

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 7th FEBRUARY, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs.T.Bennett, T. Bray, S.Dobson, T., Eyles, J.Elliott, C.Freer, V.Pratley, G. Rainbird, Dist.Cllrs. D.Pope and V.Spikings 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 PCSO Clare Law, who also provided crime figures in the Welney Area from the beginning of the year.

2. Public Participation

None

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

4 Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January, 2012, 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 – The Clerk confirmed that she had completed the form requesting in house training and sent it off to County Office hopefully for a Tuesday evening in May. No confirmation had yet been received of a date.

2. Possible Village Screening – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had spoken to Barton Bendish Parish Council who are operating the Village Screening and it appears to be working well. It was agreed that this could be discussed further in due course when a decision would be made.

3. Review of Parish Appraisal – This item is to be left on the Agenda but deferred until June 2012.

4. Proposed Power and Recycling Centre at King's Lynn – A letter dated 23rd January from NCC was received stating that they had received additional information relating to the planning application from Cory Wheelabrator and advising that the relevant information could be found at <http://Norfolk.jdi-consult.net/majordevelopments/> Information was also received from the Borough Council Agenda notes that the Borough are still awaiting direction from the Secretary of State. However the Borough confirmed that their position is (and has been conveyed) that since asking for evidence of support the Ministry has been advised that Norwich City council also objects to the Incinerator. The Borough believes that in population terms they represent some 39% of Norfolk's population – responsible for about 25% of district waste. Cllr.Pope reported that no further information had been received and they were still working towards a Judicial review or looking into taking legal advice. A letter with glossy brochure had been received from Willows prc (Cory Wheelabrator) The Clerk confirmed that an e-mail had been received from the Farmers Campaign dated 31st January setting out alternative proposals and requesting that an e-mail be sent to Willows plc stating that we believe the planning permission should be refused and NCC should not commit to build an incinerator and instead should opt for a technology acceptable to the host community. Following considerable discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Bennett, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird with 7 in favour and 2 abstentions that a letter should be sent to Norfolk County Council confirming our support of the Borough Council's action and in view of the lack of information which has been made available, this is something that we certainly do not want in this area..

5. Joint Meeting of Local Councils – Councillors were reminded that the next meeting will take place at Welney on 13th February, 2012. An Agenda has been prepared and circulated to all adjoining councils and a copy would be sent to all councillors prior to the meeting. Confirmation had been received that representatives will be attending from Manea, Nordelph, Denver, and

Downham West. The Clerk confirmed she would arrange for tea and coffee to be available upon arrival.

6. Dog Bins/Waste Bins – The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Dave Gillett of Environment Agency dated 23rd January confirming that the bin housing had been ordered and paid for. There was apparently a four week lead time for delivery. Mr. Gillett also confirmed that the installation of the bin will not require flood defence consent as it is replacing an existing bin. As soon as the housing is received the wheelie bin can be ordered from the Borough Council and sited in the correct position.

7. Parish Council and the Welney News – Co-operation – The Clerk confirmed that two photos and details so far received from Councillors had been sent to the Welney News and appeared in the last edition. The remaining Councillors photographs and details will be forwarded and the Editor has confirmed that these will be included over the next issues.

The following e-mail had been received from the Welney News Editor:

It is obvious that the pc is making an effort to be more communicative with parishioners (which is good) and some of this is in the form of lengthy articles. Here at the WN we are keeping to 28 pages max to keep the costs down. If the pc supplies us with a lot of text/photos then our 28 pages will be swamped with pc matters and this would be an imbalance in our content. Suggestion: would the council consider having their own pages printed when there is a lot to say – which could be included with the WN distribution – or if it is more cost effective, “buy” pages from us. The next stage up from 28 pages is 32 so the expenses of these extra four would need to be covered (at cost).

Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would try and keep articles to a minimum in order not to use up too much space, but also to ask the Editor what the cost would be to purchase four extra pages on a regular basis.

8. Parish Council website – The Clerk confirmed that she had been in touch with the company who developed the Norfolk Parishes websites regarding possible improvements and making the site more “available”. She confirmed that over the next few weeks, the photographs and descriptions provided by Councillors will be put on the website, and also the Parish Council Welcome pack. Every effort will be made to improve the site and include more information in the future.

9. Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership – Following the last meeting, an e-mail was received from Kirsten Bennett, Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire ACRE regarding support for their bid for a Landscape Partnership Scheme. In order to increase the chances of their bid’s success it is vital that they can demonstrate partner support for the overall scheme. To do this they must provide hard copy letters of support from key partners. Please can the Parish Council send a letter on parish council headed notepaper which needs to contain the following:

- Why our Parish council believes the Ouse washes area to be important
- Why the Parish Council believes a partnership approach to managing the landscape is needed
- A couple of sentences about how we see the community being involved and benefiting from the scheme.
- Anything else we wish to add in support of the bid.

Letters must be received by 13th February, 2012. Following a short discussion it was agreed that insufficient information was currently available and before we supplied any letter of support we would need to see a copy of their project plan,

10. Water Pressure Problems – The question of water pressure within the Village was raised for inclusion on this Agenda. Several comments about low pressure were noted and the Clerk confirmed that in February 2011 a complaint was received from the Women’s Institute regarding this problem. The matter was reported to Anglian Water but the outcome was now known. It was agreed to write to them again asking for advice as to what the water pressure should be and what the flow per minute should be. Lots of complaints had been noted in and around the village and answers would be appreciated.

11. Electricity Voltage Problems – This item was also included after being raised at the last meeting. Cllr. Bennett gave a brief update of the problems which had been experienced with low voltage in the Wisbech Road area, and confirmed that the matter was being dealt with.

12. Water on the Washes – This item again was brought forward from the last meeting, and Cllr.Bennett confirmed that there was nothing further to report following his advice to the council recorded in the January minutes, and the report which he had prepared for the latest edition of the Welney News.

13. Illegal Shooting – It was reported that the Police have been monitoring the question of illegal shooting and are keeping a close eye on what is going on.

14. Parish Council representative on Bishops Land Charity- At the present time Mr.Grant Tomkins is one of the Parish Council representatives on the Bishops Land Charity. Mr.Tomkins is no longer on the Parish Council and in fact does not now live in the village. It was agreed that he could no longer be a Parish Council representative trustee. It was also agreed to provide each councillor with a brief history of the charity and the trustees, and to include the item on the Agenda for the next meeting, in the hope of appointing a new trustee – who does not have to be a parish councillor, but must live in the village.

15. Parish Council meeting in June. – Members were advised that the June monthly meeting of the Parish Council actually falls on a bank holiday (5th June being part of the Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend) After brief discussion, it was unanimously agreed to change the meeting to the 12th June, 2012.

6. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Council were reminded that towards the end of 2011 it was agreed that the Parish Council would arrange some form of celebration for the Queens Diamond Jubilee weekend – 2nd to 5th June 2012. Steve Kerr had confirmed that his band would be available to play and the Landlady from the Lamb and Flag had mentioned the possibility of holding a village celebration event in the area of the lamb and Flag/car park/Parish Hall. It was agreed to prepare a brief flier for circulation to all the user groups, the Lamb and Flag, the School, and to include on the Notice Board and the Website, inviting anyone interested in becoming involved in the arrangements to the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 6th March, 2012 at 6.30 p.m. at The Parish Hall.

Cllr Bennett also advised the meeting that there were schemes in place for planting Diamond Jubilee trees and hedges and it might be a good idea to consider this for the Village. He agreed to find out more information in readiness for the next meeting.

7 Welney William Marshall School

Nothing further had been heard from the School regarding their request for a crossing at the School entrance, at the present time, but Cllr.Dobson confirmed that it had not been forgotten and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

8 Finance

On the proposition of Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr.Dobson, and agreed, the following invoice was approved and the cheque was signed:

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses – Ink Cartridges. 14 . 97

Paid by Direct Debit

13.11.12	E-On Street Lighting	59 . 81
1.2.12	Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary	255 . 68.

Health Centre Car Park – Nothing further had been heard regarding the request for an increase in the annual donation for the upkeep to cover the gritting etc., following our decision not to agree to any increase.

