

Minutes of the Meeting of the Welney Parish Council
held at The Parish Hall, Welney, on Tuesday 4th March 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr.K. Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs. J. Barr, T. Bennett, S. Dobson, and V. Pratley the Clerk. Also present for part of the meeting: Mr. J.Loveday. And Mr.D.Bonner

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs.T.Bray N.Fleming, G.Rainbird, Dist.Cllrs. V.Spikings and D.Pope, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO Esther Bortz. PCSO Bortz had provided an e-mail with details of local crimes and crime prevention matters, for information.

2. Casual Vacancy

The Clerk confirmed that on 11th February she had received an e-mail from Cllr.Freer informing Council that it is with regret that she tenders her resignation from the Parish Council. Council confirmed that her resignation was accepted with regret and a letter of thanks should be sent for her hard work and effort over the years as a Councillor. The Clerk confirmed that the details would be forwarded to the Borough Council so that hopefully the vacancy could be filled by co-option as quickly as possible.

With regard to the Parish Council in house training session, the Clerk confirmed that Tuesday 15th April had been booked to take place at the Parish Hall from 7 p.m. onwards/

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage..

4. Adjourn the meeting for Public Participation

Mr.David Bonner confirmed that he was delighted to see that at long last the dot matrix signs had been installed and raised one or two questions regarding the information displayed and the working of the signs. It was agreed to monitor the working of the signs and see how efficiently they work.

5 Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th February , 2014, having been circulated to all councillors, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

6. Matters Arising

a. Parish Council Newsletter – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would hopefully be in a position to complete the newsletter after this meeting and asked for details of the Councillors so that possibly a profile of each could be included.

b. William Marshall School – The meeting agreed that the Parish Council would take up a table top at the School Fayre to be held on 29th March and Cllr.Barr agreed to help run the Bottle/Tomoba Stall. Some bottles were offered.

c. Village Litter Pick – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that there was no information regarding the flow of the water in the dyke around Sandgate Corner. He also confirmed that although he had received no offers of help from his article in the Welney News, he still had 6 or 7 people interested in helping and he would be trying to arrange the Litter Pick for the middle of April.

d. Report for Welney News regarding achievements of the Council.

It was confirmed to the meeting that the deadline for the next edition of the Welney News was 17th March, and Cllr.Dobson agreed to prepare an article for inclusion “singing the praises of the council” and advising the village of all the positive actions which have been taken recently. The Clerk then asked if Council still wished for a brief report of the meeting minutes to be included in the Welney News especially as all minutes were displayed in full on the Parish Council website usually within four

weeks of the meeting taking place, as soon as they were approved and signed. It was agreed that a Notice should be sent on this occasion informing residents that reports would no longer be appearing, but News Reports, articles and notices from the Parish Council would still be sent on a regular basis. After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Barr, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed that no further minute reports should be sent.

7. Future of the Allotment Field.

After a brief discussion it was agreed to retain the field for a further year and the Chairman would pay the annual rental, possibly less the cost of the one allotment which is still being used. He would then clean up the area and take off a crop of hay. In the meantime enquiries would be made of the Borough Council to see if they would be prepared for the Parish Council to retain the field for a nominal or no rental, in order that the field could be kept clean and tidy.

8 Finance

The following account was received for payment and on the proposition of Cllr.Dobson seconded by Cllr.Pratley and agreed, the cheques were signed.

Anglian water – Water for Pavilion 9.11.13 to 4.2.14	25 . 82
Anglian Water – Water for Parish Hall -do-	64 . 76
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	37 . 72

Paid by Direct Debit

Mrs.P. Copeman – Clerks Salary 1.3.14	255 . 68
E-On – Electric for street lights – Feb.	56 . 18
E-On – Electricity for Pavilion	54 . 56
E-On – Electricity for Parish Hall	166 . 27

Formal Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

On the proposition of Cllr.Bennett, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed, the Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were adopted without change for a further year.

9. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked before the start of the meeting and the sum of £34 was removed. The Clerk also confirmed that a letter had been received from Anglian Water regarding the water meters, of which there are two – one in the gents toilet and one under the sink in the Kitchen. Apparently the meter in the kitchen is not working correctly and needs to be replaced and following a site visit the engineer confirmed that he would arrange for the work to be put in hand.

