
2. Electric Voltage problems
3. Water on the Wash – Cllr.Bennett did explain that Earith had been opened by the tide because of High Tides and Storm Floods, and not by fluvial water.
4. Illegal shooting.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

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

Dated.....7<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.....