

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Cllrs.K.Goodger (Chairman) E.Allen, T.Bennett, M.Brown, S.Dobson, C.Freer, S. Kerr, V.Pratley G.Tomkins and the Clerk.

Members of the Public: Mr. D.Bonner

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr.Bennett proposed that Cllr.Goodger should be appointed as Chairman for a further year. This proposition was seconded by Cllr.Brown with all in favour. Cllr.Goodger thanked everyone for their support and confirmed his willingness to take the position for a further year.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dist.Cllrs. V.Spikings and D.Pope, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and Downham Market Police.

3. Public Participation

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

Mr.Bonner addressed the meeting and requested an update relating to the proposed meeting with Highways regarding signage when the Wash road is flooded. It was confirmed that no date had yet been arranged, and it was agreed to contact Highways to make sure that the meeting was held before the end of May so that this matter can move forward. The matter would be discussed further under Highways and it was agreed to keep Mr.Bonner closely informed.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

4. Declaration of Interests

Cllr.Freer confirmed an interest in The Welney Youth Club..

5. Appointment of Vice Chairman

Cllr.Brown proposed that Cllr.Bennett should be appointed as Vice Chairman for a further year. This proposition was seconded by Cllr.Freer with all in favour. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Vice Chairman for standing in at meetings on 2 or 3 occasions, and Cllr. Bennett confirmed his willingness to take the position for a further year.

6. Election of Parish Council Committees

W.A.S.H. Committee – The WASH Committee currently comprises: Cllr.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs.M.Brown and G.Tomkins, Mr.T.Copeman, Mr.T. and Mrs. C.Bray. On the proposition of Cllr.Kerr, seconded by Cllr.Allen and agreed the Committee were re-elected en-bloc

Welney Allotment Committee – The Committee was formed two weeks earlier and currently comprises Cllr.Goodger (Chairman), Cllr.T.Bennett, Mr.T.Copeman, Mr.P. & Mrs. J.Barr Additional members would be welcomed to the committee.

7. Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th April, 2010, having been circulated to all councillors were Approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting after the following amendments had been made and initialled by the Chairman- Item 10 Playing Field – last line of first paragraph inserted “by a third party”, Item 13 Highway Matters – First line of third paragraph amended – “A meeting had provisionally been arranged for 13th April...”

8. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – Cllr.Allen confirmed that he was waiting for confirmation of a date to meet Cllr.Frank Humm.to move the Community Speed Watch on a step further.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Cllrs. had been forwarded a copy of the first meeting of the Allotment Committee which was held on the 18th April, and a copy is attached in the minute book. The Clerk confirmed that no agreement had yet been forthcoming from the Borough Council

but that a representative had called and prepared a Licence which would allow the work to begin on the field. The Licence will run from 3rd May to 30th June, 2010 and then the full agreement will run on an annual basis from 1st July, 2010. Both copies of the Licence had been signed and returned to the Borough Council for their signature, following which one copy will be returned to the Parish Council. A pro rata rental figure of £40.41 has been agreed for the period of the Licence. With effect from 3rd May the work can begin on spraying and ploughing the field and marking out the allotments. It was confirmed to the meeting that 12 allotments had been confirmed and there are others still available. A notice to this effect will be prepared for inclusion in the next Edition of the Welney News.

3. Meeting with adjoining Councils –No date had been received for the next meeting and the Clerk was instructed to contact Manea Parish Council.

4. Christmas Decorations - Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he was dealing with this.

5. Loss of Notice Board – Top of New Road – Cllr. Kerr confirmed that the new board would be available shortly,

6. Welney Youth Club - Following the last meeting, the Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Mr. Simon Elliott and received confirmation from him that all he needed from the Parish Council was a letter confirming that he had told us of his proposals and that e supported him in his endeavours for the Youth Club. It would have no effect on any application that the Parish Council might wish to make for the new Community Centre. He had therefore been supplied with the appropriate letter and also a copy of the W.A.S.H. dvd.

