

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2013 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present**

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting,

**1. Apologies for absence**

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

**2. Public Participation**

None

**3. Declaration of Interests**

None at this stage.

**4 Minutes of Last Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February, 2013 were confirmed by those present and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting

**5. Matters Arising**

- a. Possible Oil/Utility Purchasing Group – Cllr.Bennett confirmed that to date six persons have contacted him showing an interest in the scheme, but this number is not sufficient to make it viable. Further information would be reported as and when available.
  
- b. Village Infrastructure – The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting she had written to UK Power Networks regarding the problems with power cuts and voltage drops in the village. A reply had been received from their lead Field Engineer stating that the problem is simple – swans and geese. He went onto confirm that they had done a considerable amount of work over the last few years putting up bird flight diverters and they are also going to put in a new remote control overhead circuit breaker which will enable them to restore supplies quicker. After discussion it was agreed that the Council were not happy with their explanation and a reply was to be sent stating that we are not satisfied as we do not believe that all the problems are down to the swans. It was also confirmed that two members of the Parish Council farm land around the Parish and there are not enough dead swans on the fields to justify their comments – if one or two are found this is the maximum. At present when there is a power cut at Welney and the circuit breaker goes, is this reset automatically or does someone have to physically come and reset it? Finally the power cuts and power drops occur all year round – this problem cannot be put down solely to swans as there are very few, if any, at the bird sanctuary in the summer months.
  
- c. Parish Council Newsletter – this item was brought forward from the last meeting and following discussion it was agreed this would be a good idea in order to keep the village up to date with the Parish Council's achievements and hopes etc. It was agreed that articles for the first newsletter will be collated from June onwards – hopefully with publication in September. A request was made that this should be posted to every house in the Parish and Cllr.Bray confirmed that he will arrange the sponsorship for the postage so that there is no cost to the Parish Council.
  
- d. Village Database – The Clerk confirmed that she now had approximately 20 names on the village database.

## **6. Finance**

On the proposal of Cllr Freer, seconded by Cllr.Eliott and agreed, the following cheques were signed:

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	35 . 99
Westcotec – Lighting Maintenance Jan & Feb	115 . 76
Anglian Water – Water for Pavilion 20.11.12 to 18.2.13	65 . 29
Paid by Direct Debit	
1.3.13 Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary	2 55 . 68
15.2.13 E-On – Electric for lights	62 . 19
15.3.13 E-On – Electric for Lights	56 . 18
12.3.13 E-On – Electric for Parish Hall	152 . 48

An Invoice had also been received from the Borough Council for the yearly contribution to the maintenance of Upwell Community Health Centre car park, but it was agreed to leave this invoice to the April meeting (start of the new year) as an invoice for the current year had already been included in the accounts for the current year.

## **7. Parish Hall**

The electricity meters had been checked before the meeting and a total of £59 was removed.

The outside light is in need of a new bulb and a new starter is required to one of the fluorescent lights in the Hall and the Chairman agreed to attend to these as soon as possible.

## **8 Proposed New Community Centre**

A Meeting was held at Cllr.Bray's House on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Cllr.Bennett, Cllr.Elyes, Mrs. Barr, Mrs.Wood and the Clerk attended, with apologies from Mr.Fleming. Several possibilities for funding were discussed and Mrs.Barr agreed to contact colleagues at her previous place of employment for information regarding funding and Mrs.Wood agreed to look into all aspects of the Lottery Funding. The Clerk confirmed that she would find out as much information as possible regarding WREN funding. The Clerk then confirmed to the meeting that in order to comply with the WREN application a contributing third party had to be found to pay 10% of the gross grant available by WREN in order for them to release the grant for the project. After discussion it was suggested that we approach Marshall's Charity and ask if they would be prepared to be the contributing third party by deducting the amount required from the £100,000 which they have committed to the project. This would then allow the Parish Council to complete the application to WREN and possibly obtain up to £75,000 in funding from them for fixtures, fittings etc. It was also agreed to ask the proposed builders for a breakdown of the costings so that this information is available for the next meeting.

It was agreed to hold a meeting towards the end of March, early April in the hope of more information being to hand so that applications could be formulated. Cllr.Bray agreed to look into a business plan.

Cllr.Dobson confirmed that she had called a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February as was disappointed that the only persons attending were herself and Cllr.Elliott and one member of the public. However they were successful in making arrangements for three fund raising events – Whitsun Half Term weekend a Jewellery Workshop (organised by AP) 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Dog Show on the Playing Field (organised by SD) and a Sunday in September – a Treasure Hunt for Dog Walkers and Horse Riders (organised by JE). The Clerk agreed to advise of the Sundays in September when the Playing Field would not be used for a Cricket Match. Cllr.Dobson also confirmed that help would be required from Councillors and anyone else available for the events and further information would be available in the near future.

## **9. Playing Field**

Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he had been and inspected the state of the trees on the Boundary of the Playing Field, previously raised by Mr. Carter. There are more trees than was at first thought and they are well established. He had spoken to Mr. Hunt at Briard Lodge who had no objections, and he was also hoping to speak to Mrs. Thompson. It was agreed to obtain prices for the work required to the 12 trees and then decide on the best course of action.

