

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 12th JUNE, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Cllrs K.Goodger, (Chairman) T. Bennett, T. Bray, S.Dobson, J. Elliott, T.Eyles, C. Freer, V. Pratley, and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting, and thanked them for attending. He also thanked all Councillors who had attended the Annual inspection of the Allotment Field off Chestnut Avenue, which had taken place at 7 p.m. prior to this meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from, District Cllrs, V.Spikings and D.Pope, and C.Cllr.H.Humphrey..

2. Public Participation

None

3. Declaration of Interests

Cllr.Bennett declared an interest under the Rights of Way section of Highway Matters.

4 Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1st May, 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. In-House Training – The session booked for 15th May had to be cancelled because of the flooding of the Wash Road, and after a brief discussion it was agreed to contact Sue Lake at County Office and see if the training session could be re-arranged for a Tuesday evening towards the end of September.

2. Review of Parish Appraisal – Councillors were requested to look through the Parish Appraisal before the next meeting and the review of this could then be discussed at that meeting. It was also suggested that this could form one of the parts of a possible Public Meeting later in the year. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had copies which could be passed to all councillors and the Clerk agreed to see if this was available to e-mail to councillors.

3. Proposed Power and Recycling Centre at King's Lynn – .Nothing further to report at present

4. Joint Meeting of Local Councils – The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Littleport Parish Council who had agreed to host the next meeting, and a reply had been received suggesting either Monday 3rd September, Tuesday 4th or Tuesday 11th. After a brief discussion it was agreed to confirm that Monday 3rd September would be convenient.

5. Dog Bins/Waste Bins –The Chairman confirmed that the housing for the wheelie bin will be installed at the Parish Hall Site as soon as possible.

6. Community Shop – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that the article had appeared in the latest issue of the Welney News and he had received one enquiry from a member of the public who was in favour of the community shop. It was felt that this matter could also be included in the forthcoming Public Meeting.

7. Allotment Field off Chestnut Avenue – Councillors had made their annual inspection prior to this meeting, and were happy with the allotment areas despite the very unpredictable dry weather which had made cultivation difficult and then the large amount of rain which had made the rubbish grow exceedingly fast. The Chairman confirmed that they had earmarked an area of the grassland on the far right hand side of the field for the children's cycle track etc. and this would be cut by

Cllr.Bennett and then some suitable areas would be dug out for the children to ride their bicycles. It was also confirmed that when Freebridge Community Housing start work on the houses in Chestnut Avenue in September, an area of land immediately inside the entrance to the field on the right hand side could be used by them for standing of a site hut, cabins, and vehicle parking, on the condition that they levelled the entrance site. The Chairman then confirmed that he had received an e-mail from Mrs Barr asking if it would be possible to rent an area of the uncultivated part of the field for pig rearing. There was considerable discussion as it was confirmed that there would be several regulations that would have to be met and approvals obtained as well as speaking to the adjoining residents. The Chairman then took a show of hands and 5 councillors confirmed that they would be in support of exploring this further if all the criteria could be met. It was agreed to send a letter to Mrs .Barr setting out councils concerns and asking if she could answer questions relating to stocking density, time of year, water supply, electricity, fencing, vaccination requirements, the necessary holding number for the land and who would be in charge of looking after then and registering the pigs. However before the matter could be considered further, the Clerk confirmed that she would contact the Borough Council to see what their thoughts would be as the original Licence for the hire of the land stated that it was for growing fruit, vegetables and flowers only. The matter would be considered further at the next meeting.

6. Finance

a. Approval of Accounts for Payment - On the proposal of Cllr.Freer, seconded by Cllr.Pratley the following cheques were signed:

Glen Stittle – Repairs to leaks in gents toilets at Parish Hall	75 . 00
Water – Water to Parish Hall 18.11.1 to 21.5.12	34 . 16
Anglian Water – Water to Pavilion 127.11.11 to 21.5.12	213 . 49
Welney Croft Cricket Club – half years grass cutting on Playing Field	362 . 50
Fenland Leisure Products Limited –Goal & Netball	472 . 80
Paid by Direct Debit:	
16.5.12 E-On Street Lighting Elec.	60 . 19
16.5.12 E-On Elec for Parish Hall	131 . 84
16.5.12 E-On Elec for Pavilion	59 . 16
1.6.12 Mrs.P.Copeman Clerks Salary	255 . 68
10.6.12 E-On Street Lighting Elec	62 . 19
Income received:	
BCKLWN – Recycling Credits for Paper 2011/2012	19 . 70

b. Annual Accounts to 31.3.12

All Councillors had received a copy of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2012. As explained at the AGM the Clerk confirmed that the accounts are usually approved at that meeting, but due to the delay in the external auditor sending out the paperwork this was not possible. However, the accounts had now been checked and confirmed by the Internal Auditor, and the Annual Return has been completed and signed. On the proposition of Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr. Elliott and agreed, the accounts were formally adopted and the Chairman and Clerk signed the Annual Return.

