

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 1ST MAY, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present

Cllrs K.Goodger, (Chairman) T. Bennett, S.Dobson, J. Elliott, V. Pratley, G.Rainbird, and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting, and thanked them for attending.

1. Election of Chairman for the year 2012/2013

The Chairman (Cllr.Goodger) asked for nominations for the post of Chairman for the coming year, and he was nominated by Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Bennett. He confirmed that he would be willing to stand for a further year if no-one else was nominated. There being no further nominations everyone confirmed agreement, and he was duly appointed.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs.T.Bray. T.Eyles and C.Freer, District Cllrs, V.Spikings and D.Pope, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO Tracy Milburn.

3. Public Participation

None

4. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

5. Election of Vice Chairman fore the year 2012/2013

Cllr.Bennett was nominated by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and unanimously agreed. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would be willing to take on the post and he was thanked by the Chairman for his help during the past year,

6. Election of Parish Council Committees

a. W.A.S.H. Committee – The Wash Committee comprises Cllr.Goodger, Mr.T.Copeman, Mr.T. and Mrs. C. Bray and on the proposition of Cllr.Bennett, seconded by Cllr.Rainbird and agreed, the committee were re-elected en-bloc.

b. Allotment Committee –The whole Parish Council form the allotment committee and on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr.Dobson it was agreed that this would continue, It was also agreed to make the annual inspection of the allotments at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 12th June, prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

7 Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd April, 2012, having been circulated to all councillors were confirmed by all present and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting, following the correction of the name Salmons under Item 10 Proposed new Community Centre..

8. Matters Arising

1. In-House Training – This has been arranged and booked with Sue Lake from Norfolk Association of Local Councils on 15th May, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall and the Clerk confirmed that a reminder would be sent to all Councillors the week before. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he would not be available.

2. Review of Parish Appraisal – Deferred until June 2012.

3. Proposed Power and Recycling Centre at King's Lynn – .The Clerk had circulated an e-mail from the Norfolk County Council to all Councillors. On 5th April a further letter had been received from the BCKLWN urging everyone to write to Eric Pickles to call-in the planning application for determination by the Secretary of State. An e-mail had also been received from the Farmers Campaign urging the same response.

4. Joint Meeting of Local Councils – After a brief discussion it was agreed to continue to include Upwell Parish Council on our list of adjoining Councils and to contact Littleport to see if they would host the meeting, as previously advised, in say later Summer or early Autumn,

5. Dog Bins/Waste Bins – A site inspection had been made and the Chairman confirmed that he will arrange for the concrete slab to be laid and the housing installed as soon as possible..

6. Water on the Washes – Following the last meeting the Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Mr. Dave Gillett at the Environment Agency and received the following reply:

The Ouse Washes has a WLMP (after Level Management Plan) which has target levels for winter and summer...in the summer we try to keep the water level at 0.5m (no water laying on the Washes)...in the winter these is a target level of 1.5m this primarily for the over wintering birds (water lying on the Washes).. the summer period starts on the 1st April each year...we are currently in the process of discharging water off the Washes through Welmore Sluice to get down to our summer levels. As a matter of interest when water flows off the Washes it is lost to the sea.....it does not assist the drought situation. I'm sorry but I cannot throw any light on the RSPB article in the Ely Standard...I've asked around in the office and no one knows of any request to hold water on the washes for longer...on the 13th March there was a meeting of the Ouse Washes Strategy Group (users of the washes) and there was no reference to this topic. To summarise we have no knowledge of any plans to change the current operating rules for water on the washes.

Kind regards, Dave.

A copy of this had been sent to Mr. Pete Redman who had replied that the information apparently dated back sometime and had been picked up by the local press. Cllr. Bennett confirmed that the RSPB had reapplied for their water abstraction licence and it was considered that this may be what was referred to.

Cllr. Bennett also confirmed that due to the recent very heavy and prolonged rainfall, the gates at Earith opened early on Saturday and the water was flooding on very fast. The pumps used to get the water down to the summer levels were still operating but it was felt that the Wash Road would be flooded within the next couple of days,

7. Community Shop – Cllr. Bennett confirmed that the article for this would hopefully be in the next edition of The Welney News due out at the end of May.

8. Salt Bins – Following the last meeting, contact had been made with Andy Wallace at Highways and he had confirmed that the cost of the salt bins would be £150.00 Highways would fill it if situated on the Highway and only if the salt was for use on the highway, After considerable discussion it was felt that one bin would not be sufficient to cover the village, and in view of the cost it was agreed that the matter should be left in abeyance for the time being.

9. Allotment Field off Chestnut Avenue – At the time of the inspection in June, the Councillors would inspect the grass area on the right hand side leaving across to the Anglian Water Building and see if this could be roped off so that the children could use part of it as a play area, for cycle track.