10. Proposed Community Centre

Following the Working Group meeting held on 6th February most councillors had been supplied with a copy of the results from Cllr.Fleming. This was then studied in detail and following the result it was agreed to look into the two alternatives which had come out on top when scored by user group requirements etc. These were 1. To use the Church as a Village Hall and build a new

hut on the playing field, 2. Complete rebuild of pavilion to form a Village Hall on the playing field with a play area.

There was then a lengthy discussion regarding the two alternatives. Some councillors agreed that the only alternative is to build one new building on the Playing Field Site, but slightly smaller, with a hall to accommodate 40-50 people, carpet bowls and dog training. However in order to abide by the decisions reached at the Workshop it was felt that we must look into the possibility of utilizing the Parish Church as a Village Hall. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had informally spoken to the church members who were not against the idea, and he did inform the meeting that the A.G.M. of the Parochial Church Council would be taking place on 10th March and that it might be possible for this item to be included on the Agenda. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should contact the Churchwarden and ask questions as follows:

1. Consideration of installing a false ceiling to help with heating costs and possibly a false wall to give a hall area – what kind of area would be considered?
2. New floor to be installed and some of the pews would have to be removed
3. Whilst appreciating that there is a kitchen, additional toilet facilities would be required – is there anywhere they could be positioned?
4. Would there be any restrictions as to what type of events could take place. (Give details of all current user groups)
5. Presumably the views of the families with relatives buried in the churchyard would need to be sought.
6. What would the cost of heating be and also what would be the charge for hiring the building?
7. Would there be any additional space available for car-parking.?

Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he would be prepared to attend the meeting on 10th March on behalf of the Parish Council.

Attention was then given to the second item – New Building

It was agreed that the Clerk should ask MRC to give quotations for various sizes for the modular new build, but to include changing rooms, showers and toilets, and possibly a smaller kitchen area and a hall area to accommodate carpet bowls and between 40-50 people. Up to date quotations would be required for the 7 module building and then for leaving out one, two or even three modules and reducing the size. It was also agreed to ask if they could split up the cost of the building and fixtures and fittings so that it may be possible to approach Wren for some funding. Cllr. Dobson then requested that these matters should be dealt with by the Working Group of the Parish Council at a meeting on 18th March, 2014 at 7 p.m. in The Parish Hall so that matters can be moved forward as quickly as possible and a recommendation given to the next full meeting on 1st April. It was agreed that the Vice-chairman (Cllr. Bennett) would chair that meeting. The Clerk agreed to confirm this date to all councillors so that everyone had the opportunity of attending.

11. Playing Field

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Mr. Carter regarding the trees and that the chairman and Cllr. Goodger would be in touch to see what could be done as soon as the weather and equipment permits.

The Cricket Club had been informed that the Parish Council had agreed to the increase of £850 per annum for the cutting of the grass and a full list of home fixtures had been received and entered in the diary.

The artificial Cricket Wicket which Marshall's Charity had agreed to make a donation for had been ordered and the cheque for £5,950 had been received from Marshall's and paid into the bank. The invoice had been received from the suppliers so that the VAT can be reclaimed in the current year, and the cheque would be drawn in settlement of the invoice as soon as the work has been carried out and approved.

The Chairman reported that a call had been received from Sutton Parish Council offering an item of play equipment which was surplus to their requirements now that they were having some new equipment installed. The item consisted of a climbing frame, swings etc. and was free but had to be collected. Confirmation had been given to Sutton that we would like to take the equipment and as soon as the contractors confirmed that it had been taken down, arrangements would be made to collect it before the end of the week.

12. Correspondence

1. Following Cllr. Goodger's report to the meeting about the gentleman who had approached him about the plane crash and the possibility of arranging a memorial, the Clerk had contacted the Borough Council, but the fund that they have running is for World War One Memorials and this of course was during WWII.
2. Emneth Parish Council – e-mail, asking if we still wish to be included on their list of attendees

at their quarterly Joint Parish Council meetings. Confirmation given that we would like to be included in the list and if and when a representative was able to attend, they would do so.