c. Renewal of Parish Council Insurance -

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council and Parish Hall Insurances are due for renewal with effect from the 8th June, 2012. It is currently with Aviva through Came and Company. Last year the total premium for both insurances was £1,415.60. Renewal premium this year is £1,482.66 but if we wish to take advantage of thee three year long term agreement then renewal premium will be £1,408.53 - Village Hall - £521.16 Parish Council - £887.37 Changes can be made mid term to the Policy and it is irrelevant if we have signed a long term agreement meaning that if we are successful if completing the new Community Centre and wish to

insure the one building and cancel the insurance on the other two then this will not affect our discount for the three year term. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Eyles, seconded by Cllr.Freer and agreed that we take advantage of the three year discount and a cheque for the sum of £1,408.53 was drawn and signed.

d. Electric Street Light Maintenance Contract

On 24th May, confirmation was received that MHB Services, who had provided our Street Lighting Maintenance contract, had gone into liquidation. The first e-mail came from Karen Whittaker who was involved with MHB Services and at that time she informed everyone that she had immediately set up another company called K & M Lighting Services and that they would be prepared to take on the old MHB Contracts for exactly the same terms. In the meantime Karen sent a new contract for signature. However in the post on 7th June we received a letter from the liquidators advising that with effect from 1st June all the contracts portfolio, goodwill and stock had been sold to Westcotec Limited, a long established Norfolk Company which is a contractor approved by NCC and certified by the Highways Agency. Contact was made with Phil Layton one of the personnel at Westcotec dealing with this, and he advised that this was the case and they were in the process of writing to all existing customers explaining the situation and that they would be taking over all the contracts on exactly the same terms and conditions. He advised that if we had any lights out or any repairs with effect from 1st June, then we simply had to contact his company and the problems would be dealt with within 5 working days. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed that we do not take out a new contract with KandM Lighting Services, but in future let Westcotec deal with the Maintenance Contract which they had purchased from the Liquidators.

e. Update Welney Emergency Plan

All Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the Emergency Plan for Welney which was prepared in July 2006. Several alterations and amendments were made to the Plan and the Clerk agreed to forward copies to all councillors so that they could add details where necessary and then discuss again at the next meeting.,

7. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Sunday 3rd June, 2012. Weather was extremely unkind to the village and to lots of others celebrating on the day, and of course everything had to be moved inside. The first thing is to extend very grateful thanks to all those who helped in any way to make the event a success. Also thanks to the School for the Art Exhibition – the entries were exceptional and a first, second and third prize was given in each group – stamps and portraits. It is very regrettable that only 4 village children entered the fancy dress, (3 of these were from one family) and only 15 children up to the age of 14 sat down to the Jubilee tea (again 3 of these were from one family and 3 from another family!!) However the dog show was a huge success as was the Sing-along. The Delta Pilots played in The Lamb and Flag for most of the afternoon and evening, and were a resounding success. Thanks to everyone who helped set up, run the event and take down afterwards, those who helped us financially and helped in any way at all. Needless to say there was quite a quantity of things left over including the Box of Loot, and because the children were not able to have their games or a bouncy castle, a suggestion was made to have a smaller event on the Lamb and Flag car park sometime during the summer so that the children could have the fun they missed out on. The possibility of a Christmas party was also suggested, but these two events will have to be discussed further in due course.

8 Welney William Marshall School

The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting she had sent a letter to the pupils with details of the information we had received from Highways and from Elizabeth Truss MP. Nothing further had been heard.

9. Parish Hall

The electricity meters had been checked before the meeting and the total amount collected for the last two months was £32.00

The Clerk supplied Councillors with copies of an e-mail from Mr.J.Maxey on behalf of Elgood and Sons, and from Mr. P.Jermamy of the Borough Council LDF Team regarding the site of the Old Three Tuns and Current Parish Hall and the future proposals for this site. The Clerk also confirmed that she had replied at length to Mr. Jermamy with a copy to Mr.Maxey setting out the current

situation and asking for the land to be included in the new LDF so that the development planned by Elgoods could go ahead, and in turn the Parish Council could complete the purchase and sale of the Hall Site and receive the finance promised from Elgoods. Nothing further had been heard.

10 Proposed New Community Centre

The Clerk confirmed to the meeting that as advised on 11th May, the latest assessed price for the New Community Centre was £288,587.25 (including contingency of 5%).

After discussion it was felt that this subject could also form part of the proposed Public Meeting possibly on a Saturday morning a little later in the Summer. It was then agreed that in the meantime enquiries should be made regarding up to date funding sources. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Marshall's Charity setting out the situation and asking if they would consider this for a grant. At this point Cllrs. Goodger and Dobson declared an interest, as Trustees of the Charity. It was also agreed to contact Fen Adventurers Rural Development Programme to see if they still had any grants available, and any other possible sources of funding including the Borough Council and WREN, Hopefully details could be available at the next meeting. Cllr. Bray also confirmed that he would be preparing letters to contacts who might be interested in providing some funding for this venture.