10. Electricity and Water Supplies - Cllr. Bennett confirmed that the replacement of the electricity transformer etc., had made a tremendous difference to residents in that area, and that electrical equipment was now working properly for the first time in a very long time. He also confirmed that Anglian Water had finally discovered a serious leak to the pipe work on Claytons Corner, which had now been repaired, and it was hoped that this would now help to improve the water pressure.

9. Reports from Village Organisations

a. Bishops Land Charity – The Clerk had prepared a brief report on the year's activities and this was read to the meeting. A copy is also included in the Minute Book,

b. William Marshall Charity – The Chairman gave a brief report on behalf of the Charity and gave brief details of how the income was divided and what it was spent on. He also confirmed that the Charity had been advised on the progress of the proposed new Community Centre.

10. Finance

a. The following invoices have been received for payment, and on the proposition of Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Elliott and agreed, the cheques were signed:

Norfolk Playing Fields Association – Subscription	20 . 00
P.J.Brown – Repairs to Lights in Parish Hall	111 . 36
MHB Services Ltd. Street Lighting Maintenance 13.4.12 to 12.6.12	115 . 78
Environment Agency – Rental for Parish Hall Site one year 1.4.12 to 31.3.13	178 . 00
Mrs.P. Copeman, Clerks Expenses	58 . 91
Paid by Direct Debit	
13.4.12 E-On Electricity for lights	59 . 81
1.5.12 Mrs.P.Copeman, Salary	255 . 68

b. Annual Accounts

The Clerk advised Councillors that it had always been normal practice to approve the end of year accounts at the AGM. However the external auditors were very late in sending out the forms and paperwork and although everything has been completed and balanced these have not yet been to the Internal Auditor who has to approve them before the Annual Return is presented to the Parish Council. The Form has to be returned to Mazars by the 1st July, so approval at the June meeting will be in time. Councillors were handed a copy of the typed accounts for their information and consideration before the next meeting.

c. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Parish Council have to be adopted for a further year. It was proposed by Cllr.Bennett, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed that these should be so adopted. The Clerk agreed to supply the Chairman with a hard copy of both documents and he would then scan these in and send a copy to all councillors by e-mail.

d. Update of Welney Emergency Plan.

The Clerk advised the meeting that this was prepared in July 2006 by Cllr.Bray and helpers and was now in need of updating. Once again the Chairman confirmed that he would e-mail a copy to everyone and the Plan could be updated at the next meeting,.

11. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

A second meeting was held on Monday 23rd April to continue with arrangements for the Village Celebration on Sunday 3rd June, 2012. A programme of events is nearing completion and it was hoped that this would be circulated to every house in the village during the first couple of weeks of May. Fliers will also be placed in the school and the Lamb and Flag and posters will be put up around the village. The days programme would also appear in the Welney News which should be published a week before the event. Food for the children's tea party, and prizes for the games, dog show and fancy dress have all been donated, together with a generous donation from Cllr.Bray towards the tea party, gifts and the Bouncy Castle. Cllr.Goodger agreed that he would be prepared to help with the collection of the Bouncy Castle from Littleport, and he would also provide a curtain sided trailer for use by the Delta Pilots. He also agreed that in his capacity as Chairman he would make a short speech to open the event at 1 p.m. Confirmation was awaited with regard to the Children's Disco. The only expense for the whole day was a donation of £200 for the Delta Pilots who had agreed to give up their whole day for the Village at a much reduced rate. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Bennett, seconded by Cllr.Pratley, and unanimously agreed that this could be paid from the Parish Council W.A.S.H. Funds under Section 145 Arts and Entertainments, and the cheque was drawn and signed..

12 Welney William Marshall School

Following the last meeting copies of the children's letters had been sent to Andy Walls and Karl Rands at Highways, Elizabeth Truss MP and Harry Humphrey (C.Cllr.)

A reply had been received from Elizabeth Truss MP dated 18th April thanking the Parish Council for the letter and the letters from the Children. She understood the concerns in relation to the school

cross and she has raised this with NCC Head of Highways Mike Jackson, asking what solutions can be implemented and she would let the Council know as soon as she had something to report. Andy Wallace of Highways confirmed that at this moment in time they are suggesting Highways install painted roundels on the road and he would be speaking with the traffic engineer to arrange a meeting to look at options.

It was agreed to send a letter to the Children letting them know of the up to date situation.

13. Parish Hall

The electricity meters had not been checked before the meeting but they would be checked before the next meeting.

Nothing further had been heard regarding the possible purchase and sale of the Hall site.

The Clerk confirmed that there was yet another burst pipe in the wall area between the gent's WC and the washbasin, and the plumber had been asked to attend as soon as possible.

14 Proposed New Community Centre

Nothing further had been heard from Mr.Briscoe following the meeting with Mr.Salmons at the end of March. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Mr.Briscoe that morning, and he was going to contact Mr. Salmons to see if he had prepared a revised quotation for the new building.

