

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Prior to the Parish Council meeting, Councillors had met with the Anglian Water Local Treatment Manager Mr.Paul Elsam on site at the Sewage Treatment Lagoons at Christchurch at 6.30 p.m.

Present

Cllrs T.Bennett, (Vice Chairman) J.Elliott, T. Eyles, C.Freer, V.Pratley, G.Rainbird
C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and the Clerk. .

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. K. Goodger and S.Dobson,

2. Site Visit to the Sewage Lagoons

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting, and thanked them for attending. He then introduced Mr.Elsam the Anglian Water Local Treatment Manager who gave brief details of the actual workings of the lagoons, and details of the problems which had been experienced over the last winters, giving rise to the tankering away of the waste material. He explained that they were working hard to try and sort out the problems which they had experienced and hopefully the system would be working to full capacity very shortly. He answered questions from Councillors. Everyone agreed that it had been an excellent visit on a pleasant evening and there was no smell at all associated with the lagoons. Mr.Elsam promised to keep in touch as matters develop in the future, and he was thanked most sincerely for arranging the visit and for talking to the Parish Council.

3. Public Participation

None

4. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

5 Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 7th August, 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 amendment of the 6th line of the 3rd paragraph – 14 Highway Matters – to read Local Access Forum and not Local Action Forum.

6. Matters Arising

1. In-House Training – The Clerk reminded Councillors again that the Training had been arranged for Tuesday 18th September, 2012 at 7. p.m. in The Parish Hall and it was hoped that as many as possible would attend,

2. Meeting of Adjoining Councils– The meeting took place at Littleport on Monday 3rd September and although attendance from the other councils was disappointing, those present agreed it was an excellent meeting. Three councillors from Welney attended, with 2 from Manea and the rest from Littleport including a District Councillor and a County Councillor. Cllrs.Bennett, Pratley and Elliott gave a report on the various items on the agenda put forward by Welney.

Item 3 – Wash Road – Another meeting with Highways is long overdue and it was agreed to possibly include the RSPB and the WWT in these meetings as they are obviously affected when the road is flooded. The Vice Chairman explained that Environment Agency are more than happy to adjust the trigger levels for the water they let onto the road, but not until some work has been carried out on the road itself – i.e. levelling. This would be brought to the attention of Highways yet again, in the hope that something can be done.

Item 4 – Rights of Way Management – The current situation in Norfolk was explained to Cambridgeshire by way of a warning – they have no problems at present.

Item 5 – New Community Centre building funding ideas – It was suggested that the Action Plan must be updated as it is now 5 years old – this is being undertaken – and to apply for any funding available relating to Sport and Leisure.

Item 7 – The implications for local councils of the localism Act 2011 – One of the main implications is the provision of Broadband for all areas. C.Clr.Humphrey recommended that a survey should be carried out of areas in the village that do not have access to Broadband and then the information should be passed to Norfolk County Council so that the areas can be included in their list for consideration. It was confirmed that the Hundred Foot Area have limited or no access to Broadband and the information would be passed to County Office.

3. Holiday Home Regulations – The information present to the last meeting was kept on file as Cllr.Dobson who raised the matter, was not able to attend the meeting.

4. Welney Emergency Plan – The Clerk confirmed that the plan is now being duplicated and will be sent out to the various bodies where copies have been held in the past. She attached a copy of the updated telephone cascade system for individual records.

5. Children’s Party Day – This item was again brought forward from the last meeting. It had been suggested that a further party should be held because the children had missed out on the bouncy castle at the Jubilee celebrations because of the bad weather. After a brief discussion it was agreed that it might be a good idea to hold a Halloween Party, and discussion and arrangements would take place in due course.

6. Sandgate Corner Allotment Field. – The Clerk confirmed that she had received an e-mail from the gentleman at the Borough Council dealing with this confirmed that he was away from the office until 18th September and will deal with queries regarding the future of the field on his return. The matter could then hopefully be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Stopping the Incinerator at King’s Lynn – A lengthy e-mail had been received from the Farmers Campaign dated 22nd August, and C.Clr.Humphrey confirmed to the meeting that the planning application as been “called-in” – a public enquiry to decide the planning permission.