9. 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 –The Clerk confirmed that on 30th January the following e-mail was received from Mrs. Sutton at Elgoods.,:

Dear Pat

Hope you are well. We are still waiting for the decision from King's Lynn Borough Council regarding the planning issues on the site before we are able too make any commitments because we need to be able to use the site for development if we are expected to pay the asking price to the vendor. I have spoken to John Maxey who is hoping for a decision soon, and when we hear from them, as I am sure you will also, we will be able to work out a realistic timescale. I hope that helps to keep you up to date.

With very best wishes

Belinda.

The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to Mrs.Sutton who had in turn confirmed that they are still anxious to proceed with this matter. He had also discussed with her the possibility of putting in a planning application on the site a.s.a.p. as the current VDA was still in force and no amendments had been made Mrs. Sutton promised to keep us fully informed of developments.

10 Proposed New Community Centre

A letter dated 23rd January had been received from Mr. Briscoe with four Tender Quotations for the proposed new community centre. The letter had been circulated to all Councillors and was considered at length. The quotations varied from approximately £336,000 to over £410,000 just for building costs, and it was unanimously agreed at this time that this price is way beyond what was expected or what can justifiably be afforded. The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to Mr.Briscoe prior to the meeting to see if there was any way that the costs could be reduced. Mr.Briscoe had advised that there is very little saving in making the building smaller, but that considerable savings could be made on the heating system, windows etc. roof tiles and the possibility of building around a wooden frame., and he had suggested that a meeting be arranged with one or two of the builders to try and trim down the costs of the build. Any amendments to the building could possibly be dealt with by the planners as Planning Modifications, if this should become necessary. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the fact that the prices received were simply for the build and not completion of the building, but it was confirmed that at this stage the final cost was not required, because the building cost alone was possibly going to put the project out of reach. After further discussion the Chairman confirmed that he would speak to Mr.Briscoe as soon as possible and take his further advice and possibly arrange a meeting with either him and one or two of the builders.

There was a brief mention of possible funding for the new Community Centre, and a list of possible grant sources would be provided to Councillors for the next meeting. It was also agreed that an approach should be made to Sport England especially as they had made stipulations regarding the changing rooms and showers that they required.

11. Playing Field

Discussion took place regarding the provision of a football goal for use on the playing field and it was recommended that an inexpensive goal should be purchased and put on the field to see what amount of use it received, before investing in an expensive piece of equipment. Some prices had been obtained and the Clerk confirmed that she would look into further details before the next meeting.

12 Correspondence

- a. Esther Bortz – Downham Market Police – Requesting vigilance at Village Halls and Pavilions because of a recent spate of thefts from such buildings,
- b. NCC – Waste Reduction Support for Parish Council – Details of composting advantages to support waste reduction and recycling. Offer to come and discuss the matter on a Thursday or Friday.
- c. NCC – Master Composter Training – Details of what is involved and how to join the scheme.

- d. NCC – Material Recycling Facility Tours 28th Feb, 24th May, 4th July and 19th October – Tours of the recycling facility at Costessey near Norwich, Two places per Parish Council allocated on a first come first served basis,
- e. BCKLWN - Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes
- f. Norfolk Rural Community Council – SMART – Localism, Sustainability and Kick Starting Community Activity – South Green Park Enterprise Centre, Mattishall – Thursday 1st March 9.30 to 16.30 £20.00 members.
- g. John Mayne – Looking for site suitable to hire for a car boot sale one day a week preferably a weekend during the summer period, mid May to end of August. Suitable sites would be a playing field, and space for 30-50 cars. Has supplied full details of how they work.
- h. Elizabeth Truss MP – 19th monthly report.
- i. Catalogue of Parish Council products from Glasdon
- j. Norfolk Constabulary – Police back scam awareness campaign.
- k. Linda Briggs 31.1.12 – Notes on Vibration Problems in Main Street.
- l. Fenland Sports – Catalogue of Sports Equipment
- m. Norfolk Link, Neighbourhood Planning Meetings, Affordable Housing Seminar.
- n. Police Authority – Annual Budget etc.

