

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 3rd APRIL, 2012

At 7 p.m. the Chairman introduced Mr. Andrew Wallace the Norfolk County Council Highways Engineer for this area. Mr. Wallace explained the area he covered and how the Highway matters work in conjunction with their partners May Gurney. He was asked questions regarding the various speed limits in the area and explained that lower speed limits were often put on roads where there were a lot of bends because these roads were where more accidents occurred. The straight stretches of road were found to be safer and therefore the speed limits were set at higher levels.

He was also asked about the problems with speeding traffic through Main Street with particular reference to the School entrance. Mr. Wallace did confirm that there were Flashing signs available with showed the speed of vehicles and which did actually record that speed. However the vehicle activated signs cost between £6,000 and £9,000 depending on whether there is a suitable power source available close by. It was agreed that only one sign would be required at the north end of the village as there is already a flashing 30 mph sign attached to the school sign when approaching from the Wash Road. The question of painting the speed limit on the road surface was also discussed. After some discussion particularly following receipt of the letters from the school children Mr. Wallace agreed to look at what could be done near the school to make it safer and to help the situation and to come back to the Council with suggestions.

Wash Road – There was then a discussion relating to the Wash Road and the Parish Council expressed their concern as to why no works were planned for the Road after several years of planning. Mr. Wallace explained that survey work had been carried out but it was felt that the only way forward to improve the problems was to carry out a much larger scheme on the road itself. He explained that the original scheme would not be sufficient to cure the problems, and it was agreed that the Wash Road improvements appeared to have been put “on the back burner”. Mr. Wallace confirmed that the whole matter needed to be rekindled and he confirmed that he would be speaking to his Manager, Mr. Karl Rands and another colleague who manages the budgets for the area, to see exactly what can be done and what kind of timescale is now envisaged. Mention was made of the proposed Dot Matrix signs that were suggested by Highways and the Environment Agency and these would also be investigated again. Mr. Wallace suggested that the best way forward would then be to hold a meeting during the daytime with the Environment Agency representatives so that progress could hopefully be made.

Mr. Wallace was thanked for his attendance and the Chairman then opened the Parish Council meeting at 7.40 p.m.

Present

Cllrs K. Goodger, (Chairman) T. Bennett, T. Bray, S. Dobson, C. Freer, G. Rainbird, Dist. Cllr. V. Spikings, PCSO Tracey Milburn, and the Clerk.

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

He then introduced PCSO Milburn who gave a brief report of items which appeared to be favourites for stealing at the present time – traffic lights, oil, batteries etc., and catalytic converters. There had also been an increase in the theft of Car Number Plates in the surrounding areas, and everyone was asked to be vigilant. If anything at all appeared to be suspicious or was causing a public nuisance, then please report it to the Police on 101 immediately as the earlier they received the information the more chance they had of catching the perpetrators.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J. Elliott, T. Eyles and V. Pratley and from C. Cllr. H. Humphrey

2. Public Participation

None

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

4 Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March, 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 – This has been arranged and booked with Sue Lake from Norfolk Association of Local Councils on 15th May, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

2. Possible Village Screening – Deferred for time being

3. Review of Parish Appraisal – Deferred until June 2012.

4. Proposed Power and Recycling Centre at King's Lynn – The Clerk confirmed receipt of an e-mail from Norfolk County Council stating that further information had been received from Cory Wheelabrator, and asking for comments by 23rd April. It was requested that the e-mail be forwarded onto Councillors for consideration.

5. Joint Meeting of Local Councils – A copy of the minutes from the Upwell Joint Meeting held on 19th March had been received and circulated to all councillors and was briefly discussed. It was agreed to discuss this matter again at the next meeting and hopefully try and arrange the next date for our Group, which Littleport had confirmed they would be willing to host

6. Dog Bins/Waste Bins – Not yet installed. Site inspection to be made after the meeting, and then the base and bin housing will be installed as soon as possible.

7. Parish Council and the Welney News – Co-operation – Confirmation had been received from the Editor that the edition due at the beginning of June will be available over the weekend 26th/27th May. This will mean that full details of the programme of events for the Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations will be able to be included.

8. Water Pressure Problems – Nothing further had been heard with regard to complaints, and some councillors even confirmed that their pressure was improved. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that the electricity work regarding the low voltage in his part of the village would be carried out during the week commencing 16th April and would probably last one day.

9. Water on the Washes – Articles had appeared in the Welney News from both Cllr.Bennett and Mr. P.Redman regarding this problem. An e-mail had also been received from Mr.Redman stating that an article had appeared in the local newspaper regarding a request to flood the washes for a longer period. The Parish Council had no knowledge of this and it was agreed to contact the Environment Agency for clarification. As soon as this is received the information would be passed to Mr.Redman.