## **10. Correspondence**

1. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Copy of the February issue of Norfolk Link, and initial training details for Clerks and Councillors.
2. K & M Lighting Services – Street Lighting Maintenance – Asking to be considered for the contract in the future. This was formed when the old company MHB Services – went into liquidation.
3. Norfolk Village Games – Brochure and Details for 2013
4. Elizabeth Truss MP – 30<sup>th</sup> Monthly report
5. Norfolk County Council – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Newsletter
6. Fenland District Council 28.2.13 – Core Strategy and Policies Map and how to comment on line.
7. Norfolk Rural Community Council – 3.3.13 – February Newsletter
8. Cambs Acre 1.3.13 – March News Digest.

## **11. Plans and Planning Matters**

1. Chris Curtis – Planning Enforcement Officer at KLWNBC – Mill Cottage and Meadow Cottage, Bedford Bank

The following e-mail from him dated 11<sup>th</sup> February, following Council's previous enquiries regarding occupancy of the above properties:

*I have investigated the use of the two properties above. The relevant Planning Permission 08/01786/F limits the use to holiday but does not time limit that use. This means that if the owners/occupants have permanent addresses elsewhere, then the amount of time spent "on holiday" is not controlled. Based on the current evidence available, it appears to the local Planning Authority that there is no breach of planning control and the case will be closed. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.*

2. E-mail dated 11<sup>th</sup> February from the Electoral Services Manager at the Borough Council advising that the Boundary Commission for England would like to thank all Parish and Town Councils for responding to the consultations during the recent review. The date of the next Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review has been postponed until 2018.

3. THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR CONSIDERATION Ref no. 13/00237/F Mr. & Mrs. J. Hornby, Extension to form Garage and Study at Laburnum House, March Road, Tipps End, Welney. Following discussion and inspection of the plans relating to this application, it was unanimously agreed that everyone was happy and the plans should be recommended for approval.

## **12 Highway Matters**

Following the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February, all Councillors should have received a copy of the report of that meeting. A copy was also forwarded to all those present for their information. As you know, Cllr. Spikings left the meeting and immediately contacted Mr. Graham Plant at Norfolk County Council regarding the dot-matrix signs which had been discussed. At the meeting it was mentioned by Mr. Andy Wallace that the funding for these signs could possibly come from the Parish Partnership Scheme but this would mean that the Parish would have to find 25% of the cost – and at £15,000 this would mean Welney would have to pay £3,750. Both District Councillors Spikings and Pope and C. Cllr. Humphrey agreed that Welney should not be responsible for any cost, and after discussion with Dist. Cllr Spikings, Mr. Plant confirmed that the County Council have further funding for highway improvements that support local communities and businesses. He then confirmed that he would support the County Council funding the scheme in full from this other source and this is subject to Cabinet approval on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr. Humphrey has

confirmed that he will support this at Cabinet on our behalf. On 12<sup>th</sup> January Mr. Andy Wallace of Highways also telephoned to confirm that Mr.Plant had agreed this funding and that he would be reserving £20,000 for these signs and if this is confirmed then we shall be able to have three signs. Mr.Wallace was suggesting one at Suspension Bridge, one at the New Road junction and one at the Cross Roads (between Lakes End and three Holes) so that drivers had the opportunity to divert either through Christchurch or onto Nordelph and Downham Market. As soon as confirmation is received he is going to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman and Phil from Westcotec to agree the signs and the wording and these can then be manufactured during April.

As also requested from the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February, the clerk confirmed that she had advised everyone of the meeting called by Elizabeth Truss and Steve Barclay on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 11 a.m. Some persons have already confirmed that they will be attending, but others have sent their apologies. Since the last meeting the time of this meeting has been amended to 10.30 a.m. to enable the MEP Vicky Ford to attend.

Still have not received confirmation on the majority of the Highway matters which have been outstanding for some time. I will prepare a full list following this meeting, and send it off to Mr. Wallace for his info and advice. The following points were also raised at the meeting to be included to the list of outstanding works:

1. Bad rut on the verge between Elder Farm and Isle Farm, Tipps End.
2. Problems with the surface of Main Street increasing – cracks, potholes, uneven surface etc
3. Several dangerous holes in Chestnut Avenue.

Cllr.Dobson also raised the question of vehicles using Back Drove. Apparently when the Wash Road was last flooded a large articulated lorry and several 4x4 vehicles tried to use the Drove and managed to get stuck. This has now badly damaged the surface. It was agreed that signs are required at both ends of Back Drove stating Unsuitable for vehicles and the Clerk agreed to look into this and see where they are obtained from.

### **13. Environmental Matters**

#### **1. Hundred Foot Bank – Concrete Access Road**

Nothing further to report.

#### **2. Parking Area at the Side of the Parish Hall.**

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a further e-mail from Mr.Chris Rule at the Environment Agency regarding the parking area at the side of the Parish Hall which is badly in need of repair. He has confirmed that he is waiting feedback from their estates/legal department re status of responsibility for the track surface and would let us know the outcome in due course.

#### **3. Dog Mess**

PCSO Esther Bortz had confirmed that she would be calling to see the person affected by the dumping of dog mess and would let us know the outcome. Nothing has been heard at the time of the meeting.

### **14. Items for Next Agenda**

None.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed ...K.Goodger..... (Chairman) Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013.....