

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

Councillors were reminded that the new Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest forms must be completed and returned as soon as possible, as these have to be formally adopted and then all the paperwork has to be returned to the Borough Council.

Present

Cllrs K.Goodger, (Chairman) T. Bennett, V.Pratley, G.Rainbird Dist. Cllr .D. Pope 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, S.Dobson, J. Elliott, T. Eyles, District Cllr. V.Spikings, and 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 3rd July, 2012, having been circulated to all councillors were confirmed by all present and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting, following the addition of the following words – 14 Highway Matters – para 1...”regarding possible pedestrian crossing” and 15 Environmental Matters – 2 ..supporting complaint...instead of suitable complaint.

5. Matters Arising

1. In-House Training – The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Training had been arranged for Tuesday 18th September, 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in The Parish Hall.

2. Meeting of Adjoining Councils– An e-mail was received from Littleport confirming that the next meeting will be on 3rd September at 7.30 p.m. at The Barn, Main Street, Littleport. The following items would be forwarded to the Clerk for possible inclusion on the Agenda

1. Wash Road. **2. Rights of Way Management** **3. New Community Centre – Funding Ideas**
Cllr.Bennett gave brief details of the Joint Meeting of Parish Councils which has been set up by Upwell. The meeting was advised that Upwell always invite Welney to these meetings, and similarly Upwell are also invited to our meetings,

3. Dog Bins/Waste Bins – The meeting was advised that wheelie bin has been installed into the Housing and is being emptied by the Borough Council. Following a brief discussion it was agreed to leave the removal of the existing dog waste bin until next April – when this could possibly be re-sited.

4. Holiday Home Regulations – The Clerk confirmed that she had been able to find the following information relating to this matter, but it was agreed this should be left until next meeting, as Cllr.Dobson who raised the problem was not present:-

The Borough Council and Policy 0/17 of the King’s Lynn & West Norfolk Local Plan 1998 states “Away from the Coastal Zone shown on the proposals map and the designated area of outstanding natural beauty, new or extended touring caravan, holiday chalet and camping sites which do not impair acknowledged planning interests, particularly the character and appearance of the countryside and nature conservation, will be permitted..

Some planning permission relating to holiday homes stipulates no more than 6, 10 or 11 months occupancy. However, the favourite and most common ruling at present states

“This permission authorises the use of the land for the standing/occupation of 2 (or more) mobile homes for holiday purposes only and the mobile homes shall not be occupied as a persons main place of residence. The owner/operator shall maintain an up to date register of the names of all owners/occupiers of the mobile homes on the site and their home addresses, and shall at all reasonable times, make this information available to the local planning authority”.

5. Welney Emergency Plan – The Clerk confirmed that the plan had been amended and all the recent information had been included,. It was then proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Pratley and agreed that the plan should be adopted. The Chairman signed the control copy and the Clerk confirmed that arrangements would be made to sent this to various points., A cascade telephone system was also provided, and subject to additional numbers being added this was approved.

6. Children’s Party Day – It had been mentioned that because the Bouncy Castle had not been able to be used at the Jubilee Celebrations and further fun day would be arranged for the village children. However as both Cllrs. Dobson and Elliott were not at the meeting, it was agreed to leave this matter for discussion at the September meeting,

7. Sandgate Corner Allotment Field. – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had cut the overgrown area of the field adjoining the houses, and the request of a relative of one of the residents and he was thanked for this. The Chairman confirmed that he would arrange to cut the uncultivated area of the field and tidy this up and would also arrange – time permitting – to level the pile of grass and debris to the left hand side of the entrance at the hammer head, This would make the area much tidier. It was also agreed to approach the Borough Council regarding the hiring of the field and explain to them that the situation with regard to allotments had not taken off as expected and we were finding it difficult to meet the rental. If the Parish Council were to come to an arrangement to clean and seed the field would the Borough Council consider a rental reduction so that the rent currently colleted from the allotment holders covered the rental required. At present it was over £57.50 short of the annual rental of £250.00 The matter would be discussed again at the next meeting.

