

Minutes of the Meeting of the Welney Parish Council
held in The Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 3rd February, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs.L.Bombata, S.Dobson, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert, V.Pratley, G.Rainbird, A.Wardle, Approximately 15 members of the public and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was nice to see so many present. He also extended his apologies to those who were well behaved at the last meeting, when he found it necessary to remove all members of the public from the Hall and confirmed that the decision was his and made in his capacity as Chairman.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO Phil Writer.

2. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman declared an interest in Item 11 on the Agenda – Old Croft River
No other declarations at this time.

3. Public Participation

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation, and the following points were raised

- a. Re-positioning of Basketball net on the Playing field
- b. Croft House
- c. Rights of Way Cutting
- d. Footpath – New Road
- e. Street Lights not working.

4. Minutes of last meeting

Following corrections to Item 6 Finance – annual preceptthe precept should be increased by £1,500 to cover the possible additional costs of an election in May 2015 the minutes were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Parish Council Website - Cllr.Bombata confirmed that the website was still in preparation stages, and that he had received comments from the Clerk and Cllr.Waddle. He would liaise with both parties and obtain up to date information

b. Parish Council Newsletter – It was agreed to produce a further Newsletter in due course. The first one was simply a pilot. Input would be required for a further newsletter and once this was received a special meeting would be called to finalise all the details.

c. Team Building Exercise – Phone cascade not yet tested as road not flooded. New cascade list required in view of resignation. Clerk to complete and circulate.

d. Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal – Clerk confirmed that she had not been able to get anywhere with Vodafone with regard to the closing date for applications and also some questions on the form needed clarification. Agreed that the whole matter be handed back to Cllr.Bombata as the original idea came from him. Confirmation from a resident that he would be prepared to have one of the boxes installed at his premises – details of this also handed over.,

e. UKPower Networks – E-mail dated 21st January sent to all councillors, asking everyone to report low voltage and then arrangements can be made for their properties to be monitored and tested. Encourage everyone with problems to report them direct to UKPower Networks.

6. Finance

a. On the proposal of Cllr.Wardle, seconded by Cllr.Dobson and with all in favour, the following invoices were approved for payment and the cheques were signed:

Fenland Fire Appliance – Services of Fire Extinguishers at Parish Hall
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses (4 months)

38 . 88

37 . 43

Paid by Direct Debit

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary 255 . 68

E-On – Electric for lights 62 . 19

b. Formal Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

On the proposal of Cllr.Wardle, seconded by Cllr.Elliott and unanimously agreed the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were formally adopted for a further year. New appropriate pages would be sent to Councillors.

7. Parish Action Plan

Councillors had been supplied with the updates to the Parish Action Plan as agreed at the last meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr.Dobson, seconded by Cllr.Elliott and agreed, the update sheets were adopted. Cllr.Bombata confirmed that he would include these into the copy of the Parish Action Plan

8. Parish Hall

Electric meters were emptied before the meeting and £41.00 was removed. Repairs had been carried out to the Emergency exit door at the side of the hall.

9. Proposed new Pavilion/Hall

Councillors had been supplied with a copy of a report from the Action Team, together with a copy of a report of an informal meeting with three members of the Parish Council. Cllr.Rainbird explained his position regarding the authority of the Action Team and that they are working under the instructions of the Parish Council. The Chairman explained the historical formation of the Action team, and it was agreed to forward a copy of the signed Terms of Reference to all councillors.

10. Playing Field.

a. Exercising of Dogs – Councillors had all received a copy of an e-mail from Mr.Paul Fox of RUG regarding dogs and the playing field. Enquiries had been made regarding bye-laws restricting dogs and these have now been replaced by Dog Control Orders. If the Parish Council wished to make a Dog Control Order they must decide on the area of land to be covered by the dog control order. Consult the district council. If land is 'access land' consult the access authority. Publish notice of proposal in a local newspaper. Consider any representations (comments) on the proposed dog control order., If the decision is the proceed with the dog control order, make the order, including a date (not less than 14 days after making) when it is to come into force. Publish a further notice in a local newspaper at least 7 days before the order comes into force. Where a Parish Council has a website a copy of the order must also be posted on it. Where practicable ensure that there is appropriate signage in place prior to the dog control order coming into effect. The process of making the dog control order will take at least 56 days. However, given that a parish council will have to meet to consider any consultation responses and that notices will have to be published in a local newspaper, in practical terms the making of an order will take anywhere between 65 and 85 days, if not longer. Following brief discussion Cllr.Dobson suggested that we should delay any action to obtain a Dog Control Order because of the time involved, but to keep it in mind as a last resort course of action.. Cllr.Elliott confirmed that she would like to see no dogs on the Playing Field at all. Cllr.Rainbird advised that he would be in favour of the proposed from RUG for a six month trial period. The Chairman advised that whilst an adjoining parish are trying to get a Dog Control Order, he felt that it would be a much better solution if the Parish Council and users could decide on a rule for the Playing Field. He then adjourned the meeting to give those present an opportunity to speak. Once the meeting was reconvened, a proposal was tabled by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Bombata that the RUG team should be given the six months period to walk their dogs on the playing field, but that it must be carefully self policed. Also during the six months the residents of Welney should be approached and opinions collated and if sufficient complaints were received then Council would seek a Dog Control Order. . Cllr.Gilbert also agreed to police the field at the same time. An amendment was received for this proposal from Cllr.Wardle, seconded by Cllr.Elliott that the period of time should be reduced to three months with the same policing regulations. The amendment was duly voted on with 3 votes in favour, 4 against and one abstention and the amendment was therefore lost. The Main Proposal of a six month period, was then voted on with 4 votes for, three against and 1 abstention and was therefore carried.