10. Community Shop – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had been unable to complete the Article for the Welney News but it was hoped this would appear in the next edition. Further discussion could take place once the article had appeared.

11. Salt Bins – The Clerk confirmed that she had been able to obtain the following information: A Licence is required before grit/salt bins can be placed on the highway (obtained from NCC Highways); A licence is required for storing grit/salt on private land; Health and Safety training would need to be provided to volunteers undertaking some Highways works – NCC Highways would provide induction training for most works. It was agreed to contact Mr.Andy Wallace for clarification and an idea of the cost of the salt bins and any salt provided.

6. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Following the Annual Parish Meeting and the arrangements which were initially put together to hold the village celebrations on Sunday 3rd June, a further meeting was held on Monday 26th March attended by 7 persons. A provisional programme of events was put together commencing at 1 p.m. and continuing through until 10.30 p.m. to be held on the Lamb and Flag Car Park utilising the Garden at the Lamb and Flag and the Parish Hall. A further meeting has been arranged for Monday

23rd April when hopefully the programme will be finalised and the posters and fliers printed and posted around the village. A copy of the programme will appear in the Welney News approximately one week before the event. Any additional helpers, volunteers etc. would be most welcome to attend the next meeting, or to just arrive on the day. It was agreed that the residents of Old Bedford Row should be advised of the plans as the event would be taking place immediately in front of their houses.

7 Welney William Marshall School

Councillors had been circulated with the hand written letters received from the Children at the School regarding their concerns for safety on the road outside the school. The Clerk confirmed that she had replied to the children thanking them for their letters and confirmed that we would let them know what is happening in due course. It was then agreed to send copies of the letters to Andy Wallace and Karl Rands of Highways, Elizabeth Truss MP and C.Cllr.Harry Humphrey asking for any help they can give, and to inform the children of the action taken.

8 Finance

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

BCKLWN – Collection and disposal of dog waste 1.4.12 to 31.3.13 – 52 empties at 4 empties per week	289 . 54
BCKLWN – Yearly contribution towards maintenance of Upwell Community Car Park – this price has increased from previous years Because of inflation	155 . 89
Norfolk Rural Community Council – Subscription	15 . 00
Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Subscription	123 . 24
Norfolk Association of Village Halls – Subscription	10 . 00
Glen Stittle, Plumber – Various plumbing works and repairs To the Parish Hall and the Pavilion	155 . 00
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	42 . 99
Paid by Direct Debit	
13.3.12 E-On Street Lighting	59 . 81
1.4.12 Mrs.P.Copeman – Salary	255 . 68.

National Non Domestic Rate Demands for both the Parish Hall and the Pavilion have been received from the Borough Council showing nothing to pay on both buildings.

9. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked before the start of the meeting and £21.00 was removed.
Purchase and Sale of Hall Site – Nothing further to report at present.

10 Proposed New Community Centre

The meeting was given a brief outline of the meeting held on Friday 30th March with Mr.Briscoe and Mr. Salmons of Salmons Brothers, Builders. Originally Salmons Brothers had quoted the sum of £336,000 for the new community Centre, but following discussion with Mr,Briscoe, they had managed to reduce this figure to approximately £294,000. Several other points were raised at the meeting which could affect the final price and Mr.Salmons agreed to look into these and forwarded a further amended quotation as soon as possible. It was agreed that finance could not be sought until a final quotation was received, but it was felt that an approach to Marshall's Charity at their next meeting, would be very beneficial and would give us an idea of how much additional funding would be required. At this point Cllrs.Goodger, Dobson and Rainbird declared an interest as they are all Trustees of Marshall's Charity. The Clerk confirmed that as soon as any information was received

from Mr. Briscoe this would be circulated to all Councillors and if necessary an additional meeting could be called to move matters along. It was suggested that a Public Meeting be arranged possibly in conjunction with the WASH group to inform the village of the current situation, and hopefully arrangements for this could be made at the next meeting.

11. Playing Field

The Chairman reported that the wet carpets and general rubbish had been removed from the Pavilion and that he would be disposing of this in due course.

He also confirmed that he had spoken to John Loveday who was going to re-quote for the Football Goal and Netball hoop and the Chairman also confirmed that he would be speaking to Fenland Leisure to find out their prices.

Nothing had been heard regarding any Cricket Club fixtures for 2012 and the Clerk would contact the club secretary for details.

