

Following on from the Street Light charges, the meeting was advised that the Street Light outside the School near the Telephone Box is not working properly and this would be reported. The Clerk also confirmed that the street light in Chestnut Avenue near No.33 had not been working since the work started and it was agreed to contact Freebridge to see when the light would be replaced.

7. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked before the start of the meeting and the sum of £28 was removed.

8. Proposed Community Centre

Councillors were reminded of the Working Group Workshop Meeting to be held on Thursday 6th February at the Parish Hall at 7 p.m. The Clerk confirmed that she had received confirmation that a representative would be present from the Friendship Club, Carpet Bowls, Cricket Club and the Delta Pilots and Cllr.Dobson would be representing the Dog Training Group.

Following the last meeting an e-mail had been received from the Environment Agency in response to the questions that Council had previously asked regarding the Parish Hall Site. The E.A. Confirmed that they would consider renewal of the current lease when it expires in 2016 – Without prejudice and subject to contract, and it would be based on current market rental values for such a site. However they were not prepared to give any figures for the rental, nor to indicate any term for the renewal at the present time, but would discuss this closer to the date. They did confirm that the value of the Hall site would be between £120,000 and £150,000.

A letter had been received from Marshall's Charity expressing their concern that matters had not progressed very far. They had also been advised that alternative sites were being considered, and the Trustees felt that it would be a wrong decision to consider purchase of an alternative site when the Parish Council owned the Playing Field. Cllr.Goodger (who had already declared an interest as a Marshall's Charity Trustee) advised the meeting that the Trustees were concerned that the village school had been discussed as a possible site for the village hall. The use of the school cannot be considered as everyone is working very hard to try and keep the school open, and if it did have to close and become empty then the Trustees would decide on the best course of action for the site and this would probably not be as a village hall because of the concerns regarding access etc. The £100,00 funding was approved on the plans for the building which we originally provided and if we wish to do anything different then a further application for funding would have to be made for the Trustees consideration. Concern was also expressed at the fact that consideration was being given to providing two facilities.

The Clerk also confirmed that she had received a telephone call from MRC advising that the budget price of £150.00 for the modular building, which they had given, could only be held until the end of February when various price increases would have to be incorporated into a new price. All the information would be incorporated into the meeting on 6th February.

9. Playing Field

Mr.Carter and the trees – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had been to see Mr.Carter and advised him that the Council were going to get quotations for the removal of the eight trees. Cllr.Bennett then advised the meeting that he had received two quotations, one for £1,000 and one for £600.both Plus VAT. Mr.Carter had telephoned the Clerk and confirmed that he was quite happy to wait until the weather improved and the land dried out, and the work could be carried out by the Chairman. It was agreed to confirm to Mr. Carter the current situation, and the Chairman would contact him shortly in order to make arrangements as soon as possible.

A request had been received from the Welney Croft Cricket Club asking for an increase in the monies paid to them for the cutting of the grass on the Playing Field during the summer season. This charge has stood at £725 for several years, and it was discussed and then proposed by

Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr. Fleming and agreed that the charge should be increased to £850.00 per year.

The small goal which the Council had provided on the playing field had been removed when Mr. Loveday kindly installed the full size goal, and he agreed to re-instate this so that the children could use it. He also confirmed that there is a collapsible golf practice net available for use if anyone is interested. If so please contact Mr. Loveday and he will arrange for it to be put up.

Grateful thanks were extended to the Chairman Cllr.Goodger and the residents of the house opposite the Pavilion. Cllr.Goodger had provided a trailer load of planings to fill in the potholes, and the residents had come out to help spread them.

Confirmation had been received from Marshall's Charity that they had agreed to fund the artificial cricket wicket on the Playing Field which the Cricket Club had requested. The Clerk had taken advice and the invoice for the work would be raised to the Parish Council. Marshall's would then provide the money for the work, less the VAT. and the Parish Council would then pay the invoice in full and reclaim the VAT

10. Correspondence

1. Following the last meeting the Clerk had circulated everyone with possible dates for in house training and the 29th April was chosen. However this proved to be unavailable for County Office and new dates are awaited. Councillors will be circulated as soon as received.
2. Norfolk Constabulary reminding residents that they should no release any security information about their homes following reports of bogus telephone calls in the area.
3. Magpas 8.1.14 – Asking for a donation towards their expenses and running costs.
4. NCC Highways – January 2014 – Norfolk Gritting route leaflet.
5. Community Transport and Parish Councils Forum 25.3.14 at King's Lynn
6. UKPower Networks – Measures to be put in place in case of power cuts and what they are proposing during the current spell of bad weather.
7. Norfolk Constabulary – Police Warning re Credit Card Scam
8. Cllr.Goodger reported that he had received an e-mail regarding a plan which crashed in Welney during World War!! The contact was asking if a plaque to commemorate the event could be put up. Council were advised that the Borough Council do have a fund available for War memorials and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries. In the meantime, Cllr.Goodger would contact the gentleman again to find out more information.

