

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 5th FEBRUARY, 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Cllr.K. Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs T.Bennett, T.Bray, S.Dobson, J.Elliott, G.Rainbird, V. Pratley, and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting,

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs.C.Freer, T.Eyles, Dist.Cllrs.V.Spikings and D.Pope and C.Cllr.H. Humphrey, and PCSO Esther Bortz.

2. Public Participation

None

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

4 Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January, 2013 were confirmed by those present and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting following the amendment of a name under apologies for absence and the correction of the spelling of a name on Page 4 second line.

5. Matters Arising

- a. Possible Oil/Utility Purchasing Group – Information had been received from Mr. Gilbert and the Chairman also reported that he had spoken to Anglia Farmers. Anglia Farmers would be more than happy to address a meeting of the Parish Council to explain the setup, if sufficient residents were interested in joining the scheme. Cllr.Bennett agreed that he would keep the Chairman informed of those persons interested, and that Christchurch would be approached to see if they would be interested in joining.
- b. Village Infrastructure - Concerns were expressed regarding water pressure, electricity disruption etc. and Cllr Bennett enquired as to whether the Council should be making more of an effort to try and get a better service for the village. Councillors confirmed that there has for some time been an issue with the electricity supply to the village, where lights dim and short term disruption can happen on a daily basis. It was agreed to write to UKPower Networks setting out our concerns and asking what can be done.
- c. Parish Council Newsletter – Cllr.Bray confirmed that he would like to see the Parish Council issue an Annual Newsletter to every house in the Village setting out what the Council have done on various subjects and keeping residents fully informed of all activities. It was agreed that Councillors would consider this suggestion and possibly come up with ideas, and that the matter would be discussed further at the next meeting.
- d. Possible Community Shop – Cllr.Bennett agreed to monitor any feedback from his article in the Welney News and that the item would be put back on the Agenda when any further interest or information is to hand. Cllr.Elliott advised the meeting that if the Community Shop did not go ahead she may be able to organise a bread/cakes run on an order only basis on certain days during the week for the village.
- e. Public Footpaths and Rights of Way – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had attended the Norfolk Access Form recently and Norfolk are the only County in the Country who have taken the decision not to cut the Footpaths and Rights of Way. Others are all holding back because of the legal implications. Some parishes have considered including an extra figure in the Precept in order to pay a contractor to cut their footpaths and rights of way. After a brief discussion it was agreed to wait and see how matters develop in April/May when the footpaths etc are likely to start becoming overgrown, and then discuss the matter again.

6. Finance

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

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	24 . 75
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Paid by Direct Debit

1.1.13 Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary	255 . 68
15.12.12 E-On – Electric for lights	62 . 19
14.2.13 E-On – Electric for Pavilion	50 . 49

Annual Precept – At the last meeting Council had unanimously agreed to precept on the Borough Council for the sum of £10,000 for the year 2013/14. Councillors had all been supplied with copies of correspondence and information since the last meeting, and advised of the fact that we now have to complete a new form stating the Estimated Net Precept requirement plus the Council Tax Support Grant. The Council Tax Support Grant for Welney is £1,170 and this would leave the figure of £8,830 as the Estimated Precept to give the total sum of £10,000. The new forms have to be returned to the Borough Council by 14th February and after brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and agreed that the forms should be completed as described above and submitted as soon as possible.

Formal Adoption of the Parish Council Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Each year the Council have to formally adopt the above Regulations and after confirmation that there had been no changes to either document, it was proposed by Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Pratley and agreed that they should be adopted for the year 1.4.13 to 31.3.14

7. Parish Hall

The electricity meters had been checked before the meeting and a total of £12 was removed.

Problems had been experienced with the time delay on the exterior light at the Parish Hall and it was understood that the electrician had now fitted a new unit. However the light was still not working and the Chairman confirmed that he would attend as soon as possible to change the bulb in the hope that this would solve the problem.

8 Proposed New Community Centre

It was agreed that a meeting to look into funding sources and consider applications would take place at Cllr.Bray's House on Friday 22nd February, 2013 and the Clerk would confirm the details to all those who had expressed an interest in attending.

Cllr.Dobson also confirmed that she would be holding an Open Meeting on Saturday 23rd February in the Parish Hall when it was hoped that residents would attend with ideas for fund raising events so that a calendar could be put together for the year ahead. The Chairman mentioned the possibility of holding a Bar-B-Q at his home and he would look into this and report back in due course.