12 Correspondence

1. Anglian Water – Drought situation and imminent hosepipe ban – 12.3.12 with a leaflet explaining what you need to know and what you can do to help.
2. East Cambridgeshire Local Plan – Consultation on strategic issues. Questionnaire for comments available on their website www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/consultation-strategic-matters Comments by 12th April.
3. West Norfolk Older Persons Forum – Aim is to improve the quality of life for older people living in the West Norfolk area.
4. Norfolk County Council Public Transport Services – slight alterations to the Norfolk Green Service 60 – Wisbech – Outwell- Three Holes.
5. Elizabeth Truss MP – 21st Monthly report from Elizabeth
6. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – Council meeting minutes and agenda
7. The Playing Field Magazine together with several brochures of play equipment and outdoor furniture for playing fields and recreation areas.
8. Norfolk Rural Community Council – Copy of Signpost Magazine
9. E-On Reduction of prices for electricity to Hall and Pavilion
10. Norfolk Association of Village Halls – Details of Annual Quiz 2012

13. Plans and Planning Matters

Since the last meeting councillors had been advised of the following planning application
Ref No. 12/00292/F

Mr.K.Cage – Linked extension to the rear of dwelling for use as a kitchen diner, increased height of section of the main roof on the south east (retrospective)

No adverse comments were received and the form was returned recommending approval on 16th March, 2012

The following planning decision has been received:

No. 11/02061/0

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

Application refused 14th March, 2012.

Reasons: This application seeks planning permission for a replacement dwelling. Whilst the principle of development is acceptable in land use terms, the building has been vandalised and vacant for some time and its surrounds has been open to wildlife. An ecology report submitted with this application identifies the possibility of protected species (bats, badgers and otters) being affected by the proposed development and recommends additional survey work to make a full assessment and define any mitigation measures. On the basis of the information provided the applicant has failed to demonstrate that there will not be an adverse impact upon such protected species and their habitat and therefore the proposal, at this time, fails to comply with the provisions of PPS9 and Core Strategy Policies CS06 and CS12 of the Local Development Framework.

14 Highway Matters

Despite confirmation from Highways that the following items were being attended to, it does not appear that anything has been done as yet::

Large pothole near Briard Lodge, March Road, Welney

Main Street – Surface Condition

Footpath from Welney Nursery to Stockyard Farm

Advance warning signs on A.1101 regarding Bells Drove – in both directions?

These points are now classed as very urgent and will be referred again to Andy Wallace for attention.

Following his talk to Council at the beginning of the meeting, a request for the problems of Wash Road to be revisited will be sent to Andy Wallace and he in turn will make enquiries and report back as soon as possible.

Cllr.Bennett then gave an update on the following points raised at the last meeting:

1. Footpath sign along Hundred Foot Bank behind the Cattle Pens. – These signs are normally the responsibility of Rights of Way Officers but as that department has now ceased, the signs will fall to the Highways Department. We understand that they are aware of the need to erect a leader sign at this location, and this will be brought to their attention again
2. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that a small access/kissing gate has now been installed for pedestrians to gain access to the right of way along the Hundred Foot Bank.
3. Meadow Lane – The same answer as Item No.1 applies to this by-way and Council will put all possible pressure on Highways to install the necessary signs.

It was also agreed that Council seek clarification from Highways regarding the payment for undertaking work on Streetscene and Rights of Way activities. The Parish Council had confirmed some time ago that they might be willing to undertake some of the activities suggested, but were not aware of payments being available. Clarification of this point is necessary before any future commitment is considered

Also it is understood that Rights of Way are being absorbed into Highways (Items 1 & 3 above) .and it was agreed that clarification should be sought from Highways as to how this was going to work.

Confirmation was also received that the Highway Rangers would be visiting the parish during week commencing 16th April.

It was reported that some old tyres had been left on the left hand side of the Wash Road travelling towards Suspension Bridge and the Clean up Team would be asked if they could remove these when next in the area.

15. Environmental Matters

1. An e-mail had been received from Hilary Lockwood of the Environment Agency on 13th March confirming that as the Agency own both banks of the Hundred foot River could we please confirm if this is the concrete road leading to Venney Farm or provide details of the location if not. It was confirmed that it is the road leading to Venney Farm but nothing else has been heard. A further e-mail asking for an update will be sent.

2. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had spoken to Mr.N.Bussingham of the Environment Agency regarding the problems of motorbikes using the River Banks as speed tracks. The Public were requested to inform the police as soon as possible in order to try and catch to perpetrators.

3. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that there are still trees available for planting in a Jubilee Wood from the Woodland Trust. He is waiting for further clarification as to how Parishes quality and will report back to the Parish Council in due course

16 Items for Next Agenda

Sandgate Corner Allotment Field – Part of the field for use by young people..

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m. after reminding everyone that the May meeting was the A.G.M.

Signed ... K.Goodger..... Chairman) Dated ...1st May, 2012.....