

Minutes of the Meeting of the Welney Parish Council held at The Parish Hall, Welney on Tuesday 7th January, 2014

Present

Cllr.K.Goodger (Chairman) Cllrs J. Barr, T.Bennett, T.Bray, S.Dobson, N.Fleming, G.Rainbird and V.Pratley, and the Clerk.

Also present : Dist.Cllr.D.Pope, Mr. & Mrs.P. Cox, Mr.D. Levesley, Mr.J.Loveday and Mr.D.Bonner

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr.C. Freer, Dist.Cllrs.V.Spikings, C.Cllr.H.Humphrey and PCSO Claire Law.

2. Declaration of Interests.

None at this stage.

3. To Adjourn the meeting for Public Participation

The Chairman then introduced Ms.Lynne Radford, Assistant Head Teacher at William Marshall School, Welney. Ms.Radford explained to the meeting that the future of the village School is by no means secure, but all parties are working very hard, and exploring all possibilities to keep the school open. At the present time there are 19 children on the roll but it is hoped this may increase when all the refurbished houses in Chestnut Avenue have been let. She went onto explain that everyone would be welcome in the School, to talk to the children or help in any way. She also explained that following various inspections from OFSTED etc. it was confirmed that the school are dealing with all matters in the correct way and everything is improving. She answered questions from councillors and members of the public and confirmed that any ideas for working together for the future of the school would be most welcome. She was thanked most sincerely for her talk and the information given.

The meeting was then reconvened for business.

4. Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December, 2013, having been circulated to all councillors were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

5 Matters Arising

a. Parish Council News – Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he had made some enquiries regarding the production of local magazines, but these were considerably more involved than we would require. He confirmed that he is still working on the PC News and would report back as soon as possible.

b Future of the Allotment Field on Sandgate Corner. - No final decision was made and it was agreed to leave this on the Agenda for the time being.

c. William Marshall School – Councillors were asked to consider any ways in which the Council can assist the School and present these to the next meeting.

d. Village Litter Pick - Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had been looking into this matter and would be preparing a suitable notice for the next Welney News to see if any volunteers from the village may be forthcoming to help. Final arrangements could then be made.

e. Result of the Fund Raising Concert held on 14th December, 2013. - A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by everyone and although numbers were a little disappointing, a total sum of £296 was raised from the evening. Grateful thanks were extended to everyone who helped and provided refreshments and attended to support a local band and local fundraising.

f. Illegal Shooting on the Washes – Cllr Bennett confirmed that he had spoken to the WWT regarding the problem and a suggestion was made that it could be tackled by both parties from the Rights of Way side. However following brief discussion it was agreed that the best course of action was that if anyone witnessed any illegal shooting or became aware of it, they should immediately report the matter to the Police

6. Finance

a. Approval of Accounts for Payment

On the proposal of Cllr Bray, seconded by Cllr Pratley and agreed, the following cheques were signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Expenses	28 . 35
Glen Stittle – Fit new stoptap to pipework under the kitchen sink	40 . 00
Westcotec Limited – Street Lighting Maintenance Nov.& Dec.	115 . 76
Paid by Direct Debit:	
Mrs.P.Copeman – Clerks Salary 1.1.14	255 . 68
E-On Electric for Lights 11.12.13	62 . 19

b. Consideration of Grant Applications

An application for a grant had been received from St.Mary the Virgin Church, Welney to help towards the upkeep of the churchyard. Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Rainbird, seconded by Cllr.Bennett and unanimously agreed that a grant should be made in the sum of £200 and the cheque was duly signed.

Following the last meeting enquiries had been made of NALC asking if a grant could be made to the local school. County Office had confirmed that no grant can be given direct to the school but we could give a grant to a Parent Group/Friends of the School. However no such group exists at present.

c. Consideration of Precept for the coming year.

Councillors had all been provided with interim accounts to 31st December, 2013 and projected figures to 31st March, 2014 (a copy of which is included in the minute book) to allow consideration of the precept required from the Borough Council for the coming financial year. After discussion it was noted that although we applied for a total sum of £10,000 last year, the Tax Support Allowance for Welney has decreased from £1,170 to £790. If the same figure was applied for this year, it would mean an increase in the village precept of £380. It was therefore proposed by Cllr.Fleming, seconded by Cllr.Bray and unanimously agreed that the Council should precept for **£9,620** for the coming year, being the precept of £8,830 plus the tax Support Allowance for Walney of £790. The necessary forms would be completed and returned to the Borough Council by deadline of 31st January.

7. Parish Hall

The electricity meters were checked before the meeting and the sum of £28.00 was removed. The Chairman confirmed that he would speak to the electrician to have another look at the outside light over the entrance door, which is permanently on.

8. Proposed New Community Centre.

Following the December Parish Council meeting, a letter had been received signed by 7 Councillors requesting that the proposal made from the Chair "to build one facility we can afford suitable for the village on the playing field" should be revisited and rescinded. This was accepted and Cllr.Bennett then proposed that *Councillors should adopt a structural approach to consider all viable*

options on receipt of necessary information for the proposed new Community Centre. This proposal was seconded by Cllr.Bray and carried unanimously. Council were reminded that now that the first proposal had been revisited and rescinded, this new proposal would have to stand for the six month period and could not be revisited.

