

Minutes of the Meeting of Welney Parish Council
held in The Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 6th October, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman), Cllrs. L.Bombata, H. Cowles, K. Cowles, P. Edmunds, J.Elliott, R.Gilbert, G.Rainbird, approximately 35 members of the public and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the October meeting of the Parish Council.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and Dist.Cllr.v.Spikings,

2. Declaration of Interests

None at this stage.

3. Public Participation

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting for public participation and invited comments from the members of the public. Approximately 6 members of the public addressed the meeting and wanted to know the up to date position regarding the funding for the new building and confirming that the wishes of the parishioners should come first and any internal conflict within the council needs to be resolved now and will not be tolerated in future. Questions were also asked relating to the Playing Field and the future management and the proposed amendments to the Charity commission document were also explained. During this period the Chairman took a straw poll of these persons present with regard to whether they wanted one facility on the playing field or two facilities in the village. The majority present voted for one facility and no-one voted for two. The overriding feeling of the meeting was that every effort should be made to get the new building up and running as soon as possible. The Chairman then reconvened the meeting and advised that certain points raised would come up on the agenda.

4. Minutes of the last meetings

Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the draft minutes of the two meetings held on 1st and 22nd September. And with 7 councillors voting for the minutes and 1 against, they were signed by the Chairman as correct records of those meetings.

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Finance

On the proposition of Cllr.K.Cowles, seconded by Cllr.Edmunds and agreed, the following cheques were signed in settlement of the presented invoices:

Mazars – Audit Fee		120 . 00
Welney Croft Cricket Club - 2 nd half years grass cut on the playing field	425 . 00	
Less contra for 9 home matches	<u>225 . 00</u>	200 . 00
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses		18 . 78

Paid by Direct Debit

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary	255 . 68
Anglian Water – Parish Hall	37 . 80
Anglian Water – Pavilion	28 . 03
E-On – Electric for street lights	78 . 51

Councillors had also been supplied with a copy of the income and expenditure cash accounts for the Parish Hall and Playing Field for September.

7. Parish Hall

The electricity meters had been checked and the sum of £4 removed.

Despite a further request no reply had been received from the Environment Agency regarding the extension of the Lease for the Parish Hall and a further request would be submitted.

8. Proposed New Pavilion/Community Hall

Following the meeting held on 22nd September the first item of business under this Agenda Item was the formation of the committee to deal with the new building. There was various discussion regarding the membership of the proposed committee. It was proposed by Cllr.H.Cowles, seconded by Cllr.Elliott that the Parish Council should work together with the ex Action team and members of the public who are prepared to join in order to get the building finished. A vote was taken but with 4 votes for the motion and 4 votes against with proposition was at stalemate. After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr.H.Cowles that all the members of the Parish Council should form part of the committee together with the five members of the ex Action Team. A vote was taken with 6 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention. The motion was therefore carried.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting so that members of the public could have their say and during the adjournment an objectionable comment was made by a member of the public against Cllr.Bombata who requested that it should be minuted. The Chairman asked the public to moderate their language.

The meeting was advised that although the WREN funding was in place time was rapidly running out in relation to the taking up of this grant. No written confirmation had been received from Sport England regarding the application to them nor from Nationwide and consequently the funding for the building had a shortfall of approximately £75,000 Cllr.Goodger then proposed that if members were happy an approach should be made to Marshall's Charity and advise them that we have this shortfall and ask if they would be prepared to cover the amount subject to other grants being confirmed. The proposal was seconded by Cllr.K.Cowles. A vote was then taken with 6 in favour (Cllrs.Goodger, Elliott, Edmunds, H.Cowles, K.Cowles and R.Gilbert 1 against (Cllr.Rainbird)and 1 abstention (Cllr.Bombata)

In order to move the matter forward it was agreed to hold a meeting of the new committee on Monday 12th October at 7.30 p.m. At The William Marshall School.

9. Playing Field

The Clerk confirmed that she had only heard from the Cricket Club, Yoga, Women's Institute and RUG that they were prepared to be included on the Charity Document and be involved with the Management Committee. It was agreed to give them a little more time, but if nothing heard then a Trustees meeting would be needed to finalise the Charity Document before sending to the Charity Commission.

