

Minutes of the Meeting of the Welney Parish Council
held in the Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 4th August, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr.K. Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs.L.Bombata, H.Cowles, K.Cowles, P.Edmunds, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert and G.Rainbird, Dist.Cllrs. D.Pope and V.Spikings, approximately 13 members of the public and the Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence

C.Cllr.H. Humphrey.

2. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

3. Public Participation

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation, but as there was no participation he reconvened the meeting immediately.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 7th July, 2015

Following the addition of two sets of names under Item No.9 – proposed new Hall/Pavilion, and these additions being initialled by the Chairman, the minutes were then signed as a true record of that meeting.

5. Minutes of meeting held on 14th July, 2015

Following the addition of names under item 1a and these additions being initialled by the Chairman the Minutes were then signed as a true record of that meeting.

6. Matters Arising

a. Proposed new Parish Council website – Cllr.Bombata confirmed that because of the delay in agreeing terms, his offer of a new website was withdrawn.

b. Houses in Chestnut Avenue – Councillors had all been supplied with a copy of the letter from Freebridge dated 20th July confirming that the houses are advertised through Home Choice and then extended to a wider area to cover Fenland and adjoining councils.

7. Finance

On the proposal of Cllr.Elliott, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles with all in favour, the following invoice was received and the cheque was signed:

Fenland Fire Appliance LLO – Servicing of Fire Extinguishers at Pavilion	£30.66
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The following items had been paid by direct debit

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary 1.8.15	£255.68
E-On – Electric for street lights 11.8.15	81 .12

The Clerk had also supplied information regarding the Parish Council accounts which had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr.Bombata provided draft finance forms for consideration at the next meeting.

Cllr.Goodger confirmed that the street light outside Sunnybrae, Tipps End, was not working correctly and this would be reported to Westcotec.

8. William Marshall School

Councillors had received a copy of the letter from Norfolk Education entitled A Good Education for every Norfolk Learner. Cllr.Bombata gave an update of how the Team are working to try and keep the school open, and confirmed that it will remain open until at least Christmas 2015.

9. Extension of Lease on Parish Hall Site.

Following the request to the Environment Agency to extend the lease of the Parish Hall site for 10 years from expiry of the current lease, and after discussion, it was proposed by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Bombata that an approach should be made to the Environment Agency to extend the lease within the next month, and not wait until expiry in March 2016. The proposal was passed with five councillors in favour (Cllrs.Gilbert, Bombata, Rainbird, Edmunds and K.Cowles) and 3 abstentions (Cllrs.Goodger, Elliott and H.Cowles).

10. Proposed New Hall

Following the meeting held on 14th July a letter had been sent to Mr.Neill at MRC with regard to the planning condition that no more than 6 musical events should take place at the new building and these must be finished at 11 p.m. A reply, confirming that this instruction had been given by Mr.Loveday, had been received from Mr.Neill and this had been sent direct to all councillors for their information. Following discussion Cllr.Gilbert stated that as far as he was concerned there was no trust in the Action Team and they should be abolished. Cllr.Bombata felt that as they obviously did not wish to work with the Parish Council – and certain councillors – then they should not be allowed to continue. It was agreed that this Item would be included on the Agenda for the next meeting. It was then proposed by Cllr.Bombata, seconded by Cllr.Gilbert and carried by 4 votes for the motion (Cllrs.Bombata, Gilbert, Edmunds and Rainbird) 2 votes against (Cllrs.K.Cowles and Elliott) and 2 abstentions (Cllrs. H.Cowles and Goodger) that a letter should be sent to Mr.Loveday expressing Councils concern in way in which he had misrepresented the Council with regard to the planning application/permission.

11. Playng Field.

a. Minutes of the Trustees Meeting – Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July. The Chairman signed them as a true record of the meeting with all in favour.

