

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Welney Parish Council**  
**held in The Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 at 7 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs. L.Bombata, S.Dobson, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert, V.Pratley, G.Rainbird and A.Wardle, Mr.J.Loveday and the Clerk.

The Chairman then introduced Ms.Karen O'Kane from Norfolk County Council who gave an extremely interesting and enlightening talk and presentation, on **Better Broadband for Norfolk**. She explained how the funding was obtained and how the faster broadband speeds were gradually being provided for all parts of the County. So far Welney has not been included in the first two rounds, but a further round of funding will be available in 2015. She promised to contact the Parish Council again in the New Year, when she would have a better idea of whether Welney was to be included in the new phase. She did explain that not all properties would be covered by the cabinets which were being installed and that it may mean that some properties would have to have their own satellite broadband systems.

The Chairman then thanked Ms.O'Kane for the information and welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr.Bray, Dist.Cllrs.Spikings and Pope, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and the PCSO at Downham Market.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None at this stage

**3. Public Participation**

None

**4. Minutes of the last meeting**

Following confirmation that parts of the minutes were incorrect the Chairman adjourned the meeting for discussion. Once reconvened it was agreed that Item 7 – Sandgate Corner Field, should be amended as follows: *....with 4 votes for and 4 votes against, the Chairman used his casting vote and the motion to hand back the field to the Borough Council was passed.....* The Chairman then initialled the amendment and the minutes were signed as a correct record.

**5. Matters Arising**

a. Better Broadband for Norfolk – Dealt with at start of meeting. Wait for further information in 2015.

b. Fund Raising Insurance – Clarification sought from Came & Co. received as follows:

*Parish Council Insurance – We confirm that if the Parish Council or a Council committee organise a fund raising event on land or in premises owned or managed by the Parish Council then your Public Liability Insurance would cover the event. With regard to a possible raft race on the local river, provided permission is granted by the Landowner for the Parish Council to stage the raft race event, we may be able to arrange cover but before I can confirm this I will need to refer the matter to Aviva's underwriters for their approval. They will wish to see as much detail as possible including the event risk assessment, the likely number and age range of the participants, distance of each race, the potential depth of the water and marshalling/safety arrangements.*

*With regard to the separate fund raising events, provided any events not taking place on Parish Council land have the approval of the land owner, the policy we arrange will cover any injury or damage arising which is due to the negligence of the Parish Council.*

Reminder to Council that when food is available at any fund raising event, persons holding Food Hygiene Certificates should always be in attendance

c. Full Council Training – Booked for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7 p.m. At Parish Hall – Reminder will be sent to all councillors nearer the time.

d. Parish Council website – Details from Cllr.Bombata regarding options and where the potential parish council

website could be viewed. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Wardle, seconded by Cllr.Elliott and agreed that a .org.uk domain name should be registered for about £10.00 per year initially, and see how things develop in the future.

e. Parish Council Notice boards – Enquiries made of planning and provided notice boards are installed on land or buildings owned or managed by the Parish Council no planning is needed. However private land, highway verges etc are all subject to planning applications and necessary permission being obtained and the cost for up to six notice boards would be £97.50. After discussion it was agreed that the existing sites – Playing Field, Pole at top of New Road, Parish Hall, and the Bus Shelter should be used for notice boards initially. Cllr. Gilbert confirmed he would make up the boards as soon as possible and thanks were extended to him.

f. Parish Council Newsletter – Cllr.Bombata handed out copies of the draft Newsletter and requested that Councillors should read the copy and then write to the clerk with any comments or notes which would in turn be passed on to Cllr.Bombata

g. Team Building Exercises – Cllr.Elliott explained her thinking that Councillors should all be pulling together. Several suggestions were put forward including a Practice Emergency situation possibly on a Saturday afternoon in January. Other ideas for consideration at the next meeting.

## 6. Casting Vote

Cllr.Bombata proposed the following motion for consideration by Council.

