
Welney Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Welney Parish Council, Tuesday 4th February 2025, 7.15pm at the William Marshall Centre

Committee Members: Cllr Goodger (Chair), Cllr Spears (Vice Chair), Cllr Gardiner, Cllr Lowry, Cllr Bombata, Cllr Gaylor, Cllr Barker, Cllr Clayden.

Those Present: Cllr Goodger, Cllr Gaylor, Cllr Clayden, Cllr Lowry, Cllr Spears, Cllr Bombata, Cllr Barker, Cllr Gardiner, CCllr Dawson, BCllr Rose, Clerk M Hilton.

Apologies: BCllr Spikings

Public: six

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and opening remarks**
2. **To receive apologies for absence:** these were approved.
3. **To declare any conflicts and pecuniary interests on any items on this month's Agenda:** none received.
4. **To approve the Minutes from the last meeting:** these were approved and signed by the Chair
5. **Public Forum (ten minutes only):**
 - A parishioner started to talk again about a previous Clerk's actions regarding theft of monies. The Clerk made the members of the public aware this was not her. The parishioner also said the buildings insurance for the William Marshall Centre was inadequate.
6. **To discuss and consider the Action Log from previous meetings:**
 - To remove the 40mph road markings on the A1101 near the Welney Sign. This has not been completed.
 - To consider signage on Wisbech Road Tipps End 'beware oncoming traffic' this is after an accident has taken place in the area. Cllr Barker emailed CCllr Dawson 25/1/25. CCllr Dawson has email Jay Moore at highways, still awaiting a response.
 - Leaning solar lamppost March Road: this has been reported by the Clerk. Westcotec said it is not covered by the warranty. However, Cllr Spears report this to Westcotec in March 2023. The clerk will write again to Westcotec. She has also asked Cozens to quote for this.
 - One of the 'Welney' Signs has been hit. It was agreed Cllrs will remove these signs rather than having them replaced.
7. **To discuss Marshalls Charity:** the Clerk was informed by Marshall's Charity Clerk that former Cllr Vija Pratley's term of office had ended. The Council agreed not to replace her as the constitution of the Charity is changing in the next couple of months. The number of Cllrs is being reduced from four to three. The Clerk will write to Mrs. Pratley and thank her for her service.
8. **To review Risk Management Policy, Media Policy, Complaints Policy, Grant Award Policy, and Terms of Reference for Finance Committee:** these were reviewed and approved. The Clerk was asked why they have different dates of review on, she explained this was due to legal basis, some are reviewed annually others are not required to be.
9. **Reports from individual Councillors, Council Groups and Clerk**
 - i To discuss any planning applications:
 - Planning Application Consultation 24/02179/F. SELF BUILD- Conversion of barn to form domestic outbuilding and construction of 2-bed dwelling at Croft Barn Wisbech Road Tipps End. *Welney Parish Council supports this application.*

Clerk to the Council; Melanie Hilton (CiLCA Qualified).

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- Planning Application Consultation 24/02217/F. Side single storey extension and infill of the rear wall between buildings at the rear to create new bedroom at Silver Crest March Road Welney. *Welney Parish Council supports this application.*
- ii To note any Highways and Wash Road updates:
 - The road has been on flood alert for the last few days. However, the Environmental Agency (EA) agreed it did not need to be closed at this time as only a small amount of water covering the road. The new signage near Morrisons in Wisbech has been reported as its still says A1101 is closed. Cllr Dawson is aware and has reported this to Norfolk County Council Highways.
 - The Council also made Cllr Dawson aware that a lorry had recently hit the fence on the bridge as once they get to the closed barriers, they have nowhere to go as the pub carpark is shut. This means large vehicles need to reverse down the road, which is dangerous. Cllr Goodger will discuss at the next highways/ EA meeting.
- iii To discuss bird/bat boxes: Cllr Gaylor will put a post onto Facebook informing parishioners about the bat and bird boxes. Julian Moulton has been contacted and he supplies a range of bird boxes and will help the Council site them. It was suggested that the playing field or the church maybe good sites. The church would need to be contacted.
- iv To discuss decommissioning some of the Parish's streetlights: Cllr Goodger said at least two streetlights could be decommissioned. The cost of this is £85 per lamp. The Clerk informed the Council current costs for energy and maintenance per lamp is £5 per month. It was agreed not to decommission any streetlights.

10. To note any Health and Safety issues: Cllrs Gaylor and Goodger and BCllr Rose attended a meeting regarding the vandals/hare coursers that were recently in the village. Cllr Goodger urges the public to ring 999 rather than telephone the farmers who own the field.

11. Finance

- i. To note payments made since last meeting: these were noted.

Payments for February 2025 Authorisation

Payee	Goods/Services	VAT	TOTAL	DD/EP electronic payment /direct debit	Supplier/Service
Melanie Hilton Salary	707.98	0.00	707.98	EP	46 hours
Melanie Hilton Expenses	243.00	48.60	291.60	EP	Website renewal, Domain renewal
HMRC	201.20	0.00	201.20	EP	Month 10
Nest Pension scheme	15.38	0.00	15.38	DD	Clerks pension
BCKLWN	488.80	97.76	586.56	EP	Dog bin empty Apr 24 to Mar 25
William Marshall Playing Field	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	EP	Grant application
K and M Lighting Services	26.96	5.39	32.35	EP	Street light maintenance
Npower	161.81	8.09	169.90	DD	Street light energy
TOTAL	£3,845.13	£159.84	£4,004.97		

- ii. To note income and expenditure balances reconciled from the previous month: this was noted.
- iii. To note the QPAB: this was noted
- iv. To discuss the grant application from William Marshall Centre: this was approved.

The clerk informed the Council payments for dog waste collection will now be paid in advance and not in arrears. Therefore, another invoice will follow shortly. She also informed the Council the precept will now be paid in two halves rather than the full amount in April. The Council will need to be mindful of the spending they agree to.

12. To propose any items for the next agenda: grant application from Welney News

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13. To note the date of the next parish council meeting – 4th March 2025 at William Marshall Centre. The Parish Assembly will be at 7.15 followed by Full Council meeting.

14. Close: the meeting closed at 19.58pm.

Signed by the Chairman Date