

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 6th JULY, 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 and the Clerk.

Members of the Public: Mr.& Mrs. D. Levesley.

1. Apologies for absence

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Public Participation

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

Mr. Levesley advised the meeting that he was simply interested in the current situation relating to the proposed new Community Centre and the Community Speed Watch Scheme. Both items would be discussed later in the Agenda.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

4. Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 1st June, 2010, having been circulated to all councillors were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting

5. Matters Arising

1. Community Speed Watch – Cllr. Allen reported that he had not progressed any further as he had not yet been able to arrange a meeting with Mr. Humm. However he was hoping to arrange this in the very near future. Sufficient volunteers had registered but there are some items still needing clarification – particularly with regard to the Insurance,

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments. A brief report was received from Mr. Copeman in his capacity as Chairman of the Allotment Association and this is attached to the minutes. He was thanked for his report. Following a discussion it was agreed that there was no need for the Parish Council Allotment Committee, and that matters could be dealt with by the Parish Council as a whole and the Allotment Association. Mr. Copeman would provide a brief report on a regular basis to keep the Parish Council fully informed. It was noted that so far 11 allotments have been let, and efforts were being made to let more. It was agreed that Cllr.Bennett may look into developing the area for a “Pocket park” or similar a little later in the year, when the state of the allotment lets is known. Council agreed to meet at the Allotment field at 7 p.m. prior to the next Parish Council meeting on 3rd August to make an inspection, and in the meantime each Councillor would be provided with a list of the allotment holders.

3. Meeting with adjoining Councils – The next meeting would take place on 11th August at Manea and all adjoining Councils had been informed. All councils would be contacted in the near future to ascertain if there are any items they would like to see included on the Agenda and this would be prepared for circulation closer to the meeting date.

4. Christmas Decorations - None available..

5. Loss of Notice Board – Top of New Road – Cllr.Kerr confirmed that he was working on this and hoped to have it installed before the next meeting.

6. Doctors Surgery at Welney – Despite letters earlier in the year asking whether they would reconsider reinstatement of the surgery nothing had been heard. It was agreed to make contact with the Practice Manager and raise the matter once again.

6. Finance

The following invoices have been received for payment

Fenland Fire Appliance Company
Servicing fire extinguishers at Pavilion 29 . 38

MHB Services Limited
Lighting Maintenance 13.6.10 to 12.8.10 104 . 55

Environment Agency – Rental for Parish Hall Site
1.4.10 to 31.3.11 178 . 00

Mrs.P.A.Copeman
Clerks Expenses 16 . 45

It was proposed by Cllr.Pratley, seconded by Cllr.Kerr and agreed that the accounts be paid and the cheques were duly signed.

Paid by Direct Debit:

13,6.10 E-On – Electricity 59 . 81
1.7.10 Mrs.P.Copeman Clerks Salary 225 . 68

7. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked but there was no money..

Purchase of the Hall Site – The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Mrs.Belinda Sutton of Elwood’s regarding the purchase of the Hall site and sale to them. Mrs.Sutton had confirmed that they are anxious to go ahead on the terms as previously set out but confirmed that the wale would probably not be completed for 2-3 months. However she would make sure that it was not delayed for too long.

8. Proposed New Community Centre

Following the last meeting, when the Council were informed that the Planning Application had been refused by the Borough Council, a meeting was held with the planning department and Mr, Briscoe on 18th June and a brief report is attached to these minutes. The planning department confirmed that whilst they were not happy with our original siting of the new hall, they would give much more favourable consideration if it was sited on the site of the old pavilion. Also the Parish Council are able to resubmit the application on this new site, at no additional cost.

The Clerk then advised the meeting that she had received the amended plans from Mr.Briscoe and these were put out for inspection. After consideration, Council requested that an approach be made to Mr.Briscoe to see if he could position the new hall square into the corner, as the pavilion stands at present, as under the current proposals, by putting it onto an angle fronting the field, there will be an area of wasted space to the north east of the new building. It was also agreed to ask him to include a play equipment area next to the new building on the south side. Mr.Briscoe had confirmed that two of the existing trees along the car park frontage would have to be removed to make way for the building, and council confirmed that they were quite happy for all the trees to be removed, with new trees possibly being planted at a different site on the field.

Mr. Briscoe had also provided a copy of the report from Norfolk County Council Highways, relating to the access from March Road onto Hurn Drove and work required to bring this up to Highway standards. It was agreed to contact Highways and ask them to look at the problem and the work required and let us have their advice regarding cost etc.

There was also a discussion regarding the possible provision of a teenage meeting shelter and it was agreed to ask Mr.Briscoe if planning permission would be needed for such a structure.

Following the last meeting Councillor Spikings made enquiries regarding the notification of planning decisions, and the following e-mail was received from her:

Re the enquiry as to why you did not hear first as to your planning application decision, the explanation that I was given was that the Decision Notice is passed to Admin to be put on the web, and also a Notice is put in the post second class. Usually they tie in on time but sadly this time it did not happen. I have requested that in future with the correct upgrades on IT that it will go by email first to the applicant/agent as a Decision Notice and then to follow up formally with the correct paperwork.

Hope this helps and I do apologise for the upset.

Cllr.V.Spikings.

9. Playing Field

The Clerk confirmed that the Playing Field Charity Account had been completed on line.

Norfolk Playing Fields Association letter dated 5th June had been received informing members that the AGM would be held on Thursday 15th July at 6 p.m. at Fakenham Sports Centre.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Cricket Club had found it necessary to purchase a new Mower for the Playing Field.

