

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Welney Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 6th May, 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr.K. Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs.T.Bray, S.Dobson, and V. Pratley, and the Clerk. Also present Mr.J.Loveday, Mr.P.Cox and 1 member of the public.

1. Election of Chairman for the year 2014/15

The Chairman asked for nominations for the position for the coming year. Cllr.Goodger was proposed by Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and with no further nominations and everyone in agreement he was duly elected for a further year. He then welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr.G.Rainbird, Dist.Cllrs. David Pope and Vivienne Spikings and C.Cllr.Harry Humphrey.

3. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

4. Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 2014/15

None of the Councillors present were prepared to be nominated and it was therefore agreed to leave the appointment of a Vice Chairman in abeyance for the time being. The Chairman confirmed that if for any reason he is not able to attend a meeting, then a temporary Chairman would have to be appointed for that evening.

5 Casual Vacancies on the Parish Council.

Councillors were reminded that present there are four vacancies on the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that since the last meeting she had sent a copy of the draft minutes to the electoral Officer at the Borough Council and she is in the process of trying to get the number of councillors for Welney reduced from 9 to 8. The Clerk then confirmed that she had received two e-mails from residents interested in joining the Council. Mr. Ray Gilbert of Wisbech Road and Mrs. Ann Wardle of March Road. Both were in attendance at the meeting and after a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr. Dobson and unanimously agreed that both should be co-opted to the Parish Council. The Chairman welcomed them to the table and all the necessary paperwork including acceptance of office forms were handed out

6. Adjourn the meeting for Public Participation

None

7. Election of W.A.S.H., Committee

The meeting was advised that at the present time the committee comprises Cllr.Goodger, Cllr. Bray and Mrs. C.Bray and Mr.T. Copeman. After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed on the proposition of Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Wardle that the committee should be re-elected en-bloc. The Clerk was also requested to prepare an article for the next Welney News informing residents of the W.A.S.H. Group and advising that it is hoped to hold an Open Day later in the summer.

8. Minutes of Last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st April., having been circulated to all councillors, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

9. Matters Arising

a. Any Reports for Welney News - The Clerk would prepare a report of the WASH committee as above.

b. Properties in Chestnut Avenue – Following the last meeting a reply had been received from West Norfolk Homechoice dated 11th April confirming the information that Freebridge Community Housing had given to

the Council at the April meeting – that there are no families on the housing register that have asked to be housed in Welney. If Freebridge go ahead with their plans to rehouse the tenants into the houses that they have completed or are almost completed, it will mean 6 houses to be demolished. It is further understood that two houses will be secured and made wind and water tight and left in their current part renovated state. Once all the work etc is completed it will only leave No.2 which has to be relet. Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council are not at all happy with the decision regarding these houses especially when everyone is stating that there is a shortage of housing – Freebridge need to do more for the village not try to kill it off. It was unanimously agreed to write to Elizabeth Truss MP, Vicky Ford MEP, Cllr.David Pope, Cllr.Vivienne Spikings and the head of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk stating our opinions in the strongest terms and asking for any help then can give.

10. Reports from Village Organisations

a. William Marshall Charity – Cllr.Goodger gave a brief report on behalf of the Charity. He confirmed that the annual income is in the region of £55,000 - £10,000 is put into the Church account, £10,000 to the Widows Account and £10,000 to the General Purposes Account. He also confirmed that the Charity are happy to donate £100,000 for one building on the Playing field and they are very supportive that we should build something that the village can afford.

b. Bishops Land Charity – The Clerk gave a report on behalf of the Charity and a copy is attached in the minute book.