6. Finance

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

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses 28 . 31

Fenland Fire Appliance LLP
Servicing of extinguishers at Pavilion 52 . 86

Paid by Direct Debit:

1.8.12	Mrs.P.Copeman	Clerks Salary	255 . 68
10.8.12	E-On	Street Lighting Elec	62 . 19

b. Electric Street Light Maintenance Contract

The Clerk confirmed that no invoices had yet been received from Novotec (who have taken over the street lighting maintenance contract.). Full details of how to report faults and lights out on line have been received.

c. Upwell Health Centre Car Park. – In April of this year the Parish Council paid the annual maintenance charge for the village share of the car park at the Health Centre. This sum had been increased from £150 to £155.89 by way of inflation. A letter had now been received from the Borough Council Property Services Manager, following an approach by Dist,Clllr.David Pope, and it has been agreed that this inflation should not have been added and will be deducted from next years charge, It has also been agreed that the contributions will remain static for the time being but he will probably consult with the contributors during 2013 about the potential for adjusting the contributions to account for inflation with effect from 2014 or 20115. Cllr. Pope gave a brief explanation to the meeting of how this came about.

7. Review of Parish Action Plan

In view of the small number of councillors present at the meeting, it was agreed to defer this until the September meeting. It was felt that the review could possibly be dealt with by the addition of various statements to paragraphs in the Action Plan so that these were recorded.

8. Open Meeting

.At the last meeting it was agreed to hold an Open Meeting on Saturday 18th August, at 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Hopefully everyone will have seen the notice in The Welney News which mentions the proposed new Community Centre and Possible Community Shop. It also confirms that there will be a surgery/network session at the start, with a formal presentation 1 hour after the start time followed by questions and answers. However the Chairman explained to the meeting that this would certainly not be a good day for him because of work commitments and it was agreed at 3 p.m. on a Saturday was not a good time. It was therefore unanimously agreed to Postpone this meeting and hold an open meeting on a Saturday morning in the Autumn with a more formal public meeting one evening, possibly before a Parish Council meeting. The Clerk confirmed that she would let all the user groups, the Welney News, the Lamb and Flag etc. know, and notices would be posted in the Pavilion and at the Parish Hall. Further arrangements would be made at the next meeting.

9. Parish Hall

The electricity meters had been checked before the meeting and the total amount collected was £2.00.

The Clerk confirmed that hall lettings have been very quiet for the last few months. Since the 1st of April up to the end of July (4 months) we have taken the sum of £159.00 plus £100 for a wedding reception booking – which is of course a one off event. An e-mail had been received from Cambs ACRE warning village halls to be wary of an approach from MPLC to show films. If approached contact Philip Peacock at Cambs ACRE, Littleport.

10 Proposed New Community Centre

As everyone is aware, Marshall's Charity have confirmed commitment of £100,000 towards the cost of the New Community Centre. This was agreed at the Trustees meeting on 18th July and the Clerk confirmed that she is awaiting confirmation of this in writing. As soon as this is received a letter expressing our thanks and gratitude would be sent to the Trustees.

The Expression of Interest Form from Fens Adventurers Rural Development Programme has been completed and returned to them with copies of accounts, plans, planning permission etc. As you know we could be eligible for a grant of approximately £50,000 from them. Acknowledgement has been received, and they have asked for a copy of the letter from Marshall's Charity and details of other funding sources.

Contact had been made with the Borough Council to ask for funding sources that they can help with – they have confirmed that they have some funds opening and will be sending full details a little nearer the time. In the meantime we are waiting for an application forms for Capital Grants which the Council themselves have available.

