

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Welney Parish Council  
held in the Parish Hall, Welney on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr.K.Goodger (Outgoing Chairman) L.Bombata, K.Cowles, H.Cowles, P.Edmunds, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert, G.Rainbird, Dist.Cllrs. D.Pope and V.Spikings and approximately 9 members of the public.

Cllr.Goodger unofficially welcomed the newly elected Parish Council and members of the public to the meeting.

**1. Election of Chairman for the year 2015/16**

The outgoing chairman then called for nominations for the position of Chairman for the coming year. Cllr.Rainbird was proposed by Cllr. Bombata and seconded by Cllr.Gilbert and Cllr. Goodger was proposed by Cllr.H.Cowles and seconded by Cllr. Elliott. There was then a secret ballot with the votes being counted by the Dist.Councillors. With four votes for each nomination, the outgoing Chairman used his casting vote and voted for himself. Cllr.Goodger was then confirmed as Chairman for the coming year.

**2. Welcome to the New Parish Council**

All Councillors then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and were advised that the Declaration of Interests/Code of Conduct forms which had been provided, must be completed and returned to the Clerk within 28 days.

**3. Apologies for absence**

None prior to the meeting but Cllr.K.Cowles had to leave the meeting at 7.40 p.m. to return to work

**4. Declaration of Interests**

None at this stage.

**5. Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 2015/16**

Cllr.Rainbird was proposed by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Bombata and confirmed as the Vice Chairman for the coming year.

**6. Public Participation**

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting and the following points were raised – Repositioning of the Basketball net, confirmation was requested on what was meant by community spirit; and following brief discussions the chairman reconvened the meeting

**7. Election of Welney Archive and Social History Group**

At present the committee consists of Cllr.Goodger and Mr.T.Copeman with assistance from the Clerk. Mr. & Mrs. Bray had confirmed that they were no longer able to continue. It was proposed by Cllr.Elliott, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles and agreed that the Group should be re-elected and anyone interested in joining should contact the Clerk.

**8 Report from Village Organisations**

a. William Marshall Charity – Cllr.Goodger gave a report on behalf of the Trustees and confirmed that one third of the Income from the Charity goes to the Widows Account, one third to the Church and one third to the Public Fund. The Charity also helps the School and provides funding for worthy causes within the Village.

b. Bishops Land Charity – the Clerk read a report on behalf of the Trustees and a copy is attached within the Minute Book.

**9. To confirm the Minutes of the Meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> April.**

All Councillors had received copies of both sets of minutes. Following the amendment and alteration of Minute Item 15 – Parish Council Standing Orders – Communications Policy – in the minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> April, both sets of minutes were approved and signed as true and correct records of the meetings.

**10. Matters Arising**

a. Parish Council website – Cllr. Bombata confirmed that the website is up and ready to go. Brief discussion when the Chairman confirmed that he would prefer to see a formal agreement in place. The Clerk confirmed

that the draft had been sent to County Office but no advice had yet been received. After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles with 5 votes in favour and 2 abstentions that the website should go ahead, but that everyone on the Council must agree and approve what is put on the website.

b. Parish Council Newsletter – Following brief discussion it was felt that waiting for all councillors to consider the draft of the newsletter was not practical. It was proposed by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Edmunds and agreed that a copy should be sent to all councillors but the final decisions on contents should be made by the Clerk and the Chairman.

c. Houses in Chestnut Avenue – Clerk had circulated a letter to be sent to the Borough Council. This was duly approved and would be posted off as soon as possible.

d. Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Representative – The Chairman explained the purpose of the Partnership and Cllr.Gilbert confirmed that he would be willing to be the representative.

e. Trustee to Marshall's Charity – The Parish Council had been requested to appoint a Trustee to represent them on Marshall's Charity. Two applications were received and on the proposition of Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Gilbert with all in favour, Cllr.Bombata was appointed to the position.