Following the last meeting the Cricket Club had been asked regarding the grass cuttings and the possible cutting of the outside of the field, but no response had been received.

10. Correspondence

1. Norfolk County council – Delivering Local Highway improvements in partnership with town and parish Councils 2016/17 – Addition of Pothole Repairs – Parish Partnership Bids to be submitted by December 15th.
- 2, NCC supports new smoking legislation which comes into effect on 1st October making it illegal for drivers or passengers to light up in a vehicle in a bid to protect children from the dangers of second-hand passive smoke.
3. Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners – September 2015 – Update of by-laws to secure the efficient working of the drainage system in their District, to regulate the effects on the environment of the Boards district of a drainage system, or secure the effectiveness of flood risk management work within the meaning of Section 14A of the Land Drainage Act 1991.
4. Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership – Conference 2015 – Wednesday 25th November at Downham Market town Hall.
5. **RUG –All Councillors were circulated with the request from RUG for a supporting letter for their grant**

**applications to Shellroy, Ouse Washes Heritage Fund and Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.
Unanimously agreed that a letter of support be sent to RUG**

6. William Marshall School – All Councillors have been supplied with copies of the correspondence from NCC Children's Services confirming that they are going ahead with the proposed closure of the School on 31st December.

7. BCKLWN – The Threshold for affordable housing requirements in West Norfolk in the light of a recent High Court challenge.

11. Highway Matters

Confirmation from Highways that the Highway Community Ranger Gangs will be making a visit to Welney during the week commencing 12th October.

Following the last meeting, it was reported the road outside Flights End, Hundred Foot Bank has still not been attended to, and also potholes in Chestnut Avenue, and the questions raised with regard to the Bus shelter. Concerns regarding the Footpath along New Road, and the Footpath 10 Wisbech Road to Hurn Drove were also reiterated. A reply confirming that Highways are investigating the issues raised and will let Council know their findings in due course.

Concerns regarding the accidents on Wash Road with particular reference to the e-mails received from Karen Fleming were also raised and Andy Wallace confirmed that he would be visiting Wash Road in the near future and advise on the course of action they intend to take.

With regard to Rights of Way cutting confirmation has been received as follows:

The Parish can take on the road side verge cutting as there is a set cost for each cut. The public rights of way are an issue as we are allocated a budget per area and that is directed to the sites most in need. However there are some rights of way which are cut 2 per year and these are able to be handed over to the parish to cut. If the PC is serious about taking on these responsibilities, I will find out how much the parish will be paid.

The Clerk confirmed that she had asked him to let us know how much the Parish would be paid but nothing had been received so far.

The question of Highways providing Flashing Speed Signs was also raised and Highways would be asked to look into this. It was also noted that Police speed checks are carried out in the village, but motorists tend to flash each other as a warning and this partly defeats the object.

12. Planning Matters and 5 year Local Development Framework

Cllr. Gilbert has confirmed that he will be attending the basic planning training on 12th October at King's Lynn. Councillors have also received a copy of the e-mail from the Borough Council regarding Neighbourhood Plans – Application by Upwell Parish Council for a Neighbourhood Area to be designated. Cllr. Gilbert confirmed that he has spoken to the Borough Council and that Welney will need to put in place a five year plan for development within the Village. He confirmed that one of their representatives would be prepared to come and talk to the Council and he would contact them again to see when this would be – possibly at 6.30 p.m. Prior to the November meeting.

13. Code of Conduct Complaints and the Monitoring Officer

Following various complaints to the Monitoring Office she had advised that she would be prepared to speak to the Parish Council to try and prevent complaints in the future. It was agreed that an evening meeting would be preferable and the Clerk agreed to contact her to find out convenient dates and times.

14. Councillors with Portfolio

Nothing further suggested.

15. Communications Policy

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting and possibly put it further up the Agenda.

16. Appraisal of Clerks Contract

It was agreed to defer this item.

17. Houses in Chestnut Avenue

The Clerk was instructed to contact Freebridge Community Housing for an update of the situation especially relating to the four boarded up houses, as nothing had been heard for several months.

18. Items for Next Agenda

1. William Marshall School
2. Defibrillator

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

SignedK.Goodger.....(Chairman)

Dated3rd November, 2015.....