b. Playing Field Charity – An e-mail from Cllr.Gilbert had been forwarded to all councillors regarding the Playing Field Charity and the Clerk had prepared a reply which all councillors had received. Cllr. Gilbert proposed that the Parish Council should hold a special meeting to deal with the Playing Field Charity and possible updating of the Charity Scheme, and this was seconded by Cllr.Bombata. 3 votes were received for the motion, 4 votes against and 1 abstention and the motion was therefore lost. The item would be included on the Agenda for the next meeting,

c. Basketball Net – The Clerk had contacted Mr.Loveday asking if he could move the basketball net to an alternative location on the Playing Field because of complaints received from some residents. Reply received that the net should be moved when the corner of the field is cleared where the old nets are.

11. The Old Croft River.

Cllr. Gilbert had requested that this item be included on the Agenda as he was concerned with the cleaning of the Old Croft River, The Chairman asked if Council were happy for him to remain in the meeting for the discussion because of his connection with the Drainage Board and it was agreed that he could remain, However Cllr.Gilbert informed the meeting that he had taken this matter further and he did not want any further comments or discussion,

12. Correspondence

1. Resignation letter from Cllr.Bray – All Councillors have been advised of this and the Borough Council informed for their records.
2. Resident of Taymor Place (Mrs.Murphy) has requested the Parish Council to investigate the use of the outer building at the back of Croft House as they understand it is going to be used as a recording studio. It was agreed to contact the planning department at the Borough Council and ask if they could confirm whether a change of use is needed for the premises.,
3. nps Group – Offering Fire Risk Management Services to the Parish Council.
4. As requested I replied to Mr. Smith regarding his request to hold a meeting and he replied stating that he quite understood the situation. He would be happy to meet the PC if we so required.
5. e-mail from Cllr.Bombata dated 8th January, circulated to all councillors on 9th January for information.

13. Planning Matters

On 22nd January councillors were circulated with details of the Planning Application No.15/00083/F Mr. & Mrs. Slann, Dayford, New Road, Welney. After a brief discussion and inspection of the plans it was proposed by Cllr.Gilbert, seconded by Cllr.Wardle and unanimously agreed that Council recommend approval.

Two items were raised under Public Participation at the last meeting & the following information has been found

1. Welney Water Tower – Ref: 10/00038/F

Planning Permission was dated 11th June, 2010 and the three year time scale has now of course expired.

The Parish Council recommended refusal on 12th April, 2010, but the Borough granted permission, although no work has been done and a new application would now have to be made.

2. 2 Houses, High Hill Farm, Main Street – Ref: 13/01538/F

The first planning permission was dated 21st October, 2013, but a resubmission was approved on 12th December, 2013. Work has to be started within three years of the permission date, subject to conditions on the permission.

Work has been commenced with the demolition of the old buildings and the foundations marked and the roadway also marked out. The buildings can of course now be completed at any time. Agreed to contact planning department because of a possible Health and Safety Issue with regard to the current state of the building site.

Borough Council Site Allocations Representations – Cllr.Rainbird proposed that Council contact the Borough to make representations on their document. Council are pleased that the Borough Council have seen fit to make an allocation of a total of 20 properties on two locations, but are very concerned that both sites have the condition that affordable housing must be provided. The Parish Council would like a full explanation of the term “affordable housing” and exactly what it entails. Concern has been expressed that if a development of say 13 houses is approved and a percentage of these must be affordable, then will the “affordable houses” ever be built? In view of the fact that we are advised by the local Housing Association that they are unable to let the houses which they own in the village because “no-one wants to live in Welney”can there be any justification for affordable housing?

The proposition was seconded by Cllr.Wardle and unanimously agreed.

Following on from this Council were advised that No.2 Chestnut Avenue had now been let and Freebridge had received 7 applicants for the property. It was unanimously agreed to write a strongly worded letter to Freebridge with copies to the District and County Councillors and the M.P., to ask what was happening to the empty properties and why when this number of people were obviously anxious to live in Welney they still did not appear to be making any effort to renovate the remaining houses. The letter would be circulated to all councillors for information before sending.

14. Highway Matters

Dip in road at Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank – confirmed by highways that it should be sorted out within the next four to six weeks. The repairs to the ditch at Tipps End where the lorry went off the road have been carried out . Councillors have been advised of the closure of Main Street, Welney for resurfacing work from 4th to 10th March. The information has also been included on the village notice boards, Council website and the Welney website. Cracking on the Delph Bridge road surface was also mentioned and would be reported to Highways.

15. Possible Meeting with Wildfowl Trust

This item was suggested by Cllr.Wardle at the previous meeting, but she agreed no further action be taken at present.

16. Items for Next Agenda

- a. Playing Field Charity
- b. Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership
- c. Faster Broadband for Norfolk

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.04 p.m.,after reminding everyone that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held at 7 p.m.,on 3rd March prior t the Parish Council meeting.

SignedK.Goodger.....(Chairman)

Dated3rd March, 2015.....