#### 11. Finance

The following invoices were received for approval

Came and Company – Parish Council Insurance 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2015. 1,253 . 64

(This insurance is part of the long term agreement which runs until 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 and allows us a 5% discount. It includes cover for the Parish Hall, Pavilion, Contents of Both buildings and street lights, and all Public, Hirers, Employers Liability etc., underwritten by Aviva)

Ensen Design – Architects Fees for services in preparation and submission of the planning permission for the new building on Paying Field (£1,800 plus £360 VAT) 2,160 . 00

Environment Agency – Rental for Parish Hall Site 1.4.2015 to 24.3.2016 175 . 07

Fenland Fire Appliance – Refilling Dry Powder Fire Extinguisher at the Pavilion – £42.85 Plus £8.57 VAT) 51 . 42

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses – April and May 64 . 27

Paid by Direct Debit

Clerks Salary 1.5.15 255 . 68

E-On – Electric for lights 58 . 24

E-On – Electric for pavilion 2.2.15 to 5.5.15 64 . 35

E-on -Electric for Hall 2.2.15 to 5.5.15 160 . 28

Money received –

Borough Council recycling credits for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 24 . 50

Payment from Hirer for refilling powder extinguisher 42 . 85

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles with everyone in favour, that the Invoices should be paid with the exception of the Architects Fees from Ensen Design. The cheques for the remaining invoices were signed and enquiries would be made with regard to the Architects Fees as it was understood that his fee of £1,800 plus VAT would include the planning application fee of £577.50 which the Parish Council have already paid.

The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March would be presented to the Council at the June Meeting together with up to date finance figures.

## 12. William Marshall School

All Councillors had received a copy of the minutes of the extra meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and had attended the meeting with Elizabeth Truss MP. Council were advised that the deadline for comments etc had been extended to 29<sup>th</sup> May and that the School Action Team were putting together a Document to be sent to Children's Services. It was agreed to end a further letter of support from the Parish Council and thanks were extended to Cllr.Gilbert for getting everything started in connection with the campaign.

## 13. Parish Hall

The electricity meters had been checked and the sum of £14.00 had been removed.

Lease of Hall Site – Following the e-mail from the Environment Agency there was a discussion regarding the extension of the Lease on the Hall and Site when the current lease expired on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Gilbert and seconded by Cllr.Bombata that Council ask the Environment Agency to extend the Lease for a term of 10 years from March 2016 at the rental of approximately £400 per annum which they had quoted. An amendment was then tabled by Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr.Elliott, that Council should ask the Village first whether they wished to extend the Lease before committing the Council to a 10 year lease. The amendment was voted on with 3 votes in favour (Cllrs.Goodger, Elliott and H.Cowles) and 4 against (Cllrs.Bombata, Edmunds, Gilbert and Rainbird). The original proposal was then voted on and confirmed with 4 votes in favour (Cllrs.Bombata, Edmunds, Gilbert and Rainbird) and 3 votes against (Cllrs.Cowles, Elliott and Goodger) The original proposal was therefore carried.

## 14. Proposed new Pavilion/Hall

All Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the Report from the Action Committee. Councillors were concerned that they had not been told that the application to Sport England had not been successful and the Clerk confirmed that this was an omission on her part for which she offered her apologies. A copy of the letter from Sport England would be circulated to all Councillors immediately after the meeting. As Mrs.Pratley was the only representative from the Parish Council on the Action Team, and was now no longer a councillor, it was proposed by Cllr.Bombata, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and agreed that Cllrs.H.Cowles and Edmunds should be the new representatives from the Parish Council to sit on the Action Group.

## 15. Playing Field

Dogs on the field – Referendum in the village – It was agreed that all councillors would forward questions and information to the clerk for collation in readiness for the June meeting.

Playing Field Trustees – The Clerk had forwarded a copy of the redrafted Schedule from the Charity Commissioners to all councillors. This document took into account the changes detailed in the Trustees meeting held in March. Trustees are allowed under the Charity Commission regulations, to amend the document as previously discussed. It was proposed by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and agreed by all that the Document should be forwarded to the Charity Commission and would then come into effect immediately they confirmed receipt.

Clean up at the Playing Field – This was agreed for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 10a.m. And a reminder would be sent to all councillors prior to the date.