11 Finance

The following invoices were received and on the proposal of Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr.Pratley and agreed the cheques were signed:

Welney Croft Cricket Club – half years payment for grass cutting on playing field	425 . 00
Westcotec – Street Light Maintenance – March and April	115 . 76
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – Emptying Dog waste Bins	156 . 00
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – Emptying General Waste Bin	95 . 00
Environment Agency – Rental for Parish Hall Site 1.4.14 to 31.3.15	178 . 00
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	39 . 74

Bradgate Fencing had submitted their Invoice for the Artificial Cricket Pitch on the Playing Field in the sum of £7,140 (the VAT portion of this had already been reclaimed) However Mr.Loveday confirmed that the work had not been completed and it was proposed by Cllr.Bray, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed that as soon as confirmation is received then the cheque can be signed and sent off.

The Clerk confirmed that the renewal papers had been received from Game and Company (Aviva Insurance) for payment at the June meeting. The premium is slightly less than last year, because we took up the offer of the long term agreement giving an annual 5% no claims discount. The current agreement expires on 7th June 2015 and they would like to know if we wish to sign up for a further three year period. Agreed to advise that we would like to , but that our insurance requirements will undoubtedly change in that time with only one building to insure.

Paid by Direct Debit:

1.5. 14	Clerks Salary	255 . 68
11.5.14	E-on Electric for lights	62 . 19

12 Parish Hall.

The electricity meters were emptied before the start of the meeting and the sum of £16.00 was removed. Nothing further had been heard from Anglian Water regarding the replacement of the water meter and it was agreed to speak to them again. Confirmation had also been received that the electricity meter is in need of updating, but nothing can be done until E-on have an engineer working in this area. Will advise further in due course.

13. Proposed New Community Centre.

The Chairman opened this part of the meeting, by informing council that he had been approached by Mr.Loveday who was anxious to form a Working Group to help with raising finance for the new building on the Playing Field. He confirmed that he had had a meeting with Mr.Loveday and Mr P.Cox and that they had been looking into various aspects including the layout of the building and funding sources. He confirmed that this was the main reason for them being at the meeting. They went onto explain that they had arrived at a total price for the building in the region of £175,000 and had been looking at funding sources especially Sport England from where £50,000 could be available. However the Sport England deadline was 3rd June so all details had to be in place. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the Solicitors in Wisbech who had the title deeds and they were going to extract information regarding ownership of the Playing Field etc. Charity Commission documents and copies of old conveyances are in the Parish Council files, but do not give sufficient information for the application.

a. Spreadsheet for the timescale of the new building

Cllr. Dobson presented everyone with a copy of the updated spreadsheet and outlined the various points with proposed times by which they should be achieved. A building of the type supplied by MRC could be in place and in use by March 2015 and the spreadsheet would be updated every month especially with critical points. Total funding should be fixed and Cllr.Bray produced a draft business plan which he had prepared.

b. Formation and Approval of a Working Group.

The Chairman explained that Mr.Loveday and Mr.Cox would like to form the Working Group to look into funding to compliment Marshall's Charity funding and the small amount of money already raised. The meeting was advised that the Working Group would be made up of user groups and interested parties. Cllr.Dobson confirmed that the Group must have a clear remit as to what they can and cannot do. They would have no finance available but would simply liaise with funders and then with the Parish Clerk who would have to sign all paperwork. Mr. Cox confirmed that the Working Group should be at arms length from the Parish Council but it was felt that this should not be the case. Following further heated comments and discussion Mr.Loveday and Mr.Cox stated that they could not take any further part in this project and left the meeting. There was then further discussion and it was proposed by Cllr .Bray, seconded by Cllr. Dobson and unanimously agreed that Mr.Loveday should be asked to form a Working Group to look into funding for the new building. It was further proposed by Cllr.Bray. seconded by Cllr.Dobson and agreed that the Parish Council should nominate two councillors to serve on the Working Group, The Chairman agreed to speak to Mr.Loveday as soon as possible to see if he would be prepared to continue with the work he had already started.

c. Consider amended plans for the new building from MRC

Following the last meeting the Parish Council had finally agreed the layout plans for the new building and a copy of the amended drawing had been sent to all councillors. However Mr.Loveday and Mr.Cox had met with Mr.Neill of MRC and redrawn the plans again to include an Office area. Following discussion, the plans were again amended to meet Council's requirements and the final plan would be sent to MRC. As soon as received this would be sent to all councillors and user groups for information. Mr.Neill from MRC had advised that his Architect may be able to get the Planning Department to extend the planning permission beyond the 18th May and instructions would be given for him to look into this.