11. Plans and Planning Matters

The following planning permission was received from the Borough Councillor Ref No. 13/01550/FM Revert 38 ha of arable land to lowland wet grassland including plastic sheet keyed into the clay at Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney.

Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he had been able to confirm that all work had been stopped at the Old Welney Hotel, Bedford Bank because of the wildlife and other legislation that had not been adhered to. The owner of the property has not been seen on site for sometime.

12. Highway Matters/Wash Road

It was noted by the meeting that the Dot-Matrix signs still have not materialised in and around the village and Highways have advised that these cannot be put up until the water has cleared from the road. The post which has been installed at Gypsy Corner on the Wash Road is for Highways to install their telemetry for measuring the depth of water, as apparently this is the best position for getting mobile telephone signals in order to work the signs. It is understood from Highways that they are hoping to link their system into the Environment Agency monitoring so that if one should go down, then it would automatically switch to the other. Mr.Wallace from Highways is speaking to his colleagues at Norwich and Westcotec to try and get this arranged as soon as possible.

An e-mail was received from Dave Gillett at The Environment Agency regarding the new signs and the concern of Environment Agency that if the systems are not linked in them their could be confusion regarding two differing sets of information about water depth. He also asked if the Parish felt that the Environment Agency should continue to give the information about water depth on their website, or whether this would be replaced by the Highways signs. After a short discussion it was unanimously agreed that everyone valued the E.A. Site and the Parish would appreciate it if they could continue giving out the information in its current format. A request would be made to Mr. Wallace to get in touch as soon as possible to sort out the matter of tying up the two lots of information.

Following on from the Wash Road being flooded, Cllr.Dobson asked if Highways would consider putting a diversion sign at the bottom of New Road, making sure that vehicles turned right and not left into Back Drove. Several vehicles had to be pulled out of Back Drove after their sat.navs directed them to take that route – there is no sign for the diversion after the top of New Road. A sign stating Not Suitable for Vehicles would also be appreciated.

An e-mail had been received from the Highway Rangers confirming that they had filled the pothole outside Bridge Farmhouse and done some work on the clearing of the ditch around Sandgate Corner. Further work would be programmed as a digger and traffic management will be required. Confirmation would be sent to them that the work had already been carried out as detailed in Paragraph 5(d) of these minutes. Cllr. Bennett also confirmed that the footpath on Wisbech Road has received some attention, and hopefully further work will be carried out in due course.

The following points were raised for Highways attention:

Pothole opposite Delph House as you turn right from Chestnut Avenue

Overhanging Trees outside Chestnuts, Tipps End, which are on the roadside of the dyke and assumed to be Highways responsibility.

Council then agreed that it was almost a year since the last meeting with the E.A., Highways from Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, District and County Councillors and the MP and Police from both Counties, with regard to Highway Matters and the Clerk was asked to fix a date on a Friday morning in the middle of March and invite them all to a meeting at 10 a.m. at The Parish Hall. This would hopefully give an update on the Highway matters in and around the area, and also the Dot-matrix signs which, if the water has gone by then, should be installed and working.

It was reported to the meeting that some drivers were being stopped by the Police after travelling across the flooded Wash Road, and given a £60 on the spot fine. Council had been led to understand that this course of action was not taken by the Police, but further information would be sought from those who had initially mentioned the matter, and then clarification could be obtained from both Norfolk and Cambridgeshire Police regarding their policy when the Wash Road is flooded. Cllr. Pratley agreed to speak to the person who had initially reported the matter and obtain further information.

13. Items for Next Agenda

1. Positive write up for the Parish Council on everything achieved in readiness for the next edition of the Welney News.

Cllr.Dobson then asked that a vote of thanks be recorded to the Chairman Cllr.Goodger for all the work that he does for the benefit of the village, and this was unanimously approved.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m and thanked everyone for attending.

SignedK.Goodger.....(Chairman) Dated 4th March, 2014