

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY
ON TUESDAY 2ND JULY, 2013 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J.Elliott and V.Pratley, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and the Police Community Support Officer.

An e-mail had been received from Cllr.T.Eyles, tendering his resignation from the Parish Council because of work commitments. His resignation was accepted and a letter of thanks would be sent to him. The Clerk confirmed that she would notify the Borough Council so that the vacancy could be advertised in the correct way.

2. Public Participation

The Chairman then closed the meeting for Public Participation and both Dist.Cllrs Spikings and Pope addressed the meeting with information on topics on the Agenda. Following a short discussion the Chairman reconvened the meeting.

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

4. Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting held on 4th June, 2013 having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising.

a. Parish Council News – Cllr.Bennett had provided a series of notes of possible articles and items to be included and these were discussed. Cllr.Bray confirmed that he had the postage covered and he also had a copy of Desktop Publisher which he could use to put the Council News together. Councillors agreed to provide certain articles and items of interest and the District Councillors confirmed they were also prepared to include items, It was requested that all details for inclusion should be ready for the next meeting.

b. Possible Village Waste Digester The Chairman explained to the meeting, the reasons for the consideration of a waste digester for the village, and before anything further was discussed he agreed to find out further details and information,.

6 Finance

a. Approval of Accounts for Payment – The following invoices were received and on the proposition of Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Freer and agreed, the cheques were signed:

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	17 . 35
Westcotec – Street Lighting Maintenance for May and June	115 . 76
Norfolk Playing Fields Association – Subscription 2013/14	20 . 00
Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk – Purchase of a supply of Caddy Liners for use by the village at £1.30 a roll of 50	65 . 00

Paid by Direct Debit

1.6.13 Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary	255 . 68
11.6.13 E-On – Electric for lights	60 . 19

Income – Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk Recycling Credits from the Paper Bank for 2012	24 . 10
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It was agreed to include this information in the Welney News article.

b. Parish Council Insurance.

Following the last meeting the Clerk had contacted the Insurance Brokers for the Aviva Insurance Policy again and they had given a full explanation of the cover and sums insured, which had been circulated to all councillors. Following discussion it was agreed that those present were happy with the answers, but it was further agreed to leave the matter on the Agenda until the next meeting as Cllr. Elliott who raised the matter, was not present.

7. Empty Houses in Chestnut Avenue.

The meeting was advised that a further house has now been vacated and some stripping of the empty houses has taken place but no work has started and will not now commence until such time as the birds nesting under the eaves have left, and the bats have been correctly removed. Dist. Cllr. Pope advised that he had been speaking to Mr. Robert Clarke of Freebridge and Mr. Clarke had confirmed that he would be prepared to come and talk to the Parish Council – especially in view of the fact that the School numbers would be down to approximately 20 in September. It was agreed to ask if he would attend our next meeting in August.

8 Possible Litter Pick in and around the Village.

The following information was received from the Borough Council:

“You can request a litter picking kit from cleanup@west-norfolk.gov.uk. The kit comes in a holdall and contains 8 little picking sticks, 8 high viz jackets, 8 pairs of gloves, plastic bags and risk assessment. You will need to let us know the following: The date of the litter pick, Who will be responsible for the kit and Where the kit and rubbish is to be delivered to/collected from.”

Cllr.Dobson confirmed that she would pass this information onto the party who made the initial enquiry.

9. Parish Hall.

The electricity meters were checked and the sum of £5.00 was removed for the month since the last meeting.

10. Proposed New Community Centre.

Following the last meeting, the Clerk confirmed that she had completed the application form for Big Lottery Funding and sent this over to Mrs. Wood who said she would go through this and complete a couple of the sections. The form was still awaited from Mrs.Wood, but would be sent off as soon as possible.

