
Welney Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Welney Annual Parish Assembly, Tuesday 7th March 2023, 7.15pm at the William Marshall Centre

Committee Members: Cllr. Harvey (Chair), Cllr. Barker, Cllr. Lowry, Cllr. Spears, Cllr Gardiner, Cllr Goodger.

Those Present: Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Lowry, Cllr. Spears, Cllr Goodger, BCLlr Rose, BCLlr Spikings, Clerk M Hilton.

Public: two

Apologies : Cllr Gardiner, Cllr Barker, CCLlr Dawson

MINUTES

- 1. Welcome and to consider apologies:** apologies were accepted.
- 2. Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** none were given
- 3. Agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st:** these were agreed and signed by the Chair.
- 4. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council:** Chairperson Dorothy Harvey gave her report. Firstly, I would like to thank our clerk and my fellow Cllrs, for all their hard work throughout the year. Also, thanks to the Borough and County Cllrs for the support they have given to Welney Parish Council. I would like to thank Cllr Lowry and Mrs. Loveday for keeping the Defibrillator up and running. Also, thanks to Cllrs Spears and Gardiner for monitoring the SAM2 units. The Environment Agency came to our April meeting to update us on their progress with the new flood barrier, and I would like to thank them for the work they have been doing. In May we purchased our own litter picking kits, and had a successful litter pick, we hope to continue with these. With successful grant applications we have purchased a new bus shelter, village gates and three solar lights. A notice board has also been put in the bus shelter. We have a few teething problems with the solar lights, but hopefully these will be rectified, we have had the solar lights installed in a couple of dark areas of the village, as parishioners safety is very important to us. We had our second Christmas lights competition, a few of us went round the village judging them. Cllr Spears and myself presented the winners with a trophy. We have put a grant application in for two more defibrillators, hopefully we will be successful. Highways have replaced two footpaths in the village and hope to do Taymor Place next year, they have also put speed Roundels on the entry and exit routes to the village on our request. Cllr Goodger and myself had a meeting with Mr. Wallace from highway's, in which we went through a list of outstanding works that still needed doing Wallace said he would have a look at them while he was in the village, we hope these works will be completed in due course i.e.; broken or missing signs, white lining, potholes. Hurn Drove was discussed, hopefully we will be getting some chippings to fill the potholes, but will be doing this work ourselves. Volunteers welcome. As always we welcome any feedback or questions from our parishioners.
- 5. To receive a report from our Borough Councillors:**
 - Borough Councillor Rose said....** The Borough Council has done a great job on the future budgets which has enabled us to keep rates as low as possible without having to cut services, this was voted in at the BCKLWN full council on Thursday 24th February. It is not just an election ploy.

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

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There is a Prosperity fund of £3 million for investment in community projects and businesses planned by the Borough Council, applications open soon. You will find that this will take the form of two opportunities: one The UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the other the Rural England Prosperity fund. These will be targeted at both Capital and revenue funding of from £500-£10,000 in three main areas which include: innovation in the arts, cultural, heritage and creative sectors, enhancements to Character and vibrancy of Town centres and sustainable development of the Borough's year-round visitor offer. Applications will be accepted from the public and private sectors along with businesses and organisations of any size.

The Council Leader, Stuart Dark MBE has met with the Secretary of state to press for a decision on QEH. I had the pleasure of joining him on the 25th at Hunstanton Sailing Club with Officers of the Borough to see what can be done to enable access to the beach, and to deal with Cliff problems, which will prove beneficial to the whole community and tourists. Also at Hunstanton the Soap Box Derby returns on 2nd of April. Teams can enter from 09.00 on 17th February, places are limited so get in quick.

Users of Upwell Health Centre will be aware that for some years there has been flooding during heavy rain but when it is freezing there is the added hazard of Ice. The BCKLWN & NCC have recently reached the decision that this is the responsibility of the local IDB due to its own Byelaws. The IDB has stated that this should have been dealt with over two years ago during Covid restrictions, but was not apparently pursued to fruition...?

I am currently in contact with Paul Boroughs at MLC (who has taken over from David Thomas who is retiring), as the local IDB has passed the issue to them. I shall primarily be acting for Upwell PC but I hold a post on the IDB board for both the UPC and BC. This will have to be a situation of staying in contact with all stake holders and finding funding so it could drag on beyond the election.

The phased introduction of collections of small electrical items over four months will start together with two other Norfolk Councils from Monday 27th of March. To facilitate this residents will be supplied with a hanger on their bin.