Contact has also been made with WREN. The deadline for the next round of funding is 29th August, 2012, and is dealt with on a first come first serve basis. A copy of the application form and whatever else is available has been downloaded. The main project funding is between £15,001 and £75,000 and is for the provision, maintenance or improvement of public park or other public amenity in the vicinity of a landfill site. This includes village halls, children's play equipment, skate parks, village greens and public parks, woodland improvements, cycle paths and nature reserves. All must be available to the general public. Confirmation had been received from Cambs ACRE that WREN funding does not include bricks and motor, but internal fixtures, electrics etc. so it would probably need a list from the builders quotation with prices to back up the application.

The Clerk confirmed that she had also been able to find out that Sport England Protecting Playing Fields fund will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection for sport. The next round of funding will open in November this year and grants are available between £5,000 and £50,000. This funding is

apparently connected with the Sporting aspects of the Big Lottery Funding, and application forms and information have been requested.

There are also some smaller charities which have small amounts of grants available for community projects (anything from £500 to £5,000 in some cases – most of these are looked after by Norfolk Community Foundation or Norfolk Rural Community Council.

The Clerk confirmed that she had also put together the Sponsorship Letter which Cllr.Bray wrote with a copy of the new Hall on the bottom. Cllr.Bray has confirmed that the first 10 of these letter have been sent out, with 10 more to follow on a weekly basis. He requested the Chairman to print and sign a further 30 copies.

The Clerk confirmed that she had been approached by the Delta Pilots who would like to put on one of their concerts in the village Hall on a Saturday evening during the Autumn (October/November) free of charge so that proceeds could go to the New Community Centre. Their generous offer was gratefully accepted, and the Clerk agreed to liaise for a suitable date. Arrangements could then be made for an evening with possibly some refreshments and a bar. Councillors felt that this could pave the way for say a monthly fund raising event, and ideas were requested for future discussion.

11. Playing Field

The Chairman confirmed that he and the builder had installed the foundations for the football goal and netball hoop and these should be installed very shortly.

The Chairman reported to the meeting he had been approached by residents and the Cricket Club with regard to a large van which was parked on the unmade road outside No.5 Hurn Drove. It was understood that this was a Freebridge property and it was agreed to ask them if they could request their tenant park his van off the road because it was causing an obstruction for vehicles using the playing field parking area. It would be much more difficult when the new Community Centre was built.

Problems had also been experienced with dogs fouling the playing field, and it was agreed to make sure that sufficient signs were put up around the field to deter people walking their dogs.

12. Correspondence

1. Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership – e-mail dated 23.7.12 – Has been successful in its bid for funding for a Landscape Partnership Scheme – they have been awarded development funding that will enable them to work with their partners up to a second stage application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. If this is approved then we would be able to draw down around £900,000 for projects conserving and celebrating the unique nature and built heritage of the Ouse Washes Area.
2. B.C.K.L.W.N. – Council meeting Minutes and Agenda
3. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Details of the new Payment Methods – Consultation proposes to remove the law that restricts local councils to making payments by cheques with two signatories. However these councils who wish to retain their present system of payment will be able to do so – the proposal broadens opportunities it does not take them away.
4. 25th monthly report from Elizabeth Truss MP
5. Letter from Hayley Kurt of BCKLWN – changes to refuse collection in your Parish. Apparently changes will be taking place with effect from 1st April 2013. **She will be attending our meeting on 6th November, 2012** at 7.30 p.m. to explain the changes and answer any questions – Please keep a note of the date.
6. Norfolk Constabulary 3.8.12 Crime figures in Norfolk
7. BCKLWN – Assistance requirement to local six old addressees. Councillors were able to identify two of the properties but not the other four.

13. Plans and Planning Matters

Nothing to report

14 Highway Matters

Welney William Marshall school – As advised previously an e-mail had been received from Elizabeth Truss dated 28th July with regard to the School problems and she attached a copy of the letter from the NCC. She was thanked for the information, and a letter with copies of both Elizabeth's letter and the letter from the NCC was forwarded to the school for the children.