Following receipt of the letter from Mrs. Belinda Sutton of Elgoods, the clerk had replied as requested at the meeting, and received a telephone call from her a couple of days later. She quite understands the situation the council are in, and has confirmed that Elgoods are anxious to proceed on the terms previously agreed, but can do nothing until they are reasonably sure they can get planning permission on the site. It was confirmed to her that as yet the LDA has not been changed as in fact the new LDA will not go out to public consultation until July of this year and surely if they submitted an application based on the existing LDA they would be quite in order. Mrs.Sutton confirmed that they had spoken to their architect along these lines, and he in turn had contacted the Planning Office. The planning office had advised them not to waste their money at the present time, because an application on the land would not be considered – two reasons given were that it is in a serious flood risk area, and secondly the outcome of the new LDA is not known. Mrs.Sutton has promised to try and keep things moving from her end, and will keep the Parish Council fully informed of how matters develop. Dist.Cllr.Spikings confirmed that the proposed LDA will go out for public consultation on 27th/29th July up to 4th October and that residents are encouraged to write in with any comments. Cllr.Rainbird confirmed that the proposed plan was available on the Borough Council website and he produced a copy showing that the site of the Hall was included on the proposed LDA. Following discussion it was agreed to write to Mrs.Sutton again pointing out that it is proposed to include the land in the new LDA and again suggesting that a planning application should be made. With regard to flooding problems it was felt that Mr.Geoff Beale is the local expert in this matter and Council felt sure that he would be able to provide the best possible flood plan for the site.

A quotation had been received from English Brothers for the wooden frame structure for the proposed new Community centre. which is based on the plans, layout etc. which was approved for

the planning permission and a copy had been circulated to all councillors.. The Clerk had provided Mr.Hubbard at English Brothers with a set of the plans so he has produced his quote on the same size, same layout and footprint. The full quotation from foundations to completion was received on the day of the meeting and the details were presented to Councillors. After a short discussion it was agreed to ask Mr,Hubbard to come and talk to the Parish Council as soon as possible, to clarify some of the points and the prices.

Cllr.Bennett also agreed to contact a company at Barroway Drove who make and supply timber building and the WWT who have a timber building, to see if they could give any ideas of costings for a complete timber building, for use as comparisons.

In view of the fact that a timber frame/timber building is being considered the Clerk telephoned Mr.Keith Wilkinson at the Council Planning Office and asked him that if the Parish Council were to go with a timber framed building, rather than the brick construction as per the current planning permission would it be a requirement to resubmit the planning application and start from the beginning. He confirmed that Council would not have to resubmit the application, but simply apply for a **Non Material Amendment**. There is a nominal fee attached to this but it is nothing like the fee charged for a planning application.

Cllr.Dobson confirmed that the Fun Dog Show on 22nd June was a great success with a good attendance and everyone enjoyed the day. She confirmed that the day raised the sum of £300 for Fund Raising and grateful thanks were extended to her and her helpers for all their hard work.

Horse and Dog Fund Raising Event – 29th September. Cllr. Elliott asked for this item to be included but as she was not present at the meeting, Cllr.Bennett agreed to contact her with information regarding the possible route. Hopefully she would be able to make the August meeting and further information would be available.

Possible Concert by Delta Pilots – Fund Raiser – Following a brief discussion it was agreed that another concert would be an excellent idea and the beginning of December was suggested as a favourite time. The Clerk would contact the Delta Pilots and see if they had any dates available and hope that the final date did not clash with any other local events.

11. Playing Field.

A further letter had been received from Mr.Carter regarding the trees from the Playing Field that overhang his garden. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had spoken to Mr.Carter and he is now happy with the situation. The Chairman and Vice Chairman confirmed that they would make a further inspection and see if they could carry out the necessary work to the trees.