## 16. Correspondence

1. All Councillors received a copy of the e-mail received via Ann Wardle regarding Better Broadband for Norfolk and it is hoped that work covering this area will be completed by the end of 2017. An update sheet received from NCC. also circulated.
2. A copy of the News update from NCC regarding NCC seeks views on managing flood risk.
3. Cambs ACRE is currently hosting a Heritage Lottery Funded Landscape Partnership scheme centred around the Ouse Washes. As part of the scheme they have a project which aims to promote volunteering in the Ouse Washes LP and surrounding area. Please let them know of any groups in Welney Parish who need volunteers.
4. Letter received from Mr. & Mrs. B.Denyer, 2 Hurn Drove – Raising 3 points – a. During the winter a conifer on the playing field bordering their garden came down – concerned if it had fallen the other way how much structural damage would have been caused to their property. Requesting that the Council employ a tree surgeon to assess the trees and especially one that leans right over their garden and possibly make arrangements to take

them down in size. *(Replied to confirm that the state of the trees are being monitored and as soon as possible work will be done to make them safe)*

b. Will the road to the new pavilion (if and when it is built) be road worthy and if village events were to be held there would the County Council be putting a pavement along March Road. If not how will the elderly and children attend? In this world of being green surely it would be wrong to be driving from one end of the village to another. *(Replied advising that the funding team for the new building are already looking into possible grants and funding in order to make the junction of Hurn Drove and March road up to NCC standard. Depending on the funding available, the surface of Hurn Drove will be improved to make it fit for purpose. We have already approved the NCC Highways regarding a footpath along March Road and no doubt an approach can be made again, but there is no guarantee this will happen. The comment about people driving from one end of the village to another is noted, but of course most people already drive to the existing parish hall at the other end of the village)*

c. Asked if the Lease on the Village Hall has been renewed are there plans for renovation and funding applied for? As surely this is accessible to residents of Welney (except March Road) *(Replied: With regard to the Parish Hall, the existing lease does not expire until the end of March 2016, and while enquiries have been made to possibly extend the lease for a short term there are certainly no plans from the Parish Council at present to renew the lease and renovate the old building. The whole idea of building the new hall/pavilion was so that the village would not have the expense of looking after two old and dilapidated buildings, but would only have one new up to date building to look after.)* Confirmed that the letter would be presented to the meeting and if there is anything further to add, Council would write to them again.

#### 17. Planning Matters

The planning application for the new Hall/Pavilion was submitted at the end of March and it is understood that a decision should be forthcoming at the beginning of June.

Councillors of the following planning application received on 14<sup>th</sup> March

RefNo. 15/00568/F – Construction of an outdoor ménage at Stanborough House, Welney Road

Lakes End. As no adverse comments were forthcoming the form was returned recommending approval on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2015.

High Hill House, Main Street, Welney – . Have now been advised by the Planning department as follows:

*I and a colleague have now visited the land and have obtained photographs. Regrettably our considered opinion is that the land, although not well kept, is not in such a state to justify the Council commencing formal action against the owner. We will of course keep the matter under review. If you receive any further comments please come back to us.*

Croft House – Received confirmation that no planning application is required as the premises being used for the recording studio already have a B1 or B8 commercial usage which allows the premises to be changed from Workshop to Recording Studio subject to a maximum of 500 sqm of floor space. This information has been passed on to Mrs. Murphy the resident who raised the query.

#### 18. Highway Matters

Nothing further heard from Paul Fox regarding his possible benefactor in connection with the Gates at Entrances to the village. The Parish Partnership Scheme at Norfolk County Council has confirmed that Funding for road work schemes etc (which would include 50% of the cost of these gates). is completely used up for the 2015-16 season. However a new round of funding will be in place for the 2016-17 season and if we still wish to consider the white wooden gates (if the benefactor comes forward to pay half the cost!) then the forms and all information will be circulated to Councils later in the year.

Andy Wallace at Highways had been asked for an update of the repair work to the road near Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank, and also information regarding the footpath around Sandgate Corner. Councillors confirmed no work has been done at either sites and Highways would be pressed again to get these matters resolved.,

The question of the grass cutting at the front of and in Chestnut Avenue was raised and it was reported that the work had left the area in a deplorable state. Requested to contact Borough Council to express Council's concern and hope that it will not happen again. One or two parishioners also commented on the rather overgrown state

of the Churchyard and contact would be made with the Churchwarden.

19. Items for Next Agenda

1. Chestnut Avenue Houses – Use other associations for finding tenants?
2. Councillors with Portfolio
- 3.. Tour of the Parish.

Councillors were reminded that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June and not Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

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

Dated .....9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.....