7. Openness of Parish Council Meetings. – Cllr.Bennett raised the matter for discussion as to how the Parish Council could be more pro-active and give out more information particularly at meetings. There was a brief discussion, and it was agreed to consider the matter again at the next meeting.

9. Reports of Village Organisations.

William Marshall Charity – The Chairman gave a report on behalf of the Charity, and advised the meeting that some of the land had been re-let, and also gave details of the grants which had been made. He also confirmed that the four Charity almshouses had been connected to the new sewage scheme.

Bishops Land Charity – The Clerk (also Clerk to the Bishops Land Charity Trustees) had prepared a brief report on the years activities and this was read to the meeting. A copy is included in the minute book.

10 .First time Sewage Scheme

An update had been received from Mrs. Linda Briggs regarding the problems being experienced n Main Street, since the installation of the sewage scheme. She had confirmed that she now had a full set of plans of the installation and is in contact with the Anglian Water loss adjuster. She is in the process of collecting from all the residents concerned, permission to speak about their properties to the necessary people and she will then employ an expert and share the cost of his investigation . Once she has proof on paper that the problem exists then she will be able to take the matter much further.

11. Finance

The following accounts had been received for payment and on the proposition of Cllr.Brown seconded by Cllr.Pratley and agreed, the cheques were signed

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	
Cheque No. 101064	12 . 58
MHB Services Ltd. - Street Light Maintenance	
Cheque No. 101065	104 . 55
Macs and PCs – Repairs and Service to Laptop Computer	
Cheque No. 101066	65 . 00

Paid by Direct Debit

1.5.10 Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary 255 . 68

The Clerk confirmed that she had received an Invoice from Environment Agency dated April 2010 for one year's rental on the Parish Hall Site to 31.3.2011. In view of the current negotiations to purchase the Hall site, the Clerk confirmed that she would contact EA and explain the current situation – that it was hopefully that the purchase would be completed very shortly and therefore a full year's rental would not be due to them.

Annual Accounts or the year ended 31st March, 2010 – Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the Accounts for the Parish council for the year ended 31st March, 2010. The accounts were discussed and one small alteration was made, and it was proposed by Cllr.Freer, seconded by Cllr.Allen and agreed that the accounts be formally adopted. The chairman also signed the Annual Return Form in readiness for the Accounts to be sent to the Internal Auditor.

12. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked and the sum of £26.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – On 7th April letters had been received from Fraser Dawbarns confirming that they will be prepared to act for the Parish Council in connection with the purchase of the hall site. Mr. Norman Davis of that Company will be acting for the Parish council and after consultation with the Chairman the Clerk had signed a copy of their letter and returned it confirming that this was acceptable. Nothing further had been heard and it was agreed to ring and ask for the up to date situation

Cllr.Tomkins confirmed that he still had the organ which he had obtained for the Parish Hall in his possession. He agreed to hold onto this for the time being, and arrangements could be made in due course for it to be put in the Hall,

13. Proposed New Community Centre

Nothing to report n the Planning Application – A decision should be received at the beginning of May.

The Clerk gave a report of a telephone call from Mr. Briscoe following his conversations with the planning office, and also read an e-mail which Mr. Briscoe had sent to the planning department clarifying some points. There was a general discussion regarding the planning application..

14. Playing Field

Showers in the Pavilion – A copy of the electrician's certificate relating to the installation of the showers at the pavilion over a year ago, had now been received and would be kept on file. It was assumed that the burst pipe had been repaired and the water turned back on.

Possible Valuation of Frontage Land at the Playing Field – The Clerk had made tentative enquiries of two local Valuers with regard to obtaining a valuation of the frontage land at the Playing Field which is included in the Village Development Area. The quotations ranged from between £75-£100 up to £300, and it was agreed to leave this matter in abeyance until the outcome of the planning application is known.

Connection of the Pavilion to the Mains Sewer – Two quotations had been received – one for approximately £1,470 and the other £2,750. It was agreed to leave this matter in abeyance for the present time. We have up until 31st August in which to connect to the mains sewer.