The Chairman also confirmed that he had raised the question of finance with Marshall's Charity and the charity will be looking for an official letter of request for funding from the Parish Council hopefully for their meeting in July. At that time they would also like to have a copy of the plans of the proposed new building.

15. Playing Field

The Chairman reported that he had received a quotation from Fenland Leisure for a Harrod Mini Soccer Goal in the sum of £315.00 plus VAT plus a Harrod Regulation Socketed Netball Post in the sum of £79.00 plus VAT. After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Elliott and unanimously agreed that these two items should be purchased and paid for from the Play Equipment Account, and installed at the top left corner of the Playing Field, away from the Cricket boundary. Cllr.Goodger and Bennett confirmed that they would be prepared to concrete the bases required to take these items, and install them into position.

Cricket Club Fixtures – Once again the Clerk confirmed that she had received nothing from the Cricket Club regarding this years fixtures but found the list off dates on the Welney Web site. This problem of assuming that all the dates were available was thought to have been resolved over the last couple of years, but it has all gone wrong this year. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Cricket Club expressing the Council's concern that no approach was made with the dates before they were advertised. The Cricket club had also requested permission to provide an external lockable water tap where it was previously on the end of the pavilion, to enable watering of the wicket which is apparently exempt from the current hosepipe ban. Following discussion it was agreed to reply that the Parish Council would be happy provided a. the tap has a meter installed so that the Cricket club pay for all the water they use, b. pay for all water over and above our annual bill, which for the past two years has been approximately £120.00 or c. leave the matter until the new Community centre is built at which time a secure outside tap could be installed.

16 Correspondence

1. BCKLWN – Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes,.
2. E-mail from Steve Shaw regarding the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Act of 2010. Apparently the Act was passed by Government in 2010 but there is still a delay in that Town and Parish Councils still do not have the involved rights that all parties in Parliament wanted them to have. Suggestion is that we write a letter to our MP urging them to help end the delay
3. 22nd Monthly report from Elizabeth Truss MP
4. Norfolk RCC – Norwich has been selected to host the Village SOS Roadshow 2012 and this will be taking place on 31st May at The Holiday Inn, Norwich (North) from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
5. Norfolk Constabulary – E-mails asking residents to take extra care because of a scam involving someone calling and claiming to work for the Ministry of Justice in order to swindle cash out of unsuspecting householders.

6. The Downham Games – Celebrating the Olympic Games on 27th May, 2012. Posters in the Notice Boards.

17. Plans and Planning Matters

The following planning decision has been received:

12/00292/F – Mr.K. Cage – Linked extension to rear of dwelling etc.

Holly House, March Road, Tipps End (retrospective)

Dated 23.4.12

18 Highway Matters

Following the last meeting, the following comments have been received from Andy Wallace regarding our outstanding highway matters::

Large pothole near Briard Lodge, March Road, Welney **Pothole patching ordered**

Main Street – Surface Condition **Patching Ordered**

Footpath from Welney Nursery to Stockyard Farm **Programmed**

Pothole on Bridge – We advised that this had at long last been completed - **HOORAY!!!!**

Possibility of installing advance warning signs in both directions on A.1101 at Bells Drove. –**I have asked my traffic colleagues to comment. I would not see a problem in erecting junction warning**

Councillors considered this are agreed that the signs currently in place are more than sufficient – too many signs can cause considerable problems.

Wash Road, Welney – **I am currently dealing with this one and will come back to you as soon as possible.**

Work on the Streetscene and Rights of Way Activities.

I will let you have further information regarding Streetscene in due course. With regard to Rights of way matters I would suggest your request goes through the old channels as it has not officially been passed on to us.

Cllr.Bennett agreed to speak to his contacts to find out what the up to date position is in connection with Rights of Way activities etc.

The following item was raised for Highways attention:

Galvanised support posts on the new barrier erected at Suspension Bridge have broken away and are in need of attention.

19. Environmental Matters

1. Hundred Foot Bank – Concrete Access Road

An e-mail had been received from the Environment Agency confirming that they were still not able to establish which of the occupants near the haul road have a right of access. After considerable discussion the Chairman and Vice chairman confirmed that they would visit the problem area for themselves and in the meantime a request should go to the Environment Agency for a site meeting with them and the Parish Council to try and address the issues as soon as possible.

2. Sewage Lagoon at Christchurch

It was reported to the meeting that yet again the lorries are removing loads of waste from the lagoons as they did last year, and this has been going on for three to four weeks. It was agreed to ask Anglian Water what the problem is, and also to remind them that they promised the Parish Council a site visit at some time.

3. Motorbikes on the Banks

The meeting was advised that signs confirming that motorbikes are not allowed on the banks have been installed on the gates.

20 Items for Next Agenda

None

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed ...K.Goodger Chairman) Dated ...12th June, 2012.....