

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY ON TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2014 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs. L.Bombata, T.Bray, S.Dobson, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert, V.Pratley, G.Rainbird and A.Wardle and approximately 20 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dist.Clr.D.Pope, Cllr H Humphreys, PCSO Clare Law and the Clerk. In the absence of the Clerk, Cllr Dobson agreed to take the minutes.

2. Declaration of Interests

None at this time

3. Public Participation

The items raised were as follows:

Anger by several members of the public at not being allowed to exercise dogs on the playing field, and also anger at not being consulted on the above. Belief was expressed that playing field is being taken over by the Cricket club Could the council provide an alternative dog walking park if the playing field is banned?.

Concern over the absence of maintenance on the bridleways and footpaths round the village.

Lack of information in Welney news.

Query as to what has happened to the Parish Council Newsletter

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November

With the amendment previously circulated by the clerk concerning the proposed newsletter Item 5 Matters Arising – subsection f having been confirmed and amended, the minutes were agreed as being a true record and signed. The minutes now read that Cllr.Bombata handed out copies of the proposed 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.

5. Matters Arising

a. Parish Council Website -

Cllr Bombata informed the Council that the domain name is now registered (www.welneypc.org.uk.)

Concerns were expressed from Cllr Bray and Cllr Wardle about the inclusion of personal details and telephone numbers (Cllrs Bray and Wardle) and e-mail address (Cllr Bray) and these were to be removed.

Despite wishing to go live as soon as possible it was felt that all councillors should look at the website and a demonstration by Cllr.Bombata, so that a final decision can be made

b. Parish Council Notice Boards

Three sites have been identified and Cllr Gilbert will be installing them in two weeks time. The Clerk would be asked to check if it has been confirmed that planning permission is required for other sites. The meeting was advised that that Luisa Canterra, who carried out the training session in November, was going to check on this.

c. Parish Council Newsletter

Concerns were expressed about the content. No final draft was available at the meeting. Councillors want to see the final version before it is sent out. As with the website, Cllr Bombata to circulate the final draft and publish on the next Friday.

d. Team Building Exercise - In addition to the suggestion for a Practice Emergency Situation possibly in January, Councillors were requested to bring further suggestions for consideration at the meeting.

Cllr Elliot suggested that as soon as the 'road closed' signs went up, that we tested out the phone cascade. This was agreed.

Cllr Goodger suggested a meal in the Lamb and Flag for all councillors (+/-) partners. No decision was made at his time and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal

Cllr. Bombata requested that this item be included on the Agenda and he has written as follows:

Improving Vodafone mobile phone signal in the village with Vodafone rural Open Sure Signal – Mobile coverage is becoming both a social and business necessity. There are still some rural and remote locations across the UK which suffer from poor coverage, mostly due to geographical challenges. For example, if the area is in a valley, or there are difficulties in siting masts due to being areas of outstanding natural beauty. With Open Sure Signal we've expanded the idea of our personal sure Signal product (which creates 3G signal in your home or small office) by creating 3G coverage in your rural community. This programme is about bringing coverage to more rural communities across the UK., We received positive feedback from the 12 communities in our Open Sure Signal trail project. They are now enjoying the great benefits of reliable mobile access for the first time in their community.

Vodafone will at no cost to the village, put a minimum of 5 boxes to cover the village in order to improve mobile phone coverage. The only costs would be the electricity for the boxes which would need to be provided from the building to which the box was attached. Cllr Bombata has the required forms for requesting this from Vodafone. Proposed by Cllr Rainbird and seconded by Cllr Bray that we complete the form and agreed by all. Cllr Bombata to pass the form to the clerk for completion

7. Electricity Power Cuts and Low Voltage Supply

Cllr. Elliott asked if this item could be included on the Agenda because of the recent power cuts which all parts of the village seem to be experiencing recently. It is also understood that low voltage in certain areas is also a major problem. Many councillors have experienced daily power flickers (at any time of the day) and low voltage. Example given were that fire alarm systems had been showing loss of power when the property still appeared to have power and the excessive time taken to heat food in a microwave. The clerk to be asked to write to the UK power networks for an explanation.

8. Finance

On the proposal of Cllr. Bray, seconded by Cllr. Elliott and agreed the following invoice was approved and the cheque signed by the Chairman.

Norfolk Parish Training Partnership – Training Evening 17.11.14	250 . 00
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Paid by Standing Order

1.12.14	Clerks Salary	255 . 68
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Cllrs. had been provided with a copy of the most recent Bank Statement for the Parish Council but it was agreed that copies of all the bank statements for all the accounts should be circulated prior to the meetings.

The Mandate Forms from Barclays Bank to enable the Vice- Chairman to become a signatory of the Account were provided and completed by the Chairman and the Clerk and Cllr. Rainbird and the personal form was handed to Cllr. Rainbird for completion and personal delivery to the Bank.

At the January meeting, Council have to agree the Precept for the year 2015/16 from the Borough Council, so everyone will be provided with all the necessary information prior to the meeting.

9. Parish Hall

The sum of £42.00 was removed from the electricity meters for the month.