10. Correspondence

1. Linda Briggs – Copies of various correspondence she has had with Elizabeth Truss regarding the problems being experienced in Main Street since the installation of the Sewage works.
2. East Cambs District Council – June 2010 – Copy of Issue 3 of the Littleport Masterplan Newsletter.
3. Norfolk Rural Community Council – 9.6.10 – Invitation to AGM on Wednesday 7th July at Neatishead Victory Hall and a copy of Signpost – NRCC Newsletter.
4. NALC – Joint Summer Conference – 13.7.10 –Norwich City Football Ground – Cost £40 per delegate. Copy of Norfolk Link – May 2010
5. BCKLWN – Standards Committee Minutes and Agenda and Council meetings Minutes and Agenda
6. NALC – Sarita Presland – Parish Liaison Officer – Open Afternoon at Oxburgh Hall 7.9.10 2-4 p.m.
7. 2 e-mails from Norfolk Police following the shooting incident in Nordelph on 23.6.10
8. e-mail from Norfolk Police with details of outcomes of police work for the Downham Market neighbourhood in May 2010 and June 2010.
9. NCC – Copy of Your Norfolk Magazine
10. Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority – Copy of Safety Plan Consultation Document 2011/2014
11. Norfolk RCC – 18.6.10 – Where can I get to? A new website for alternative transport methods. Cards for display and they would also like an article in the parish magazine
12. Norfolk Constabulary – 21.6.10 – Revised Structure for Local Delivery
13. NCC Residual Waste Services Team – e-mail 23.6.10 Invitation to a meeting on 22nd July in the Sandringham suite at Lynnsport starting at 6.30 p.m. Briefing about proposals received by NCC for a power and recycling centre at Saddlebow, King's Lynn Agenda and booking form enclosed to be returned asap
14. BCKLWN – 24.6.10 – Parish Training and Information – Re-run of the training session hosted by the Planning Service on 10th September at King's Court.
15. East Cambs District Council – June 2010 – Copy of the Newsletter on growth delivery in East Cambridgeshire.
16. BCKLWN – Licensing Act – Statement of Licensing and Policy Review for comments.
17. Wash Estuary Strategy Group – Events programmed between 7th and 15th August.
18. Environment Agency – 6.7.10 – Details of work to be carried out on Middle Level Barrier Banks over the next three years.

11. Plans and Planning Matters

The following Planning Permissions have been received from the Borough Council.

1. Ref 10/00038/F

Mr. Stephen Drury, Girton, Cambridge.

Conversion of disused water tower to dwelling at Welney Water Tower, Main Street, Welney
Subject to compliance with various conditions. Approval granted 11.6.10

2. Ref: 10/00635/F

Mr. & Mrs. J. Bedford, Maywood, Wisbech Road, Welney

Alterations and Extensions to the existing Bungalow – Approval granted 10.6.10

The following Application has been received for consideration by the Parish Council

Ref: 10/01001/F

Mr. M. Howell, Howards Lane, Horseheath, Cambridge

First Floor and Two storey Extension to dwelling at White Cottage, Back Drove, Welney.

Following discussion it was recommended that this application should be approved. However concern was to be expressed to the planning department about the increase in traffic during the construction and that they should make sure that Back Drove is left in a good condition.

12. Highway Matters

On 8th June information was received by e-mail from Highways that work was to begin on 14th June for drainage works on Bridge Road, Welney. The work was estimated to take 1 week and included the installation of soakaways/filter drains and new gullies to alleviate flooding issues. Cllr. Freer confirmed that the work had been completed outside her property and hopefully they would have no further problems with flooding.

On 25th June an e-mail from Elizabeth Truss was received, as follows:

25.6.10

During questions in the House of Commons on Thursday, Elizabeth Truss MP urged the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Caroline Spelman, for reforms in the Environment Agency Questioning the Minister, the South West Norfolk MP called for the Environment Agency to be reformed and more locally accountable. "I am worried about the bureaucratic and remote nature of the Environment Agency's processes, specifically on the flooding of the A.1101 at Welney and flood defences at Wiggenhall St. Germans.

The Minister agreed to take up her concerns adding "she has made it clear on her website and in a number of interventions how anxious she is to ensure that her constituents are protected from flooding. I shall impress that upon the Environment Agency.

A meeting was held on 3rd June with Highways and the Environment Agency with regard to the Wash Road and signage etc during flooding. Thanks were expressed to Cllr.Brown for the preparation of the report which had been circulated to Councillors, and a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Those who attended agreed that the meeting was very useful and further information is awaited. Highways had also visited Mr.Bonner and spoken to him regarding his concerns about lorries turning around when the Wash Road is flooded.etc.

The Clerk confirmed that she had reported the broken food gate on the bridge to Highways, and it was understood that this has been repaired and re-instated.

13. Environmental Issues.

1. Cllr.Bennett raised the question of the extremely untidy state of the river bank near the Hall and it was agreed to send a letter to Mr. Bussingham at the Environment Agency at Ely asking if they can attend to this
2. It was also reported by Cllr.Brown that the condition of the Bedford River is very poor at present and the Environment Agency should also make an inspection as soon as possible.
3. Cllr.Brown also reported that the bottle banks are full, and the Clerk confirmed she would arrange for these to be emptied as soon as possible.

14. Items for Next Agenda

None

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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

Dated3rd August, 2010.....