7. Finance

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

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	23 . 34
Westcotec – Street Lighting Maintenance July and August 2012-09-10	115 . 76
Anglian Water – Supply to the Pavilion	67 . 99
Anglian Water – Supply to Parish Hall	43 . 67
Paid by Direct Debit:	
21.8.12 E-On Electric for Pavilion	33 . 00
-do- E-On Electric for Parish Hall	60 . 33
1.9.12 Mrs.P.Copeman Clerks Salary	255 . 68
10.9.12 E-On Street Lighting Elec	62 . 19

External Auditors – The Clerk confirmed that she had received confirmation that Mazars will continue to carry out the external audit of the Parish Council Accounts for five years from 1012/13.

8. Review of Parish Action Plan

As Councillors had not had the opportunity to review the Parish Action Plan, it was agreed to hold this over to the October meeting. Councillors were asked to study their copies and make notes in the various sections so that the plan can be updated. It was also agreed to include an item on the current broadband situation.

9. Open Meeting

.Following the cancellation of the meeting on 18th August, there was a general discussion regarding the possibility of arranging further meetings. It was agreed to leave the matter on the Agenda for the October meeting when hopefully arrangements could be finalised with possibly a Morning Open Event in November followed by a more formal evening meeting. There are a range of matters to be dealt with and it was felt that a formal meeting should be held on a separate evening as there would not be sufficient time before a Parish Council meeting.

10. Parish Hall

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

The Clerk confirmed to the meeting that the Parish Council Notice Board affixed to the Parish Hall is now in need of replacement Perspex to the doors as notices put in the board are not readable through the old Perspex. It was agreed to replace the Perspex and the Clerk confirmed that she would make arrangements for this to be done as soon as possible.

Access Ramp at the side of the Parish Hall. The Clerk confirmed that she had received a telephone call from a concerned resident that he had witnessed local children removing the blocks from under the ramp and smashing them in the grass. The matter had been reported to PCSO Esther Bortz at Downham Market who had agreed that she would attend the primary school for an assembly and make sure that the children knew that this was an offence. The Chairman had confirmed that he would request a builder to make the ramp safe as soon as possible. There is also a dangerous hole outside the front door of the hall which needs attention.

11 Proposed New Community Centre

.The Clerk confirmed that she had now received the official letter from Marshall's Charity confirming their commitment for £100,000 towards the cost of the proposed new Community Centre.

A copy of the letter had been sent to the Fens Adventurers in support of our funding application, and they are now waiting for further funding details in support of our application.

The Clerk confirmed that most of the grant sources including Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk are managed by Norfolk Community Foundation and applications have to be made to them. A list of possible grants has been requested from the Foundation and application forms have been downloaded in readiness for funds re-opening.

An application form has been downloaded for WREN but as they do not support the actual building, but only "fixtures and fittings" it will be much more difficult to complete without a breakdown of the figures from the quotation. This will certainly need some careful consideration, as will most of the applications which require breakdown of the requirements split over two or three years, and the funding granted must in some cases be used within one year.

C.Cllr.Humphrey advised that Norfolk County Council had issued a press release for a Community Fund which would be on line with effect from 10th September and he promised to provide the Clerk with a copy. Details and possible application information would then be obtained on 10th September.

There is also some Lottery funding available with regard to sporting activities and Sport England – Protecting Playing Fields. However their next round of funding is not yet open, but a careful watch will be made to ensure that we at least have an application form.

Cllr.Bray had been sending out some of the sponsorship letters and two replies had been received wishing us every success but regretfully they cannot help because their commitments for the current year have already been agreed. After discussion it was agreed that the letter should be rehashed in January 2013, with details of the current situation at that time – i.e. grant from Marshall's and anything else Council have been able to obtain, so that possibly we might be considered for anything available during 2013.

Confirmation of a suitable date was still awaited from the Delta Pilots for their concert in the Hall and it was agreed that further fund raising ideas could be discussed at the Public Meeting.

12. Playing Field

Councillors had been advised of the request from Kevin Knights for an area on the playing field for use as an overnight stop on Sunday 12th May, 2013 for the team walking from Newmarket to Catterick to raise money for Help the Heroes. Following a positive response a reply had been sent informing him that we would be pleased to help but so far nothing further had been heard.

Following the last meeting, an approach would be made to Freebridge regarding the large van parked on the roadway outside No.5 Hurn Drove, which caused an obstruction when the car park area is used by the Playing Field and Pavilion. The question of notices regarding dogs fouling the playing field would also be looked into again.