11. Playing Field

As will be seen from the Finance Section, the football goal and netball hoop have been order from Fenland Leisure Products and the Chairman will be collecting these in the near future and arranging for installation on a suitable site on the Playing Field.

The Clerk confirmed that she had informed the Cricket Club of the decision regarding the lockable external tap, but nothing further had been heard.

12 Correspondence

1. West Norfolk Sports Council – Annual meeting 12th June 7 p.m. Lynnsport, King's Lynn
2. Elizabeth Truss MP – Twenty third monthly report.
3. Norfolk County Council – Mineral Site Specific Allocations Development Plans etc. dated 2.5.12 together with a CD giving all the information. Representations by 29th June, 2012.
4. BCKLWN – Annual Council Meeting Agenda 10.5.112 and minutes.
- 5 The Playing Field – Norfolk Playing Fields Association Magazine.
- 6 **Sheree Edmunds, Shermal, March Road, Welney – Complaint received via Borough Council and NCC “We wish to complain about the third world bus shelter we have in our village of Welney. As you know our village is visited by many tourists from the near by WWT and the LAMB AND FLAG public house. We feel that our village deserves to have a bus shelter which is much nicer on the eye and not one that belongs on the dirt track in Kenya. Many thanks. The shelter can be seen on Google street view map, Main Street Welney and you can see for yourself.”** After a brief discussion it was agreed to reply thanking Ms. Edmunds for her interest and stating that the bus shelter had been donated to the village by a local company, and as far as everyone is concerned is more than adequate.

13. Plans and Planning Matters

All Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the letter dated 10th May from the Planning Department regarding Basics of Planning Session- a one off training event to be held on 19th June. Cllr. Rainbird had expressed an interest in attending and a place had been booked for him.

14 Highway Matters

Since the last meeting, Cllr. Bennett had confirmed that his contacts had advised that the Rights of Way matters have now been passed to Highways and an e-mail confirming this had been received from Karl Rands Highways West, Area Manager dated 11th June. In order to look into the question of funding grass cutting on the rights of way within the village, he asked if the Parish Council could give details of the costings for this. After a brief discussion it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Eyles and agreed that Cllr. Bennett should put together the costings for grass cutting on the rights of way (Back Drove, Hurn Drove, Wisbech Road-Hurn Drove footpath, roadside footway Chestnut Avenue to Stockyard Farm and Meadow Lane) between three and five cuts per year. Cllr. Bennett agreed to provide this information to the Clerk and it could then be forwarded to Mr. Rands for consideration.

The Clerk also confirmed that a request had been put into Highways to give immediate attention to the problems with overgrown hedges and trees in the Tipps End area. Damage is being caused to vehicles by these branches and hedges including broken wing mirrors.

The following points were then raised for attention by Highways:

1. Bad dip/hole in the road on the A.1101 Bank side of the road opposite Bells Drove about 1 foot from where they have recently carried out some repair work.
2. Broken metal legs on the new barrier at Suspension Bridge (reported last month but nothing has been done.)
3. Although March Road has been resurfaced, there is still a dip in the road outside Briard Lodge which is dangerous.

15. Environmental Matters

1. Hundred Foot Bank – Concrete Access Road

The Clerk confirmed that on 9th May she had received an e-mail from Hilary Lockwood of the Environment Agency stating that she would be happy to organise a site meeting and include someone from their Development Control Team to discuss what would be acceptable in terms of repair work to the road in advance of a Land Drainage Consent application. The team has recently been restructured and a new surveyor for management will be joining shortly. As soon as the start date is confirmed she promised to contact us again to organise a convenient date for a site meeting. Nothing further had been heard and it was agreed to write again asking for the meeting to be arranged as soon as possible. From reading various correspondence it appears that the residents who have access along the haul road would be responsible for paying for the work and the Land Drainage Consent and it was agreed to ask why these residents should be expected to pay for the cost to repair the E.A.road.

2. Sewage Lagoon at Christchurch

On 24th May the Clerk had received an e-mail from Anglian Water confirming that they are still tinkering from the lagoons at Christchurch. This is as a result of the site being out of consent due to the ammonia levels being too high. Anglian Water is still investigating the various options that are available to prevent them from having to tanker the site. They have introduced additional sampling at the site and are currently working alongside the E.A. with a view to a long term solution which will ultimately allow them to withdraw the tankers. They were sorry that no one had come back with a date for a site visit and promised to contact the Council again before 21st June with an update on the visit. After discussion it was agreed to write back and state that we are still very concerned with the situation and look forward to receiving further information on the tinkering and a site visit as soon as possible.

3. Blue/green Algae It was reported to the meeting that this algae had appeared in the Bedford and the Delph and aerating was taking place in the rivers to try and prevent the spread.

16. Items for Next Agenda

1. Holiday Home Regulations.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

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

Dated3rd July, 2012.....