3.Cllr.Bennett contacted the Clerk with regard to Mr.Ray Gilbert and his granddaughter's request for a House in Chestnut Avenue. Apparently they had bid on a house which had been advertised, and had been told that they were successful, only for Freebridge to change their minds.

Mr.Gilbert also rang the Clerk direct, and was informed that if he put the details in writing, the Parish Council would see if they were agreeable to write to Freebridge and ask them what was happening. However at the time of writing nothing further has been heard so can only assume that he has spoken to Freebridge again and been given further news. He said he had already contacted the Borough Council, Dist.Cllr.Spikings, Freebridge Chairman, and Elizabeth Truss MP With regard to the street light in Chestnut Avenue that is missing, the Clerk had spoken to Foster's foreman on the site who said it was UK Power Networks who disconnected it when they moved the pole. A letter was sent to ask them when the light would be reinstated, but at present no reply had been received.

4.e-mail from Elizabeth Truss MP regarding Denver Sluice with copy of the reply from the Environment Agency regarding their checks on water levels, obstructions blockages etc. in order to keep flood water moving through the system. Also brief history of the sluice and how it works.

5.e-mail from Elizabeth Truss MP regarding flooding dated 11.2.14 – advising that she had contacted Secretary of State DEFRA, Owen Patterson regarding flooding and possible dredging work to help alleviate the problems. She did promise to send a copy of his reply,

6.e-mail from Vicky Ford MEP 11.2.14 with copy of a letter she has written to Owen Patterson reinforcing the serious concerns raised by Elizabeth Truss MP and Stephen Barclay MP regarding increased Dredging in the Welney area.

7. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – Norfolk Village Games details.

13. Plans and Planning Matters

Nothing to report.

14. Highway Matters/Wash Road

Dot Matrix Signs – It was confirmed to the meeting that the signs and monitoring equipment were installed on Thursday 27.2.14 and commissioned on Friday 28th February. As the water was now on the road again, it appeared that the signs were now working although there had been initial problems with the monitoring equipment and the readouts. This appeared to be resolved, but it was agreed to monitor the workings over the period the road was flooded.

Confirmation from Highways that the Highway Rangers will be attending the village during the week commencing 31st March if we have any items they can deal with.

Following the last meeting, the pothole/break up of the road edge, opposite Delph House and also the overhanging trees at the Chestnuts, Tipps End, had been reported to Highways but nothing had been done. These would be reported again for attention, together with a pothole in March Road, between the last house on the right hand side and Kents Trailer Yard.

The street light outside the School had been reported to Westcotec but the problem still exists so it would be reported again, together with a street light at Suspension Bridge which has not been working for several days.

Meeting on Friday 15th March, 2014 – 10 a.m.

Invitations had been sent to the following persons and their replies are shown:

Traffic Management Department of Norfolk and Cambridgeshire Police – No reply received.

In the letter clarification was requested regarding the fines which were apparently given out to persons crossing the Wash Road when it is flooded.

Members of Welney Parish Council

Norfolk County Councillor – Harry Humphrey – **Attending**

Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Fred Yeulett – **Nothing heard**
Norfolk District Councillor – Vivienne Spikings – **I have not heard anything but she may be away**
Norfolk District Councillor – David Pope - **Attending**
Cambridgeshire District Councillor – Will Sutton – **Attending**
Elizabeth Truss MP – **Cannot make it but has asked for a report of the meeting.**
Vicky Ford MEP – **Also fully booked on the day, but would like to come and meet the Parish Council at Welney on Thursday 20th March – Have confirmed that this will be in order**
Norfolk County Highways – Mr. Andrew Wallace – **Attending**
Cambridgeshire Highways – Mr. Ben Hathway – **Attending**
Cambridgeshire Highways – Mr. James Rigney – **Attending**
Environment Agency – Mr. Dave Gillett – **Sends apologies**
Environment Agency – Mr. Adam Foster – **Attending with hopefully one colleague.**

The Chairman confirmed that he would produce an Agenda and bring copies along to the meeting

15. Items for Next Agenda

None

Cllr.S.Dobson tendered her apologies for the April meeting

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m and thanked everyone for attending.

SignedK.Goodger.....(Chairman) Dated1st April, 2014.....