The Clerk confirmed that the paperwork had now been sent to all the village organisations (new and old) who could possibly form part of the Management Committee for the Playing Field Charity and in due course it would be necessary to hold another Trustees meeting to formulate all the paperwork and to make the formal resolution to the Charity Commission.

b. Dogs on the Playing Field - The Clerk had circulated a proposed resolution, but following a brief discussion it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr.K.Cowles with all in favour, that the resolution is no longer necessary as there have been no problems reported with dogs on the playing field. It was unanimously agreed to continue to monitor the situation and if a problem should arise then the matter would be revisited immediately.

c. Trees overhanging the Field – It was confirmed that as a matter of Health and Safety overhanging and broken trees at the Playing Field had been dealt with by a professional gentleman. As the gentleman did not require any payment for the work a kind anonymous donation had been made to cover his costs. Cllr.Edmunds confirmed that the same gentleman would be attending again to clear further trees/broken branches, and he agreed to make the necessary arrangements.

12. Correspondence

- 1.Letter from Cllr.Paul Edmunds confirming his intention to resign from the Action Team at the August meeting,
- 2.Letter from the Borough Council re Site Specific Allocations dated 24th July – already forwarded to Councillors. Cllr.Spikings gave an update of the situation especially with regard to Welney Parish and recommended that a representative should attend the meeting at King's Lynn which would be held on Wednesday 5th August. Cllrs.Goodger and Gilbert both confirmed that either one or both of them would try and attend if possible.
3. The Chairman confirmed to the meeting that he had received a complaint from a member of the public against one of the Councillors. He advised the meeting that the reason for the complaint had actually happened outside a Parish Council meeting, but he had taken advice on the matter and had replied to the

complainant that the matter must be directed to the Monitoring Officer at the Borough Council.

4. e-mail from PCSO Paul Writer with crime statistics for the area for the last month – 15 calls to the police reporting a varying number of incidents but there were no crimes of note in the public interest.

13. Highway Matters

a. Future Programme of Grass cutting on roadsides and footpaths – Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird with all in favour, that a letter should be sent to Highways to ask them the amount of money in their budget allocated to Welney for cutting rights of way and footpaths etc. and to see if there is any way the Parish Council could take over the funding and do the work themselves.

b. Highway Problems – The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Highways asking that they look again at the footpath along New Road which they have programmed for 2017/18 year as this will become a serious Health and Safety issue if some work is not done before then. A request was also included regarding the cutting of FP10 – Wisbech Road to Hurn Drove (via Maywood Farm). Also further information was requested regarding the slope on the corner where traffic leave March Road and turn onto Hurn Drove.

The enquiry from a resident of Main Street regarding concerns about speeding traffic had been sent to C.Cllr.Humphrey and she had subsequently forwarded a spreadsheet that she had received from Norfolk Police. It was also agreed to forward this to Cllr.Humphrey.

Two e-mail had been received from Mrs.K. Fleming, dated 25th and 31st July, regarding traffic safety on the Wash Road and these had been forwarded to Councillors for their information. After discussion it was agreed to send the e-mails to Mr.Wallace at Highways to see if there is any further safety matters that they can put in place.

Contact had been made with Darren Arnold at Pisces Country Park who confirmed that he would contact council again once the plans had been drawn up for his planning application to increase the number of units at the site.

14. Councillors with Portfolio

Following a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Bombata, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles with all in favour, that Council should set up a Portfolio for Councillors under the following possible headings: Highways, Finance, Planning, Projects, and Environment. Any extra headings could be added at the next meeting when the matter would be considered further. The Clerk had forwarded all councillors a copy of Statutory instrument 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 – Action Outside Parish Council Meetings or Decisions – and councillors were reminded that while they were encouraged to investigate items between meetings, no decisions should be made, nor should they purport to represent the Council, but all information obtained should be brought to the full council for discussion and final decision. It was also mentioned that under Planning, whilst applications can be investigate, no-one is allowed to go onto applicants property/land without permission.

15. Consider Formation of a Communications Policy

The Chairman confirmed that he had obtained some draft policies from various councils and that the matter would be included on the Agenda for the next meeting for further discussion. In the meantime it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr.K Cowles with all in favour, that a draft would be prepared for councillors consideration with particular reference to correspondence in and out (including e-mails) and exactly what can and cannot be done. It was also mentioned that a formal complaints policy should be included and that both items, once agreed and produced, should be included in the Council's Standing Orders.

16. Items for next Agenda

1. Review of the Clerk's Contract

Cllr.Edmunds confirmed for information that R.U.G. had been awarded £9,500 from the National Lottery to assist in their development of Sandgate Corner Field.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

SignedK.Goodger (Chairman).....

Dated1st September, 2015.....