

Minutes of the meeting of the Welney Parish Council
held at The Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 3rd March, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Present : Cllrs.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs. L.Bombata, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert and V.Pratley and the Clerk.
Also present approximately 12 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Cllrs.S.Dobson and G.Rainbird, Dist.Cllrs.V.Spikings and D.Pope, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO Phil Writer.

2. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage

3. Public Participation

None

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February, having been circulated to all councillors were confirmed and approved, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

5. Matters Arising

a. Parish Council Website – Grateful thanks were extended to Cllr.Bombata for the work he had put into preparing the presentation for the proposed new website. He confirmed that at present there was no cost at all to the Parish Council. After brief discussion it was agreed that before any permission is given for the website to go live, a contract in writing should be drawn up with Cllr.Bombata giving him permission to proceed and run the website. This would then safeguard the Council against any developments in the future. Clerk to obtain advice on this in readiness for the next meeting.

b. Parish Council Newsletter – The next edition of the Newsletter had been printed and delivered in and around the Village. Thanks were extended to the editorial team and helpers. A new Logo had been supplied by a village resident and thanks were extended to her.

c. Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal – Cllr.Bombata confirmed that the forms had been submitted to Vodafone but Welney will have to wait and see if they are successful as Vodafone can only consider a small number of villages at a time

d. Houses in Chestnut Avenue – Following the last meeting the Clerk had prepared a letter which was sent to all councillors in the first instance. The letter was then sent to Freebridge Community Housing, District and County Councillors and the M.P. A verbal acknowledgement had been received from one of the District Councillors, and a written acknowledgement from the MP Nothing from Freebridge. Contact again and ask for an immediate response.

e. Better Broadband for Welney – Further substantial amount of money has been added to the scheme, but no allowance as yet for this part of Norfolk. Further round of areas to be announced in Spring 2015. According to NCC and BT they hope to have all homes at least within reach of better broadband by 2017.

6. Finance

The following invoice had been received for payment and on the proposition of Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Pratley with all in favour, the cheque was signed :

Westcotec – Street Lighting Maintenance	115 . 76
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Paid by Standing Order:

Clerks Salary 1.3.15	255 . 68
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7. William Marshall School

The item was requested by Cllr.Dobson. Unfortunately she was not able to attend and the item was withdrawn until the next meeting.

8. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were emptied before the meeting and £27 was removed.

Councillors were reminded that the 30 year lease from the Environment Agency for the land and the Parish Hall Building expires on 25th March, 2016. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr. Elliott with all in favour, that a letter should be sent to the Environment Agency asking for answers to the following scenario's: 1. Possibility of extending the lease on a month to month basis, or alternatively extending it on a short term basis and what the cost would be. 2. Cost of creating a 10 year lease. 3. Cost to purchase the land on which the Hall stands.

9. Proposed New Hall/Pavilion

All Councillors had received a copy of the Report from the Action Team. Members of the Action Team were present at the meeting to answer questions. There was a general discussion regarding the plans presented to the meeting. Action Team explained the reason for the Heating Until being in an exterior building. The Team also confirmed that they were in the process of asking Contractors for quotations for the work required to the access from March Road to Hurn Drove.

It was proposed by Cllr.Pratley, seconded by Cllr.Gilbert with 4 in favour and 1 abstention that the Parish Council sign off the plans as presented and instruct the Architect working on behalf of Martin Reynolds Construction to finalise all the plans and draw up the scheme to submit a planning application to the Borough Council.

It was then proposed by Cllr.Goodger and seconded by Cllr.Gilbert that Council ask Geoff Beale what he would charge for preparing a New Flood Risk Assessment. However an amendment to this was proposed by Cllr.Bombata that we ask Geoff Beale to go ahead with the preparation of the Flood Risk Assessment. This was seconded by Cllr.Gilbert and unanimously agreed.

Council also confirmed that there would be no problem with their Council Chairman attending meetings of the Action Team when required by invitation, as appropriate. It was also agreed that the Action Team would carry on with their good work and grateful thanks were extended to them.

The Action Team also explained that the WREN application had indicated that the previous donation from the Parish Council of £1,830 was not sufficient. Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Elliott and unanimously agreed that the sum of £7,101.12 currently held in the Parish Hall Deposit Account should be ring fenced for this purpose. The previous sum of £1,830 could be included and would cover the Architects Fees - £830 of this sum having already been spent to Register the Playing Field with the Land Registry.

10..Future of Sandgate Corner Field

In view of new developments since the Agenda was published this item was withdrawn.

11. Playing Field.

a. Dogs – Following the last meeting RUG had been advised of the decision to allow dogs on the playing field for a trial period of 6 months providing the situation was closely policed. Following a brief discussion it was agreed to include the matter on the next Agenda when a decision could be made as to how to approach the village – possibly a slip attached to the newsletter either for return or collection – and what questions should be asked?

b. Playing Field Charity Trustees – Agreed to hold a separate meeting of the Charity Trustees to consider updating the Charity Scheme, as soon as possible and the clerk would confirm the date and venue.

c. Clean up at Playing Field – The Chairman recommended that councillors should meet at the Playing Field on a Saturday morning in the near future to look at what needs to be done to tidy up the field and clean up the area in general.

12. Correspondence

1. Details from West Norfolk Borough Council regarding Fit Together Walks in West Norfolk. Leaflets up in the Notice Boards and a full list of the walks available until 1st May, 2015.
2. Marshall's Charity, Welney – Nominative Trustee – 4 year term. Parish Council is requested to appoint a replacement for Mr. John Frost who has resigned as a Trustee. The replacement does not have to be a councillor and the term is for four years. Agreed to leave until after the forthcoming Election.
3. Fenland Association for Community Transport – Asking for a donation to support the Dial a Ride Central service which covers this area. Consider again in the new financial year.

13. Planning Matters

Comments and observations relating to the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Pre-Submission Document were sent off to the Borough Council and received by them on 23rd February. The comments now appear on the Borough Council portal and can be viewed at http://consult.west-norfolk.gov.uk/portal/sadmpd/site_allocations_and_development_management_policies

14. Highway Matters

Resurfacing work in Main Street, Welney to start on Wednesday 4th March.

Footway along New Road reported to Highways and also the repairs needed to the Bridge surface. Following information received from Martin Edmunds, the Highway Engineer-

“I have programmed a foot way scheme to do the whole of New road (but I will programme some patching works to make it safe until the scheme is done) I will check the surfacing near the Delph Bridge when in the area.”

It was reported to the meeting that the work required to the road near Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank has still not been carried out.

15. Parish Council Rules and Standing Orders.

Cllr. Elliott raised the question as to why letters sent by individuals should be signed by that person with the title Councillor. Cllr. Pratley confirmed that she had taken advice on this point, and whilst it is not wrong to sign letters in this way it is not recommended. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to clarify the situation with County Office and see what they recommend. The Chairman confirmed that members of the public should be certain that the Parish Council does not canvas or misrepresent the Council in any way. Each councillor is working totally on behalf of the Parish Council.

16. Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

The Chairman confirmed that at present he is on the Partnership committee but does not have time to attend the meetings as mostly they are held during the day. He asked Councillors to consider if anyone would replace him to represent the Parish Council and it was agreed to include it on the Agenda for the next meeting.

17. Items for Next Agenda

None.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

SignedK.Goodger.....(Chairman)

Dated7th April, 2015.....