

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, WELNEY, ON TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present

Cllrs.K.Goodger (Chairman) T.Bennett, M.Brown, S. Dobson, T. Eyles, C.Freer and the Clerk.

Also present Dist.Cllrs.D. Pope and V.Spikings, Mr.D.Bonner and PCSO Michael Scales

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. Kerr and V. Pratley and C.Cllr.H.Humphrey

**2. Public Participation**

The meeting was then adjourned for Public Participation.

1. The Chairman introduced PCSO Scales in his position as Parish Officer. PCSO Scales gave brief details of the crime in the area around Welney for the previous month, and answered questions from those present. He also reminded the meeting about the importance of securing oil tanks for fuel oil and heating oil, in view of the high prices, and thefts reported in other areas. He handed out some cards in case councillors wished to contact him, and was thanked for his attendance.

2. Mr.D.Bonner addressed the meeting with regard to the recent flooding of the Wash Road and advised that the additional signage had been a great success in preventing heavy vehicles reaching the bridge and having to turn around. He expressed thanks to everyone who had helped and replaced the signs into their correct positions. The Chairman also confirmed that Mr. Bye was also happy with the sighting of the signs on Main Street and had no problems with vehicles turning in his driveway.

The meeting was then re-convened.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

None declared at this stage.

**4. Minutes of Last Meetings**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 having been circulated to all councillors were confirmed by all present and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

**5. Matters Arising**

1. Community Speed Watch – Cllr.Bennett advised the meeting that he hoped to have an up date of the situation at the next meeting.

2. Field to the North of Chestnut Avenue – Welney Allotments. The meeting was advised that a further advertisement will appear in the next issue of the Welney News, as well as being placed in the Village Notice Board and on the Parish Council website, advising that there are still allotments available to rent. There was a brief discussion regarding the field, and Cllr.Bennett confirmed that if this were to be turned into an amenity area, then monies would need to be available for this. In view of the fact that there was insufficient funds, the chairman confirmed that the gentleman who had cultivated the top part of the field last year, would be prepared to continue to plough or cultivate as required, and also had facilities for keeping the grass cut and tidy. It was agreed that this would be the best course of action, at least for this year, and any help he could give would be greatly appreciated.

3.Dog Bins– Cllr.Dobson reported that all four of the bins were being used, but that the bin near the Parish Hall was also being used for rubbish as well as dog waste. It was confirmed that the bins are emptied once or twice a week by the Borough Council, and up to now we have been invoiced quarterly for the service. Following a discussion it was agreed to ask the Borough Council what the charge would be if we replaced the dog waste bin with an ordinary waste bin at the Parish Hall. It was also agreed to ask the Environment Agency and Welney Angling Club if they would be prepared to contribute towards the provision and emptying of a waste bin on this site.

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4. Possibility of bringing shop facilities back into the Village – Following the last meeting, the Clerk had written to Elgood & Sons who had replied that although they were in favour in principle of setting up a shop facility at the Lamb and Flag they do not currently have capital available to spend. Any enterprise of this nature, would have to be incorporated as part of the tenancy of the premises and managed by the tenants. Cllr.Bennett confirmed that the Landlords were still very keen on the idea of a shop, but after discussion it was agreed that this was a matter between the Landlord and Tenants, and there was nothing further the Parish Council could do. We would continue to express our support for such a venture.

5 Meeting with Adjoining Councils Following the last meeting, the Clerk had written to Upwell Parish Council who had replied stating that they were stepping back from hosting future meetings as they would focus on priorities which could be tackled by a group wholly based within Norfolk, as they felt that the cross county border nature of the current group did not best facilitate a productive outcome from the meetings. After discussion it was agreed to thank them for their comments and confirm that we would keep them advised of activities within the existing group. It was proposed by Cllr.Goodger, seconded by Cllr.Brown and agreed that contact be made with Christchurch to see if they would be prepared to host the next meeting possibly during March, but if this was not possible then Welney would be prepared to host.

6 Maintaining the Street Scene and Public Rights of Way.- Following the last meeting, the form had been completed in accordance with Council's wishes and sent off to the Norfolk County Council.

## **6. Meeting Reports**

Cllrs.Bennett and Goodger gave a brief report of the Workshop held at the Lamb and Flag on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 in connection with farm management. It was agreed that the meeting had been enjoyed by those who attended, and it would be interesting to hear the outcome in due course.

## **7. Finance**

No invoices had been received for payment.