12 Correspondence

1. West Norfolk Sports Council. Free four weeks Rural Festival of Sport during the period 3-31st May 2014
2. 34th Monthly report from Elizabeth Truss MP
3. Norfolk Rural Community Council – Invitation to the AGM 16th July at their offices in Dereham
4. NALC – Copy of Norfolk Link- Initial training for Clerks and Councillors – Request for resolutions for the AGM, Norfolk Parish Training Partnership – CILCA Skills course. Brochure : Managing Flood Risk.
5. Norfolk Playing Fields Association – AGM – 18th July at Costessey
6. Creative Arts East – Village Screen – Event on 6th July at Thetford Guildhall from 11 a.m. where the cinema equipment will be demonstrated, a presentation given and an opportunity of questions about all aspects of putting on community film screenings.
7. Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Scheme – Conference on Thursday 5th September at The Maltings, Ely. Booking forms to be returned by Friday 5th July.
8. Norfolk & Suffolk Local Transport Body – Long List – New body that will receive funding from the government for large transport schemes across the two counties. Schemes over the two counties which may be eligible for funding over the 2015/19 period are available for inspection at www.norfolkandsuffolkltb.org.uk
9. Cambs ACRE – Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Scheme – Rachael Brown, Community Development Manager would like to talk to some residents from Welney about their attitudes and

knowledge towards their surrounding countryside and would like to meet with a small group of about 4-5 people at a local venue (pub or tea shop) and would be happy to buy a drink or cup of tea to ease the conversation. The Chairman confirmed that he had had a meeting with Rachel and he handed round some questionnaires which she asked to be completed by as many people as possible together with pre-paid envelopes.

10. Fenland Council – Core Strategy DPD and Policies Map 27.6.13 – Details at www.fenland.gov.uk

11. The Clerk confirmed that she had received an anonymous letter from residents. Following a brief discussion it was confirmed that anonymous letters do not receive any attention from the Parish Council, and are binned immediately. It was also agreed to put a notice to this effect in the next Welney News.

13. Plans and Planning Matters

Nothing to report.

14. Highway Matters/Wash Road

Following the last meeting the question of the overgrown trees on Wisbech Road, Tipps End had been reported to Highways. The Chairman had received a telephone call from Martin Edmunds of Highways who had confirmed that as soon as the birds have finished nesting they are planning to remove the hedge on Rutland Corner. With regard to the other overgrown hedges, Highways requested that initially the Parish Council write to the owners and if no action is taken then Highways will contact them direct. The Chairman confirmed that he would speak to the owners personally and hopefully the hedges would be cut back.

The following items were also reported for the attention of Highways:

1. Barrier on Suspension Bridge – Can this please be checked as it has been hit by a vehicle recently
2. The Chevrons on Sandgate Corner still need attention
3. Bad Pothole/broken Road Edge on Claytons Corner in need of attention
4. Flood Barrier on Delph Bridge – Nothing has been done about this. It is an eyesore and is also partially blocking the footpath – What is happening please?
5. It was also noted that several large articulated lorries are using the Lamb and Flag Car park as an overnight stop. As this is private property it is nothing to do with Highways but it was agreed to let Mrs.Sutton at Elgoods know in case they wished to do anything to prevent this happening.

Dot-Matrix Signs – Confirmation had been received from Paul Donnachie at Norfolk County Council that the scheme has been formally approved and announced. He also confirmed that three signs at locations to be finally agreed will be provided together with water depth monitoring equipment. An e-mail had also been received from Elizabeth Truss MP confirming that she had been advised of this and was pleased everything was going ahead. Following a brief discussion and inspection of the plan of the sign sent with the e-mail, it was agreed to contact Mr.Andy Wallace at Highways for confirmation of the design, as it was originally understood that there would be a section which would flash Road Flooded/Road Closed and this was not shown on the plan provided.

15. Environmental Matters

1. Hundred Foot Bank – Concrete access road

Nothing further to report – It was agreed that this was now a matter for the residents and it would be removed from future Agenda.

2. Fishing Debris on Delph Banks.

Cllr.Dobson reported that she had been approached by a resident regarding large fishing hooks being left on the banks of the Delph with small fish attached. It was confirmed that she had already written to the Environment Agency but following a brief discussion it was agreed that Council would also write expressing concern. It was also agreed to write to Mr.S.Booth of the Angling Club and asking if there was any possibility that some of the signs could be renewed, as they are now virtually unreadable.

16 Items for Next Agenda

1. Local Development Framework

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

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

Dated6th August, 2013.....