Following the e-mail to Karl Rands on 19th June regarding the grass cutting of the rights of way, the clerk confirmed that she had contacted Karl again and received a reply on 13th July apologising for not having been in touch earlier. He is looking for advice on whether Highways could fund this or a proportion of the cutting costs, from the maintenance fund. When he knows more, he will let us know.

On the same subject an e-mail was received from Nick Tupper, NCC Highways regarding the changes as to how Public Rights of Way are managed within Norfolk. Any problems with PROW's have now to be addressed to either Andy Wallace or Karl Rands at King's Lynn. They will also be following up shortly with those Parish Councils who have previously highlighted that they may be interested in volunteering services. Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he had now been appointed to the Local Access Forum and he gave details of the history of cutting footpaths and bridleways etc. He also explained that the County Council may well be subject to legal aspects regarding their handling of this matter.

As you know Environment Agency (Dave Gillett) contacted our Chairman on 20th July with regard to the possibility of the Wash Road flooding. Our Chairman was able to circulate the information to everyone, which means all councillors were kept fully informed. Hopefully this method will be used again in the future either by contacting the Chairman or the Clerk so that we can then circulate everyone with the up to date situation.

Wash Road – The Chairman gave a brief report on a meeting which he had attended where he was advised that funding in some areas is available for dot matrix signs. It is now some considerable time since the last meeting with Highways and the Environment Agency in connection with the Wash Road, and it was agreed to ask for an update of the possible provision of the signs and the current situation.

Following the previous meeting, the Clerk had reported 7 various problems to Highways and received an acknowledgement and a reference number. However no confirmation has ever been received that any of the work has been done, and the Council were advised that the Highway Rangers would be visiting the village during the week commencing 30th July, but nothing had been seen of them. Following discussion it was agreed to report the points once more and ask for an update

1. Problem in the surface of A.1101 opposite Bells Drove
2. The broken metal legs on the new barriers at Suspension Bridge
3. Large dip in the road outside Briard Lodge on March Road
4. Main Street is now in a really bad condition and in need of urgent attention
5. Gratings/drain covers on Wisbech Road/Main Street are now standing proud and causing problems
6. Hedges at Tipps End – These have now become so badly overgrown that large vehicles will soon have problems negotiating the roads. It appears that some of the hedges have been trimmed, but the problem has not gone away.
7. Bad Dip in the road near Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank.

15. Environmental Matters

1. Hundred Foot Bank – Concrete Access Road

The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting a letter had been received from Philip Gelsthorpe of the Environment Agency apologising for the fact that he had not had a chance to send a follow up letter from the meeting on 18th July. Cllr. Pratley gave a brief report of the meeting and confirmed that residents are allowed to fill in the potholes provided they advise what material they will be using and that it meets the E.A. requirements. It was agreed to ask Mr. Gelsthorpe for a follow up letter and also to ask if the E.A. would be prepared to provide some plans for the potholes, as discussed at the meeting.

2. Sewage Lagoon at Christchurch

Christchurch (backed up by Welney) have complained again regarding the state of the access road and although Anglian Water stated that they were monitoring the road and would inspect again when the tanker movements were reduced, this was not considered sufficient and Anglian Water have now instructed one of their contractors to make good the roadway. This work should have been completed by 3rd August, Anglian Water have confirmed that the tanker movements have now much reduced and it was agreed to contact them to try and arrange a site meeting at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 4th September, prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

3. Parking Area at the Side of the Parish Hall.

Following the recent report in the Welney News regarding the material used to fill in the pot holes at the side of the Parish Hall, at the request of the Chairman the Clerk had contacted Dave Gillett at the Environment Agency and given him all the details. He has made enquiries but none of his operatives have done any work with regard to filling in the potholes on this area and he had no idea of who had filled them in. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the material used was very dangerous and it was further agreed to ask the Environment Agency if they could visit the site and fill the holes in with the correct material..

16. Items for Next Agenda

None.

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

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

Dated ...4th September, 2012....