14. Playing Field.

The Chairman confirmed that he had not yet had an opportunity of speaking further to Mr.Carter about the trees but that he would do so as soon as possible

15. Correspondence

1. Copy of a letter to Vicky Ford MEP from Department for Environment food and Rural Affairs dated 27th March regarding a request from Elizabeth Truss and Stephen Barclay regarding increased dredging in order to reduce pressure on the Ouse Washes.
2. Norfolk Constabulary – e-mail dated 3rd April, warning residents to be vigilant around a credit card scam
3. Norfolk County Council – e-mail dated 1st April with New Timetable for the mobile library.

4. Norfolk Constabulary - 4th April – Information regarding current change programme that is looking to transform services whilst meeting their savings requirement.
5. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Funding and Community Enterprise Evening 21.5.14
6.15 a.m. Leziate Village Hall.
6. Norfolk Constabulary – S.N.A.P. - Wednesday 7th May at Downham Market Town Hall
7. Local Works – Asking for support to a proposal going to Government for works in the Parishes.

16. Planning Matters

Ref No. 14/00509/LDE – Planning Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use of 28 static holiday homes at Pisces Country Park, Bedford Bank, Welney. This was circulated to all councillors for any comments, and as nothing was heard from anyone, the form was returned on 23rd April confirming the support of the Parish Council.

Ref No. 14/00612/O – Outline Planning application – Demolish dwelling and construct two 3 bed detached houses and garages at Dayford, New Road, Welney. The owner of the property was present at the meeting and was able to give some information and a letter of concern had been received from a neighbouring property. However taking all matters into consideration Council agreed to support the application and the paperwork would be returned accordingly.

An e-mail dated 1st May had been received from the Borough Council regarding Preferred Options WEL1 with a letter from Natural England asking for comments. Natural England were pointing out that the site in question fronted onto a SSSI, Ramsar Site and if building were allowed any noise or disturbance should be kept to a minimum to protect the wildlife. After a brief discussion it was agreed to reply that obviously Natural England had never visited the site in question as their comments are completely unfounded. There has been a village hall on the site since 1929 and a Public House (although recently demolished) for many years prior to that.

17 Highway Matters including Wash Road.

Following the resignation of Mr. Bennett from the Parish Council the position of Flood Warden would no longer exist and all information from the Environment Agency would be forwarded to the Clerk and the Chairman for sending onto all councillors.

A copy of a letter to Vicky Ford MEP from DEFRA dated 27th March regarding a request from Elizabeth Truss and Stephen Barclay (M.P.'s) regarding increased dredging in order to reduce pressure on the Ouse Washes. A meeting with Vicky Ford and Elizabeth Truss and the Drainage Board had been arranged and it was confirmed that this is a problem which affects between 60 & 80% of the country.

The Clerk confirmed that Highways had been contacted with regard to a TROD footway which might give access to the Playing Field, but nothing had been heard at present.

It was also reported to the meeting that the new Dot Matrix signs had been causing problems by flashing to advise motorists that there was water on the road, when there was nothing. The matter would be reported to Andy Wallace at Highways and Phil at Westcotec so that any problems can be investigated.

18. Update of Community Emergency Plan

This plan was last updated in August 2012 and it was agreed that it is now in need of revision. The Clerk confirmed that she would ensure all councillors had a copy of the plan for consideration at the next meeting. The Chairman gave a brief report on the management of the rivers which could affect the village.

19. Items for Next Agenda

1. State of the Bus Shelter – Cllr. Bray agreed to inspect and report further at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

SignedK.Goodger..... (Chairman) Dated 3rd June, 2014.....