The rateable value of all business and other non-domestic properties has been revalued.

Please do not forget that voter photo identities will be in use this year, contact the Borough or your Councillors if you need any help.

The next Local Police SNAP meeting will be held at the Methodist Church, Ely Row, Terrington St, John at 19.00 on the 18th April. Current priority is ASB in Downham Market. Enjoy the year ahead as best you can and let us hope the War in Ukraine ends soon. You will be aware that the BC has been supporting refugees from the conflict.

- **Borough Councillor Spikings said....** I try to attend all Welney Parish meetings throughout the year but if not, liaise with Melanie if there any issues that need my attention. I report back promptly and give feedback.

It was agreed that the Boroughs element of the Council tax bill would reluctantly have to be increased, due to significant pressures, by £4.50 (£5.00) with special expenses for the entire year on an average Band D property. This equates to a rise of just under 9p per week. Of this £143.87, a levy of £61.28 is paid to the Internal Drainage Board for the work they do. The work they do to reduce flood risk to people, property, infrastructure and to manage water levels for agriculture and the environment is much appreciated, as well as the public who serve on the Boards and give up their time.

The Council is ranked 179 out of 181 for having the lowest charging once the IDB levies are taken out. The Borough delivers services for over 500 sq miles. Upwell and Delph Ward have 5025 electorate.

I have fully supported all Community Infrastructure requests and informed when the next rounds re bidding for funding are to be.

With my Councillor Community funding I have allocated funding for trees for Welney Rug, bench for Nordelph river bank in conjunction with the Welle Creek Trust, monies towards a defibrillator at Lakes End village hall, monies towards Insurance at Three Holes village hall, helped towards refurbishing the old village gates at Barroway Drove (unveiling at Kings Coronation weekend) and finally a massive Christmas tree for Wimbotsham where a Carol service was held beside.

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As Chair of Planning, I receive lots of requests for help and advice and all meetings can be watched via Zoom. Enforcement is a very busy department with 593 cases opened and 576 cases closed in one year. The Borough is one of the most proactive in tackling the issues that arise.

From Monday 27th February residents will receive a hanger on their waste bins, before collection so that recycling small electrical items i.e. iron, kettle, batteries, games console, phones, toaster, hairdryers, electric toothbrushes can all be recycled.

The Government's has offered a new Devolution Deal with an Elected Mayor for Norfolk, with £600 million funding offered over 30 years for infrastructure. There are ongoing discussions and I watch this space with interest.

I was so pleased to see how all villages held events for the late Queen's Jubilee and all the volunteers who helped make it such a success. Such a variety and a big thank you to all for their hard work, many events which I attended.

Now there is to be a Coronation in May with grants of £200 to be allocated upon request.

Finally voters will need photo ID to vote in the May elections if voting in person. Acceptable forms of ID are:

- UK driving License or passport
- Bus pass
- Blue badge
- Pass proof of age card

The easiest way is to apply online but if you do not have the internet drop-in sessions are available.

Call 01553 616200 where you can apply for a paper form or a postal vote.

I would also like to thank the Clerk and Parish Councillors for giving their time and dedication in support of their villages.

- 6. To receive a report from our County Councillor:** unfortunately, our CClr is poorly, so no report from him.
- 7. To receive a report from the Clerk:** It has been another busy year for Welney Parish Council. With the help from grants village gateways has been installed, a new SAM2 camera was purchased and three new streetlights have been installed. Unfortunately, these have faults and Westcotec are dealing with this, so hopefully these will be working soon. A new bus shelter has also been installed with a new noticeboard. The Council hope to purchase two defibrillators in the coming year again with grant money if successful with the applications that have applied for. This year in May we have local elections taking place. I wish to thank the Councillors have worked well as a team and their support to myself is invaluable. I would also like to thank Borough Councillors Vivienne and Colin and our County Councillor Chris for their continued support to Welney PC and myself.
- 8. Open Forum – public opportunity for questions to Councillors or issues about matters in the Parish:**
 - A parishioner thanked the Councillors for their hard work. He said although the Clerk had suggested he contact the monitoring officer with his issues regarding the Parish Council and The Welney Playing Field Charity (he believes have not been responded to), he was reluctant to do so. The parishioner repeated what he has said before regarding the William Marshall Centre and BClr Rose.

- 1. To Close:** the meeting closed at 19.40pm

Signed by the Chairman Date

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