9. Playing Field

A letter was received from Mr.Carter at The Sands, New Road expressing his disappointment that no one from the Parish Council had contacted him regarding the dangerous trees on the Playing Field boundary. Cllr.Bennett agreed to call and see Mr.Carter and discuss the matter with him and in the meantime the Clerk would search the files to see if there was any reference on the original Conveyance to the exact measurements of the boundary of the field when it was purchased in 1969.

10. Correspondence

1. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Drive Safe for Longer – Guidance for Older Drivers – www.norfolk.gov.uk/mindroad
2. Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk – Warner West Norfolk – Grants to owner occupiers who a qualifying benefit, to replace inefficient and defective central heating boilers and/or upgrading inefficient heating systems. Available until end of March 2013.
3. Creative Arts East – Live Performances and Village Screen details.

4. Norfolk Association of Village Halls – Newsletter and annual Conference which will be held on Saturday 2nd March at Edgefield Village Hall.
5. Came and Company Parish Council Insurance – Risk Management details and new membership website area
6. Elizabeth Truss MP – 29th Monthly Report.
7. 4th Joint Meeting of Upwell Group. e-mail and Minutes. However I could not open the minutes as they were in docx format and the Clerk did not know how to send them any other way.
8. Norfolk County Council – Better Broadband for Norfolk Information Sheet 9
9. NCC – Land at The Willows Business Park – Energy from waste facility. Public Enquiry will start on 26th February and is expected to last until 19th April. Anyone may attend the public inquiry and if you wish to speak you should contact the Programme Officer to arrange it. Planning Inspectorate will send a copy of the Inspectors report and the Secretary of State’s decision to those who request one in writing.
10. Norfolk Constabulary – Details of the joint scheme with Suffolk aimed at enhancing fraud investigations. This will be dealt with through www.actonfraud.police.uk or tel. 0300 123 2040
11. Police and Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Support Plan for Norfolk.
opccn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk
12. Norfolk Constabulary – Crime figures for Norfolk.

11. Plans and Planning Matters

Nothing to report.

12 Highway Matters

The Clerk confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with Highways, Environment Agency and hopefully the Police on Monday 11th February, 2013 at 2 p.m. at The Parish Hall, Welney. Details of those who had confirmed they would attend were given to the meeting and the Chairman confirmed that he had written to Elizabeth Truss MP and was awaiting her reply. The Chairman also reported that he had invited Steven Barclay MP for North Cambridgeshire to attend and although he could not make the meeting personally, he would be sending along his Senior Aide Alan Brace. This invitation had resulted from an article in the Ely Standard that Steven Barclay had written regarding the Wash Road, as he lives locally. The Chairman also confirmed that Mr. Will Sutton from Christchurch had also been invited and would be attending.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received an e-mail from Martin Edmunds at the Highways, dated 14th January advising that he had not yet had the opportunity to deal with the list of outstanding items but would be doing so shortly. However the meeting was advised that the broken barrier supports at Suspension Bridge have been repaired, and also the dyke around Sandgate Corner has been cut on both banks, and is looking much tidier. Thanks were recorded for the work.

The Highway Rangers were supposed to attend the village during the week commencing 28th January, but they had not been seen by anyone, and no advice had been received as to when exactly they were supposed to be in Welney.

13. Environmental Matters

1. Hundred Foot Bank – Concrete Access Road

It was reported that the new fences have been completed, but no progress has been made with regard to the roadway.

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

The Clerk confirmed that she had received an e-mail from Mr. Chris Rule at the Environment Agency regarding the parking area at the side of the Parish Hall which is badly in need of repair. Mr. Rule was of the opinion that this area was not the responsibility of the E.A. and that the Parish Council should be responsible for its upkeep. This is strongly denied as the roadway gives access to the Sluice and thence onto the River Banks and they have already made up the end of the road near the Sluice. Within the past year someone has tried to fill the potholes with “marbles” but these have turned out to be extremely dangerous. It was agreed to write to him again, and also request assistance from the Fishing/Angling Club.

3. Dog Mess

Following the last meeting the Clerk had contacted PCSO Esther Bortz regarding the problems being experienced with dog mess. PCSO Bortz confirmed by e-mail that she would visit the person who has been troubled with dog mess in and near her gateway and have a chat with her. The Clerk also confirmed that she had received a telephone call from Keith Lovejoy at the Borough Council following a complaint from a resident of Chestnut Avenue. There is nothing the Borough can do at the present time but he did send some Notices for putting up in appropriate places with regard to dog fouling.

4. Marshall's Charity

The Chairman gave a brief report on the Marshall's Charity AGM which had been held recently.

14. Items for Next Agenda

None.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. Councillors had been reminded that the Annual Parish meeting would take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 5th March, prior to the March Parish Council meeting.

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

Dated5th March, 2013.....