13. Plans and Planning Matters

Site Specific Allocations and Policies – Issues and Options Consultation – LDF – Report from Cllr. Vivienne Spikings to Borough Council dated 26th January, 2012 as set out in the Meeting report “Work is progressing well on the analysis of what respondents have said and the February Task Group will start to make decisions as to site preferences. Behind the analysis are updates to the technical base which are needed as new information has come forward re flooding, new sites etc. The update includes a refreshment of our infrastructure Study and includes the County wide infrastructure study as well. Work is still progressing on the Community Infrastructure levy viability technical study. The infrastructure work will feed into this. Cllr. Spikings advised the meeting that she was aware of our requirements for sites within the village for development, and she would be supporting our claims.

As reported at the last meeting the Borough Council have arranged two meetings on 27th February and 29th February between 9 a.m. and 12 noon at South Lynn Community Centre for planning system training events. There will also be an evening session from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. on Monday 27th February. Cllrs. Goodger and Dobson expressed a wish to attend and the Clerk would advise Borough Council accordingly.

Ref No. 11/02061/O – Old Welney Hotel, Bedford Bank, Welney

All councillors had been circulated with a copy of the e-mail from Mr. Wilkinson of the Planning Office. The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to Mr. Wilkinson, and he advised that we would send a letter confirming our decision immediately after the meeting - He also confirmed that it is correct that if we recommend approval of an application and the Borough council recommend rejection then the application has to go to Committee. As Natural England has raised the objections about bats and badgers the Borough have no alternative but to refuse the application. There was then a lengthy discussion regarding this application, and it was eventually agreed that we reply to Mr. Wilkinson as follows:

Welney Parish Council stand by their decision to recommend approval of this application but wish to make sure that there are adequate surveys carried out for bats and badgers and that sufficient procedures are put in place so that if these protected species are confirmed to be present at the property then they are accommodated in the correct manner,.

14 Highway Matters

Following the last meeting an e-mail was received from Mr. Andy Wallace of Highways dated 6th February, confirming that *with regard to patching in and around Welney, the work carried out north of Stockyard Farm was programmed and completed due to complaints about the noise caused by the uneven road outside the properties. There is other more extensive patching works programmed for the near future to resolve the other issues you have reported. The hole by the bridge is continuing to be a pain in the neck, but I am hoping that the bridges department will make a permanent repair soon.*

Councillors have also been circulated with a copy of a letter received on 11th January from Mr. Wallace regarding the problems with Wash Road. After discussion it was agreed that the question of levelling up the edges of the road was never discussed – the only item requested, was the levelling of the lowest parts

of the road. The Clerk agreed to look up the original request for this and to reply to Mr.Wallace accordingly.

The missing or broken road signs at Bells Drove, Back Drove and Main Street (opposite Chestnut Avenue) have been reported to the Borough Council and confirmation has been received that these are being dealt with and should be in place with in the next couple of months.

The Chairman reported that during the recent spell of snow, he had cleared the roads in and around Tipps End, and had spoken to Highways to see if there would be any objections to him clearing further a field. He is currently awaiting formal approval to this and would then be added to their list of contractors.

One item was reported for attention of Highways:-
Footpath near the Old Nursery, Wisbech Road, appears to be subsiding and has a large area of water 2-3” deep.

15. Environmental Matters

Cllr.Elliott reported to the meeting that the concrete road at Hundred Foot Bank is now in a dangerous state of repair. She confirmed that the track is actually owned by the Environment Agency and the residents affected are very concerned that the access to their homes is being restricted because they have been told that if they carry out any patching or repair work to the road they would be committing a criminal offence as the road forms part of the flood defence. It has also been understood that the Environment Agency will not be carrying out any repair and the residents are worried that the road will collapse completely. After considerable discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Environment Agency asking for clarification on the ownership, flood defence situation and possible repair programme for the road. Copies of the letter would be sent to the MP and the C.Cllr. in the hope that they may be able to assist.

16 Items for Next Agenda

1. Community Shop
2. Salt Bins

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

Signed ...T.Bennett... (Vice Chairman)

Dated.... 6th March, 2012.....