

Minutes of the Meeting of Welney Parish Council
held in The Parish Hall, Welney
on Tuesday 1st September, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs. L.Bombata, H. Cowles, K. Cowles, P. Edmunds, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert, G.Rainbird, District Cllrs. V.Spikings and D.Pope, approximately 80 members of the public and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for attending.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from C.Cllr.H,Humphrey

2. Declaration of interests

None at this stage.

3. Public Participation

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting and invited comments and details from the members of the public. Approximately 8 members of the public addressed the meeting, expressing their concern for the way the new Pavilion/Hall Project was progressing, and all hoping that matters can proceed to a conclusion giving the village a new building, as quickly as possible. An explanation was given of the funding already achieved and that which is still awaited.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting and, following a question regarding flyers which had recently been circulated around the village, that no flyers had been circulated by the Parish Council. These had been issued by four Councillors as individuals and did not represent the opinion of the Parish Council as a whole. He also explained that the request to extend the lease of the current Parish Hall had been made so that if there were any delays in the completion of the new building, then the Village would still have a building where they could meet.

4. Minutes of the Meeting 4th August, 2015

All Councillors had received copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 4th August, 2015 and these were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

5. Matters Arising

Cllr. Gilbert reported that he had attended the meeting at King's Lynn on 5th August with regard to the Local Development Framework and how it will affect Welney over the next five years. He gave a brief report on the need to include further land for development over the next five years.

6. Finance

On the proposition of Cllr.K.Cowles, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and agreed the following cheques were signed:

Westcotec – Street Lighting Maintenance for July and August	133 . 34
Mrs.P. Copeman – Clerks Expenses	49 . 58
Norfolk Our World Festivals Limited – Second invoice for traditional story and Dance Sessions for the Molly dancing	1,000 . 00 *

The Clerk confirmed that the second instalment cheque for £1,000 from Cambridgeshire ACRE had been received on 27th August and this has been paid into the Bank.

Paid by Direct Debit

Mrs.P.Copeman- Clerks Salary 1.9.15	255 . 68
E-On – Electricity bill for Pavilion 18.8.15	42 . 69
E-On – Electricity bill for Parish Hall 18.8.,15	65 . 85
E-On – Electricity for Street Lights July 11.9.15	81 . 12

The Clerk also supplied details of the Cash Accounts for the Hall and Playing Field which had been circulated to all Councillors.

7. Parish Hall

No money was collected from the electricity meters.

Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the e-mail dated 18th August which was sent to the Environment Agency regarding the extension of the lease of the hall site to take immediate effect but at the time of the meeting no reply had been received.

Grateful thanks were recorded to Cllr. Gilbert for repairing the side exit door at the Parish Hall.

8. Proposed New Hall/Pavilion

Following the last meeting a draft letter was prepared to be sent to Mr.Loveday, but this was overtaken by a letter received from the Action Team together with a copy of their report which was circulated to all houses in the Parish confirming that they were standing down from the project. Councillors had received copies of Mr.Loveday's report, e-mail from Mrs.Levesley, e-mail from Stephanie Pratley and letter from Mr.G.Pratley.

The Chairman confirmed that requests had been received asking for the Parish Council to be disbanded but explained that this could not be done as all members of the Parish Council are elected until they resign or are disqualified. He then asked for comments from Councillors. Cllr.Gilbert felt that there should be a special meeting to set down and discuss everything. Cllr.Bombata felt that the Pavilion should be built on the Playing Field, and a new Hall should be built elsewhere. He was advised that this would be going against previous decisions as the village could only support one building. He also said that the Action Team were a working Group and therefore could not make decisions and therefore it could not be a Turn key Project. As the price of the building had now increased from £150,000 to over £200,000 the Action Team should have come back to the Parish Council for approval. He also mentioned the planning permission and the six occasions when live music could be played up to 11 p.m. No decision should have been given on this without consulting the Parish Council. Cllr.Rainbird agreed with the comments made by Cllr.Bombata and felt that the Action Team should have kept the Parish Council much more informed especially with the funding applications to WREN, Sport England and Nationwide. He confirmed the disastrous conclusion with the Borough Council regarding the music events, Cllr.Elliott advised that the 6 music events confirmed on the planning permission could be increased by 12 as the Public Entertainments Licence would allow this and that would then increase the total number of events to 18. It was time to move forward as money had already been spent on 2 planning applications, two lots of flood plans and 2 lots of architects fees. Cllr.H.Cowles confirmed that the cardboard model of the new building was available for everyone to see at the Charity payout in the Church and also the open afternoon at the Parish Hall in December 2014.