15. Correspondence

1. Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – 26.4.10 Standards Committee appointment of members – Application forms

2. Borough Council – Agenda and minutes of Council Meetings
3. Norfolk Rural Community Council – 12.4.10 – Details of Joint Council Meeting 27th April and the General Meeting to be held on 3rd November to elect a new board of Trustees.
4. Borough Council – 5 copies of the magazine Your Council.
5. S.G.Baker Limited – Information about the company who supply sandbags for emergency flood prevention.
6. Norfolk Police – 14.4.10 – Report of the Police response to Anti Social Behaviour Concerns in Downham Market.
7. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – e-mail to Warn of Fluvial and Saline Flooding. The cabinet of the Norfolk County Council requested further scrutiny of the Environment Agency’s Flood Warning Direct system. This will take place at the relevant panel meeting on May 18th, Apparently there is little confidence in the system and NCC are seeking assurances that the system can provide efficient and effective warnings to Norfolk communities.
8. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Copy of Norfolk Link, Norfolk Disability Information Service, Initial Training for Clerks and Councillors, Meeting on 24th June at Merchants Place Cromer, followed by a visit to the North Norfolk Business Centre at Northrepps on how parish councils can encourage and support rural enterprise.. Allotments A growing pastime – Meeting on Monday 28th June at Sprowston Parish Council Offices – a short talk identifying and reacting to request for allotments, and the issues to be aware of including tenancy agreements, livestock and buildings, security, administering waiting lists etc., followed by a walk around the allotments. plus a booking form.
9. Norfolk Clerk of the Year Nomination Form 2010
10. Invitation to the Civic Service at King’s Lynn on 16th May, 2010

16. Plans and Planning Matters

The following application was received for consideration:

Ref No. 10/00635/F

Mr. & Mrs. F.Bedford, Alterations and extension to existing Bungalow at Maywood, Wisbech Road, Welney.

Following examination of the plans and a short discussion it was agreed that the application be recommended for approval. The Chairman declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

17. Highway Matters

A letter had been received from NCC Planning and Transportation introducing the Highway and Community Rangers. The Rangers would visit Welney regularly every 14 weeks to perform tasks in addition to the programmed highway maintenance work identified by the Highway Engineer. The first visit would be during the week commencing 10th May and as they require 10 clear days notice, it was agreed to report our Highway concerns to the local Engineer. The following points would therefore be forwarded to Highways for attention:

1. Overgrown and dangerous hedge at Rutland Corner, Tipps End
2. Serious Drainage Problem at Bridge House, Suspension Bridge.
3. Chevron and Footpath Signs broken by a car leaving the road on the corner near Mr.James’ House
4. Breaking up of the road side on the corner of March Road opposite to Hurn Drove.
5. Footpath around Sandgate Corner is becoming overgrown and in need of spraying
6. A broken inspection chamber cover (possibly belonging to BT) outside the Old Nursery on Wisbech Road, Welney.

Two items for the Clean Up Team were also raised and these would be reported in the normal way

1. Rubbish left near the Road flooded Barrier on Suspension Bridge.
2. Old Tyres left near the first turning on the left over the Bridge on Wash Road.

Following the last meeting, the Clerk confirmed that she had printed all the photographs which Cllr.Bennett had taken relating to the Wash Road Flooding. He had been supplied with a copy so that these could be marked showing the position and then printed again to all parties concerned. No dates had been received from the Highways regarding the meeting which had to be cancelled in April, and it was agreed to contact Highways to try and make arrangements for a meeting before the end of May Following Mr. Bonner’s address to the meeting under Public Participation it was agreed to ask Highways if they would be prepared to meet Mr.Bonner on the same day as the meeting, so that he could discuss his concerns direct with them.

18. Environmental Issues.

Cllr.Bennett raised the question with regard to the future of the Old Croft River and confirmed that a meeting had still to be arranged regarding this.

19. Items for Next Agenda

There were no items for the next Agenda, but Cllr.Tomkins addressed the meeting by apologising to his fellow Councillors for not being able to attend recent meetings. He thanked everyone for bearing with him and confirmed that he would now be in a much better position to make regular attendances at Parish Council meetings.

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

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

Dated1st June, 2010.....