Grateful thanks to Cllr. Gilbert for repairing the leaking pipe to the water heater over the sink in the Bar Area.

10. Proposed New Pavilion/Hall

Councillors have all been supplied with a copy of the articles which the Action Team prepared for the coming edition of the Welney News – although Cllr. Bombata did not appear to have received them.

The Clerk had contacted the County Office at the Norfolk Association of Local Councils and it has been confirmed that the Terms of Reference for the action Group are satisfactory..

Cllrs Wardle and Prately brought along the project files for circulation to any councillor who wished to look at them. Once again it was confirmed that no decision of the building plans had been made and it would be made by the full Parish Council when the funding had been secured. Current plans are in place so that they can be submitted with grant applications when required. Cllr Wardle gave an update on the project as follows: National funding is being sought from Sport England (£43,000) and Wren (£50,000). Local fund-raising continues with £200 being raised from the Bingo. Future local plans are an Easter Bingo, Quiz at the Lamb and Flag, Molly dancing and Valentine dance. There is an Open day on the 6th December so that all can look at the current plans and the activities of the Action Group and feedback can be received from villagers. Cllr Wardle and Cllr Prately agreed that a written report will be provided for the next meeting. Cllr Wardle was thanked for the report and the Action Team thanked for all the tremendous work that they have put into this project which would not have got off the ground if they were not involved.

11. Playing Field

The rodent problem is being dealt with and although traps are still set outside, there is no further evidence of any rodents inside the building.

Dog fouling on the playing field including the new artificial wicket is raising concern. The recent banning of dogs reported in the Welney news and raised under public participation was discussed. The clerk is to be asked as to whether “no dogs allowed” is a by-law or just a council rule.

Sandgate Corner as an alternative dog walking park was raised again. It was agreed that this would be an item on the next agenda. Councillors who were interested in this should explore the costs including maintenance of such a park. Cllr Wardle requested that it be minuted that she believes the Council has been manipulated into discussing this item yet again.

12. Correspondence

1, Copy of the Monthly report for October 2014 fro Elizabeth Truss MP

2. E-mail from Peter Smith 24.11.14 – as follows: *Dear Parish Councils and Meetings, I hope you won't mind me sending a single email to all of you. I am – as I was in 2010 – Labour's Parliamentary Candidate for SW Norfolk. Last time round it was noticeable just how few opportunities were provided for communities to meet the candidates and put questions to them. Where this did happen we had some lively sessions. I am sure that we are all concerned with the ever decreasing numbers of people casting their votes and the often expressed disenchantment with politicians and politics generally. I am sure that the democratic process would be greatly enhanced if we had more opportunities for all candidates to meet electors in structured meetings. The purpose of this e-mail therefore is to ask you if you would consider perhaps in combination with other Parish councils or meetings, organising such 'meet the candidates' events between now and the General Election which will be held on May 7th next year. Yours sincerely – Peter Smith*

It was agreed to discuss this e-mail further at the next meeting.

3. As advised by e-mail on 25th November, the Clerk had received a telephone call from the Environment Agency confirming that the water levels were rising and it was possible that the water would be on the road by the weekend 29th/30 Nov.

4. West Norfolk Community Transport – E-mail dated 26th November asking the Parish to be made aware of the dial-a-bus services that is currently provided to Welney. I will print out a poster to put in the Notice Board but details are as follows: Every First Wednesday into March – All Other Wednesdays into King's Lynn – Serving Upwell, Outwell, Welney, Tipps End, Lakesend, Christchurch, Lotts Bridge and Three Holes. Start 9.30 a.m. Return 1.00 p.m.,. Cost £6.50
£3 return for members with Concessionary Travel Pass. Call the Office on 01553 770310 for further information or Membership Forms.

Cllr Rainbird reported that he still wished to see an item of correspondence from a previous meeting. He was invited to write to the clerk specifying the item required.

13. Planning Matters

The Clerk had forwarded the following planning applications to Councillors for information and comments..

No adverse comments were received and both forms were returned confirming the Parish Council support to the applications.

Ref No. 14/01534/FM – Continued use of 28 static holiday units at Pisces Country Park, Bedford Bank

Ref No. 14/01566/F – Hardcore Extension to Yard Area – Howard Kent Transport, March Road, Welney.

14. Highway Matters

Pothole at Chestnut Avenue has been repaired.

The flood gate on the bridge has been repaired and is back in place.

The dip in the road at Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank is getting much worse and Highways to be asked to deal with this as a matter of urgency,

Hole in road at the bridge over the River Delph coming into Welney to be reported to Highways

Light opposite Parish hall is out – to be reported to Westcotec.

It was agreed that the clerk would write to County Council Highways regarding their plans for the future maintenance of footpaths and right of way. The letter should express grave concern over the lack of upkeep which has been raised with the Parish council by parishioners under public participation.

15. Parish Action Plan

This item was deferred once again until the January meeting, but it was requested that it should be placed further up on the Agenda.

16. Items for Next Agenda

None

17. Councillors Open Forum.

An open and frank discussion took place on how the councillors felt about the performance of the council.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.50 p.m.

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

Dated6th January, 2015.....