13. Correspondence

1. Fields in Trust - Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge – Preserving parks and playing fields to ensure future generations of sportsmen and women continue to have their first taste of sport near home.
2. Norfolk Constabulary – Mobility Scooter users in West Norfolk will get the chance to tackle slaloms, slopes, crossings and cones as part of a course designed to improve safety – Monday 3rd September and Tuesday 9th October at North Lynn Community Centre
3. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – AGM 2012 Thursday 1st November – Nomination of Officers and Resolutions for Debate. Copy of Norfolk Link Copy of the CPRE (Norfolk) Magazine – Protect our Paths – keeping Norfolk's footpaths accessible for everyone to enjoy
4. Norfolk Constabulary – Dates and venues for Safer Neighbourhood Meetings
5. Cambs CC – Future Transport Project – Meeting at The Barn Littleport on Monday 1st October, 2012 3.30 to 5 p.m. (Cllr.Freer requested the information)

14. Plans and Planning Matters

The following planning permission has been granted:

Ref No. 12/00934/F – Mr.T.Baker, Replacement dwelling at Bank Farm, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney.
Dated 9th August, 2012. Subject to 9 Conditions.

A letter from Norfolk County Council regarding the Local List for Validation of County Council Planning Applications (Consultation Draft, August 2012) Comments to be received by 5 p.m. on 19th October and the local list is available at

www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/Local_List_Consultation/index.htm

15 Highway Matters

Public Rights of Way – Despite a further e-mail to Andy Wallace and Karl Rands, nothing further has been heard from them regarding cutting, maintenance or costs regarding the PROW – footpaths etc.

Following the last meeting the Clerk had reported the outstanding matters to Highways and had received an e-mail from Andy Wallace dated 24th August stating that he was on holiday until 3rd September and would like to make an appointment to come and see the Parish Council to sort out the problems once and for all. Following a brief discussion it was agreed to confirm that any day during the week commencing Monday 17th September would be convenient and leave the exact date and time to him.

So far the list of outstanding matters is as follows:

1. Problem in the surface of the 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 urgent need of attention
5. Gratings/drain covers on Wisbech Road/Main Street are now standing proud and causing problems
6. Hedges at Tipps End. Some of the hedges have been trimmed but others are badly overgrown and large vehicles are having problems negotiating the roads,
7. Bad Dip in the road near Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank.,

8. Wash Road – Any progress at all especially with the dot matrix signs and levelling
9. Completely blocked storm drains on Wisbech Road (near Stockyard Farm) full of rubbish (Reported to Highways on 28th August and cleared the next day).
10. The meeting was advised that there appears to be a “lean” on Suspension Bridge

One other point which was raised was with regard to work which had been carried out on Wisbech Road over the past months. The Parish Council would be interested to hear how this work, which was reported by an individual, was carried out so quickly when the Council do not seem to be able to get anything done!.

16. Environmental Matters

1. Hundred Foot Bank – Concrete Access Road

Following the last meeting a letter had been sent to Philip Gelsthorpe at the Environment Agency and a reply had been received dated 10th August stating that following a full review of all the titles on a house by house basis which had recently been completed by their legal team, he would now be writing a personal letter to each household. With regard to the planings mentioned for filling in some of the holes, he would be speaking to Hilary Lockwood to see if she had made any decision.

Cllrs. Eliott and Pratley confirmed that they had both received letters as advised above, but the letters bore no resemblance at all to what was discussed at the meeting on site on 18th July and were a total waste of time. Whilst it was agreed that the Environment Agency have to establish access rights to the properties it was felt that this matter had been going on for long enough. Cllr. Pratley confirmed that she would be writing to the E.A. and including copies to both the District Councillors and the M.P. in the hope that they might be able to bring some pressure to get this matter sorted out once and for all. It was confirmed that a second survey of the listing of the concrete slab road was promised, but nothing has happened – or has it been done without anyone being told? The Parish Council would write to the E.A. regarding this survey and ask what the situation is.

2. Sewage Lagoon at Christchurch

This matter had been dealt with earlier in the meeting following the visit to Christchurch

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

A note had been sent to Dave Gillett at the Environment Agency asking if he could inspect the potholes and the fillings which someone had put in them and perhaps make arrangements for the filling to be completed correctly. Nothing further had been heard and a reminder would be sent.

17. Items for Next Agenda

None.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

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

Dated ...2nd October, 2012...