“In as much as the chairman has the right to use his casting vote any way he wants and I will abide with the results of any votes taken, I would like to move a motion that we adopt the protocol, as undertaken by most of the other Councils in the country, that **‘in the event of an equality of vote, the casting vote is used to keep the status quo’**. This will ensure that the issue being voted on can be given more time for deliberation.”

Following discussion, the motion was proposed by Cllr.Bombata and seconded by Cllr.Rainbird. The voting then took place with 2 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions. The motion was therefore not passed and Item 10 (1) in Council Standing Orders would remain unchanged.

## 7. Finance

On the proposition of Cllr.Elliott, seconded by Cllr.Pratley and agreed, the following invoices were passed for payment and the cheques were signed

Westcotec – Street Lighting Maintenance for September and October	115 . 76
Glen Stittle – Plumbing Work at the Parish Hall	85 . 00

Paid by Direct Debit

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary	255 . 68
E-On – Electric for Street Lights	62 . 19

The Clerk confirmed that she would obtain the necessary form from the Bank to make the Vice Chairman one of the cheque signatories along with the Chairman and Clerk.

Following discussion with regard to the possibility of forming a Finance Committee, it was agreed that the whole Parish Council is the finance committee and all invoices and payments in are put before Council each month. Parish Council interim accounts are also provided at the January meeting in order to assess the precept required for the coming year. Following further discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Goodger and agreed that a copy of the current Bank Statement should be furnished to councillors each month with the usual information for the coming meeting.

## 8. Parish Hall

The electricity meter was emptied at the start of the meeting and the sum of £7 was removed.

Clerk confirmed a problem with the water supply to the heater over the sink in the bar area and Cllr.Gilbert confirmed that he would have a look and repair the split pipe.

## 9. Proposed New Pavilion

Cllr.Pratley gave a report on behalf of the Project Action Team regarding the proposed new pavilion. She confirmed

that the money from the fund raising event held in September had now been paid into the bank. The Sport England grant application had been sent off and acknowledged, and the team were now working on the grant application for WREN which had to be submitted within the next week. The Team would be holding an Open Day on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 and fliers would be sent out to all residents informing them of the date. Grateful thanks were extended to the Parish Clerk for her liaison with the Action Team and for the information supplied. It was also agreed that a written report would be provided on behalf of the team to be sent to Councillors prior to each Council meeting. Cllr.Bombata raised the question as to whether or not the Action Team had been correctly set up and whether they were a sub-committee or a working group. Confirmation would be sought on this matter. He also proposed that a Risk Assessment needs to be in place. An amendment was proposed by Cllr.Wardle that Council look into whether a Risk Assessment is required, and if so what form it should take. This amendment was seconded by Cllr.Rainbird, with 6 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. Cllr.Wardle agreed to investigate. The question of the name of the new building was then raised and following discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Elliott, seconded by Cllr.Gilbert with 5 votes in favour and 3 abstentions that it makes very little difference at this stage what the building is to be called. Cllr.Pratley confirmed that the final name choice for the new building will be put to the village.

#### **10. Playing Field**

Notice regarding Dog Fouling on the Playing Field should be in next edition of Welney News. Clerk confirmed a rodent problem at the Pavilion but the Pest Control company had been called in and were trying to eradicate the problem.

#### **11. Correspondence**

1. Norfolk County /council – Norfolk's budget for future years and services.
2. Oil Club.co.uk – Leaflets to hand out if the village might be interested.
3. Open letter from Cllr.Bombata forwarded to all councillors.

#### **12. Planning Matters**

None

#### **13. Highway Matters**

The dip in the road outside Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank had been inspected and work ordered to make safe. The new flood gate on Delph Bridge is ordered and should be installed very soon. Mr.Wallace from Highways confirmed that he would be contacting the gentleman at Tipps End regarding speeding traffic although there is very little they can do. A pothole at the entrance to Chestnut Avenue would be reported for attention.

#### **14. Parish Action Plan**

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. All councillors would be supplied with a copy of the 2012 update for information.

#### **15. Items for Next Agenda**

Nothing.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.,

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

Dated .....2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014.....