Paid by Direct Debit

13.1.11	E-On Street Lighting	59 . 81
1.2.11	Mrs P.Copeman– Salary	255 . 68

Damaged Street Light at Rutland Corner Tipps End. – A claim form had been received from the Insurance Company and it was agreed that details of the vehicle involved should be obtained so that the claim form could be completed and returned to the insurance company for their consideration.

Financial Regulations – On the proposition of Cllr.Brown, seconded by Cllr.Dobson with all in favour the Financial Regulations of the Parish Council were formally adopted for a further year.

## **8. Parish Hall**

The electricity meters were checked and £108.00 was removed.

Purchase of the Hall Site – A e-mail had been received from the Solicitors confirming that they had not heard anything regarding this matter, but were making enquiries as to the up to date position and would let us know as soon as possible.

Cllr.Kerr still had one or two matters to complete with regard to the plumbing problems at the Hall and Councillors expressed concern that he should be reimbursed for the time he had spent on this as well as for the parts etc.

## **9 . Proposed New Community Centre**

All Councillors had received a copy of an e-mail from Mr.Briscoe dated 12<sup>th</sup> January with a copy of the letter from Sport England relating to the planning application for the new Community Centre. Sport England had expressed concern regarding the size of the changing rooms, and also the fact that the boundary for the cricket field would be smaller than required. Mr.Briscoe had agreed to discuss this with the planning department in the hope of being able to resolve the problem. It was agreed to contact Mr.Briscoe to ask whether Sport England rules could really be applied in this case, because the Welney

Cricket Team only ever play friendly matches on the playing field and certainly do not play League Cricket Matches.

The Borough Council had confirmed that it hoped to make a decision by 9<sup>th</sup> February on the re-submitted planning application, but if further queries arise, or they require answers to some problems, then this could take longer.

## **10. Playing Field**

Cllr.Kerr was still in the process of rectifying the plumbing problems at the Pavilion, and it was agreed that he must be paid for his work. The Clerk was requested to check the Financial Regulations regarding payment to Councillors for work carried out, and also the sums of money involved. This could then be discussed again at the next meeting.

The position of the water meter at the Pavilion had been confirmed, and the Chairman confirmed that he had the necessary key for turning the water off at the meter, should it be required.

## **11. Correspondence**

1. BCKLWN – 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 – Glass Bottle Banks. Letter advising that with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> January the current bottle/glass bins will be removed and the Borough Council will be installing their own bins. These will be emptied by the Borough Council on Monday and Thursday of every week.
2. Norfolk Constabulary – Details of crime in the area.
3. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – 25.1.11 – Details regarding the publication of a guidance for Councils – Continuing Effective Engagement for Town and Parish Councils. To access the information go to: [www.nalc.gov.uk/Publications/Booklets\\_and\\_Resources.aspx](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/Publications/Booklets_and_Resources.aspx)
4. The Royal British Legion – Great Poppy Party Weekend -10<sup>th</sup> to12<sup>th</sup> June, 2011
5. East Cambridgeshire District Council - Growth Delivery in East Cambridgeshire – Leaflet.
6. Elizabeth Truss MP – Monthly report from Elizabeth
7. Borough Council – Agenda and Minutes of Council Meeting.
8. East Cambridgeshire District Council – Littleport Masterplan – Draft for Consultation
9. Welney W.I. – Certain of their members have expressed concern regarding low water pressure and they ask if the Parish Council can contact Anglian Water with a request that they investigate the problem. The Council have also been approached by residents with the same problem, and it was agreed that a letter should go to Anglian Water as soon as possible
10. Norfolk Association of Local Councils– Royal Wedding Street Parties and Road Closures – Details of the cost involved and time scale for applications if parishes are considering anything along these lines on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.
11. NCC – Consultation period expires on 25<sup>th</sup> February with regard to Norfolk’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Local Transport Plan.
12. NALC – Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge - Details of how to apply and criteria needed. After a brief discussion it was agreed to contact the organisers to obtain further information.

## **12. Plans and Planning Matters**

The following planning information had been received from the Borough Council  
Refusal of Outline Planning Application for Construction of Chalet Bungalow at Biangi, Wisbech Road, Welney. Reasons: 1. The application lies within the countryside as defined on the Local Plan Inset Map and not within the village development area for Welney. 2. The construction of a dwelling on this site would result in the unacceptable consolidation of existing sporadic development which would unacceptably undermine the character and appears of this rural area. 3. The site lies in Flood Zone 3 where the introduction of a more vulnerable use fails to comply with PPS25 in that the proposal fails parts A and B of the exception test, as the development does not provide wider sustainable benefits to the community that would outweigh flood risk, plus it is on a Greenfield site and windfall sites could be achieved within the village development area.