The Chairman then allowed further comments from the members of the public and the overriding opinion was that the Parish Council should work as a team in what is a small village, to give the residents what they require and need – a new building fit for purpose to be used by everyone on the Playing Field.

Mr.Loveday spoke on behalf of the Old Action Team and thanked the Chairman of the Parish Council and certain members for their help and support and also the Clerk for help with the paperwork etc.

The Chairman then confirmed that the Parish Council need to work as a team and pull together for the benefit of the village. It would be good to see the new building completed and he expressed thanks to those people who have worked hard to get the project this far. It is time to stop talking about the past and to move forward into the future. Mr.Fleming confirmed that he would be prepared to put together a presentation of everything achieved so far and then meet with the Parish Council to explain everything and hand over documents and applications etc. It was then proposed by Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr.K.Cowles and agreed with 7 in favour and 1 abstention that the Parish Council have a Working Group meeting with Mr.Fleming and members of the Old Action Team on 15th September, 2015 at 7.30 p.m. With possibly a Public Meeting at a later date.

9. Playing Field

a. Update re village organisations and Charity Commission Document

The Clerk gave details of those organisations which she had heard from, some of whom wished to be included and others who had no interest. Several replies were still awaited and hopefully these would be available before the next meeting. RUG had confirmed that they would like to be included.

b. Grass Cutting on the Playing Field.

It was reported that when the grass is cut all the cuttings have been left on the side of the field. It was agreed to ask the Cricket Club if they could arrange for them to be disposed of, and also if there was a chance that they could cut the outside of the field. If an extra charge was involved then they would be asked to confirm.

10. Correspondence

a. Letter from Cllr.Heidi Cowles dated 7th August, confirming that she has resigned from the Action Team following the water gala. She has confirmed that she only joined the Action team as a small/village fundraiser and as no more events are taking place she is no longer needed.

b. King's Lynn & West Norfolk – Five year supply of housing land – e-mail dated 6th August, circulated to all councillors.

c. Norfolk recycling centres ready for hazardous waste amnesties – e-mail from the Norfolk County Council dated 12th August – circulated to all councillors

d. Better Broadband for Norfolk – E-mail from Norfolk County Council dated 11th August circulated to all councillors.

e. Environment Agency – Update on Ouse Washes – Circulated to all councillors.

11. Highway Matters

a. Highways with regard to Grass Cutting budget

Following the last meeting, Highways had been contacted regarding this matter, but at the time of writing no information had been received.

b. Any Highway Problems

Problems on Hundred Foot Bank Road near Flights End still not sorted. Pot holes in Chestnut Avenue need attention.

c Speeding on Main Street

Following the last meeting the Clerk forwarded the information regarding speeding on Main Street to C.Cllr.Harry Humphrey and circulated his reply to councillors, dated 26th August.

d. Road Safety on The Wash Road

As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk forwarded the two e-mails from Mrs.Karen Fleming to Andy Wallace at Highways

12. Condition of the bus Stop

Cllr.Edmunds asked Council for confirmation regarding the state of the Bus Shelter on Main Street. Council were advised that this had been erected and paid for by a local company. It was agreed to contact Highways and ask their advice about the Health and Safety issues possibly relating to the Shelter.

13. Further Consideration relating to Councillors with Portfolio

The following suggestions were received at the meeting and Councillors were asked to consider any additional titles and have these ready for the next meeting:

Highways – Cllr.Goodger

Finance and Projects – Cllr.Bombata

Planning – Cllr. Gilbert

Environment – Cllr.Edmunds.

14. Consideration of the Creation of a Communications Policy

The Clerk had prepared and circulated a draft Communications Policy to all Councillors for their consideration. It was agreed that Councillors would make any additions and alterations and forward direct to the Clerk for collation.

15. Review of Clerks Contract of Employment etc.

After brief consideration it was proposed that three councillors (one of which should be a lady) should meet with the clerk as a Working Group and carry out an Appraisal of the contract, work and hours. Final arrangements would be made at the next meeting.

16. Items for Next Agenda

1. Houses in Chestnut Avenue

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.16 p.m.

SignedK.Goodger (Chairman).....

Dated6th October, 2015.....