The Clerk had prepared and circulated all councillors with a list of costings for various matters relating to the proposed new Community Centre but this was not considered at the meeting. Cllr.Pratley handed round a list of her suggestions which were considered and discussed. Cllr.Bray suggested the possibility of putting the new Community Centre in the grounds of the School.

Following further discussion it was agreed to hold a Working Group Meeting of the Council at the Parish Hall on Tuesday 14th January, to get together as much information as possible relating to costs, ideas and suggestions, in readiness for a meeting which Cllr.Fleming had confirmed he would be prepared to organise – a date for this meeting would be arranged on 14th January. It was confirmed that details of the user groups and costings for the hall and pavilion would be useful as well as details of the lease costs of the Hall site from the Environment Agency etc.etc.

As several members of the public were in attendance, the Chairman then invited feedback from them with regard to the Community centre. The future of the school was mentioned and the possibility as to whether or not it could be used as a Community Centre. Concern was expressed that there was apathy within the village about the new Hall, and a new building should be suitable for use by everyone on a site near the centre of the village so that everyone had reasonable access. The Council were also asked about how much had been spent so far regarding the proposed new building and the Clerk agreed to furnish full details. It was also explained that monies spent so far had not come out the Parish Council budget/precept, but from monies put aside for the purpose in the Parish Hall Accounts.

9 Playing Field.

Mr.Loveday confirmed that they were experiencing problems with rabbits on the playing field and it was agreed to contact DA Pest Control to see if they can help. Dog fouling was also causing a problem and it was confirmed to the meeting that if anyone observed dogs fouling the field, to contact the dog warden at the Borough Council.

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had not heard anything further from Mr.Carter regarding the trees, but would be calling to see him as soon as possible.

10. Correspondence.

1. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Copy of Norfolk Link, Various posters regarding keeping warm this winter, arranging for a flu jab and becoming a school governor.
2. Initial Training for Clerks and Councillors – Evening Session at the Assembly Rooms, Downham Market Town Hall on 10th and 17th March 7-9 p.m. Both sessions should be attended and the cost is £40.00 per person. Although both new councillors expressed the wish to attend, several existing councillors also said they would be interested, and it was therefore agreed to contact County Office to see if an inhouse training session for the whole Council could be arranged as soon as possible.
3. Emneth Nursery School and Children's Centre – Advisory and Community Partners Meeting 28th January 2014
4. Downham Market Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel – Public Meeting 8th January, 2014 7 p.m. At Downham Market Town Hall.
5. Norfolk Association of Local Councils – Funding Information Evening 31st January, 2014 6-8 p.m. Downham Market Town Hall.
6. e-mail from the Police Community Support Officers regarding Dog Fouling enforcement regulations.

11. Plans and Planning Matters including LDF

The following planning permission dated 12th December had been received
13/01538/F – Clients of John Stephenson – Construction of 2 dwellings following demolition of agricultural buildings at High Hill Farm, Main Street, Welney with 14 conditions attached.

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk 18.12.13 Organising training sessions to ensure Parish Councils are fully informed regarding the planning system. South Lynn Community Centre Monday 10th February 6-8 p.m. Or Tuesday 11th February 9 am to 12 noon.

Cllr.Bennett reported that work was being carried out to the garden of the Old Welney Hotel and there was concern regarding the badgers in residence. He had contacted the Police Wildlife Officer and would report back to the next meeting if any further information came to light.

12. Highway Matters/Wash Road.

Dot Matrix Signs – The posts onto which the signs will be fixed were put in place during December and the Clerk confirmed that she had received a telephone call from Highways at Norwich confirming that the signs had been manufactured and would be installed during the 2nd week of January, 2014.

There was no sign of any installation at present but as there was approximately 20" of water on the road that could be the reason.

Cllr.Bennett confirmed that he had contacted Andy Wallace of Highways regarding padlocks on some of the road flooded signs, but it had been confirmed that this was not possible, as the crews who come to open them up when the road was flooded come from all over Norfolk and may not have a key to the padlocks. Cllr.Bennett had also asked by a post (which appeared to be in readiness for a dot matrix sign) had been installed at Gypsy Corner on the Wash Road (right in the middle of the flood area) This was being looked into.

He also confirmed that an e-mail should be sent to Andy Wallace with any requests for the Highway Rangers when they visit the village during the week commencing 13th January.

The following points were raised for sending onto them:

1. The possible clearance of rubbish from the ditch around Sandgate Corner
2. Possible clearance under the fence line of the footpath around Sandgate Corner.

The following points were also raised for Highways attention:

1. Footpath outside the Old Welney Nursery on the A.1101 badly flooded and in need of attention.
2. Very large pothold outside Bridge Farmhouse, Suspension Bridge still not been given an attention despite having been reported on several occasions.
3. The pavement outside High Hill House in Main Street is breaking up and in need of attention.

Cllr.Bennett did confirm that Highways had attended the village and done some work to the footpath around Sandgate Corner from Chestnut Avenue up to Stockyard Farmhouse. The footpath had been widened and cleaned. Further work is required – possibly planings to fill in some areas, but at least something has been done after years of requesting.

It was also confirmed that a **further meeting of the Adjoining Councils and Highways** is now overdue and perhaps a date could be arranged at the next meeting.

13. Environmental Matters

The Chairman produced a copy of the new flood risk plan for Welney and confirmed that copies can be obtained from the Environment Agency website.

14 Items for Next Agenda

None.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting

closed at 9.52 p.m.

SignedK.Goodger.....(Chairman)

Dated4th February, 2014.....