Cllr.Spikings gave details of the procedure for attending the Planning Meetings at King’s Lynn and speaking with regard to applications affecting the village. She stressed that it is imperative that a representative from the Parish Council should attend and speak for 3 minutes especially on applications that the Parish Council feel strongly about.

### **13. Highway Matters**

The following points had been referred to Highways

1. Damaged Chevron at Tipps End – This has been inspected by Highways and programmed for replacement.
2. Retexturing the Road – Highways had confirmed that as far as they were aware no retexturing work had been carried out in Welney for sometime, and they could only assume that this referred to pothole filling and making good.
3. Business Open as Usual – Wash Road flooding – Following a request from the Lamb and Flag, the Clerk had contacted Highways to see if a suitable sign could be erected on Main Street when the Wash Road is flooded. Highways are reluctant to do this because vehicles will still think they can get through the wash if their sat.navigation systems tell them that is the way to go. Mr.Barnard did promise to put this in an e-mail explaining the situation, but this had not been received. It was also requested to mention that the WWT would also appreciate a sign being erected.
4. The Clerk reported that Mr.Bonner had been to see her stating that he considered the diversion signs at Lotts Bridge crossroads for the road works on the A1122 at Nordelph had been of great help in preventing large vehicles getting to Welney. He wondered if there was any way such a sign could be erected at that crossroads when the Wash Road was flooded. Highways are considering this and they are also considering moving the large notice board at Lotts Bridge Cross roads ( which is currently on the right hand side of the road) to the left hand side, where it will be much more visible and readable. Mr.Karl Rands (Highways Area Manager) confirmed this would be considered and he would let us know when a decision had been reached.
5. The Chairman reported that following the recent flooding of the Wash Road he had been approached by local businesses who were very concerned that all the signs were still in place even though the road had been passable for two days and completely clear of water for at least one. The Clerk had telephoned Highways with the request that the signs be removed and on calling back Highways advised that they had only received instructions to take them down that morning, but the signs were removed by lunchtime.

After discussion it was agreed that contact should be made with the Environment Agency requesting that they need to respond much quicker in getting instructions out for the signs to be removed. It was also agreed to ask that they give more up to date information to the Radio so that their broadcasts are not telling drivers that the road is still flooded or closed, two or three days after it has been opened. With the recent increase in fuel costs, local business were being faced with much higher fuel bills for unnecessary journeys.

It was also agreed to contact Highways with regard to the signage. The road closed signs were fine when there was a large quantity of water on the road, but as soon as it dropped to a much lower level then road flooded signs should be put in place. If this action could be taken, then the Parish Council and indeed the village would be grateful.

The following points were raised for Highways attention

1. A hole had appeared on the right hand side of the bridge where the pipe crosses and this was in need of attention
2. A chevron is broken and needs replacing on the first right hand corner on the Wash Road
3. The broken barriers at Suspension Bridge are now in urgent need of attention. These are extremely dangerous and unsightly, and are likely to cause a further accident if something is not done immediately.

### **14 Environmental Issues.**

1. Cllr.Bennett raised the question of the pollarding of the Willow Tress on the Wash Road. He wondered who carried out the work and for what reason, and if there were proposals to carry out further work in the future. It was agreed to try and find out the situation.

2. Cllr.Brown gave the meetings details of the proposed Incinerator at Saddlebow near King's Lynn. He briefly outlined the cost and the pros and cons of such a development and advised that there would be a referendum sent out to everyone in due course, to give their opinions. The Proposers of the scheme hoped to have the incinerator up and running by 2015.

**15 Items for Next Agenda**

1. Consideration to the possibility of Solar Energy in the village and also possibly at the New Community Centre.
2. Future of the Welney News – Cllr.Brown advised the meeting that Mr.Levesley had agreed to be acting editor for the next issue only, and would be advertising for a new editor.
3. Cllr.Brown advised the meeting that he would be moving away from the village during the next 6-8 weeks and would therefore be resigning from the Parish Council. He would be attending the next meeting in March.
4. Date of the AGM in May – In view of the fact that Parish Council elections will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May, it was proposed from the chair and unanimously agreed that the AGM in May should be changed from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2011

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

Signed .....T.Bennett.....(Vice Chairman)

Dated.....1<sup>st</sup> March, 2011.....