
Welney Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Welney Annual Parish Assembly, Tuesday 1st March 2022, 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 Gardiner, Cllr Barker, Cllr Goodger, BCLlr Rose, BCLlr Spikings, CCLLR Dawson, Clerk M Hilton.

Public: 8

Apologies : None

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and to consider apologies:** no apologies received.
2. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** none were given
3. **Agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2021:** these were agreed and signed by the Chair.

To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council: Chairperson Dorothy Harvey gave a report. Good evening, everyone, thank you for attending and welcome to our annual assembly. The beginning of the year had a slow start due to COVID restrictions.

May 2021 saw us have our clerk resign, but all was not lost as I managed to persuade Melanie Hilton to join us as our new clerk. Melanie has done a fantastic job turning the council on the right track. Our finances and policies are all up to date.

We had three Cllrs leave, but we have managed to co-opt four new Cllrs, who have been a great asset and are really making a big difference to how the council best serves you.

We had the council notice board installed in July, thanks to Cllr Gardiner and Mr. Ford. We have also got to thank Cllr Lowry and Mrs. Loveday for doing the checks on the defibrillator.

Also finally got the dog bin installed, thanks to Cllr Spears and Gardiner.

The council arranged a defibrillator training session with the community heartbeat team on 26th November, which was open to Welney residents. It was very interesting and informative, and all who attended received a certificate.

Throughout the year we have been working with Highways, who have probably felt haunted by Welney Parish Council, but we have been getting some items we have asked for done.

Prow signs updated, speed roundels and white lining are ongoing, along with damaged road signs. The SAM2 signpost has been moved to a better location and the village hall signpost, potholes have been repaired.

Highways have also got plans to renew Main Street and Taymor Place footpaths next year.

We asked for the light near the old telephone box to be repaired, which has now been done, one of the Cllrs noticed the railings by the steps leading down to the phone box, needed replacing so we have asked highways to take a look at these.

We have applied for help with the costs for a new bus shelter, SAM2 unit and village entry gates.

Cllrs Barker and Goodger have been working with Cllr Dawson in connection with the Wash Road.

We now have a new website, which the clerk has worked hard on, you will also find us on Facebook.

We would really appreciate any feedback. We are always here for our residents.

I would finally like to say a special thank you to Melanie for her hard work and for all the support she has given me. Also, to all the Cllrs for helping with all the hard work it takes to keep Welney Parish Council

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

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working as it should be. Also thank you to Melanie and all the Cllrs for getting me through the most difficult time in my life.

4. To receive a report from our Borough Councillors:

- Borough Councillor Spikings said she had been kept busy with planning matters at the Borough Council; There had been many staffing issues to deal with also. She explained she had donated from her allowance £300 towards trees at Sandgate corner. She had attended the CIL grant meeting and spoke favorably for Welney three bids for, village gates, Sam2 camera and a new bus shelter.
- Borough Councillor Rose reported... BCKLWN Budget was signed off at the BC meeting on the 23rd February.

Main points in brief:

Council tax for a band D property has increased by £4.50 leading to a charge of £139.37, of which £57.20 goes to the Internal Drainage Boards. Considering that in the overall area 300,000 properties are at risk this is money well spent. However, the Leader, Stuart Dark is looking at other ways to fund such work so that it is less of a burden to Council Tax payers. However, the Council's services are provided for just £82.17p per year. 23p per day covers a wide range of services including: Bin Collections, Tourism, helping people in a housing crisis, etc., in the largest local authority area in Norfolk and one of the largest in England.

There has been an increase in CT relief and £78 million in grants to support local businesses. Which means that for every 4p of the council tax total in every £1 a host of services are provided with the increase generally below the current rate of inflation. We collect Council Tax for the NCC, The office of the Police and crime commissioner and parish Councils.

There is a funding position for the next three years. There have been investments in litter picking and fly-tipping, commitment to the Town Deal projects across King's Lynn and we are putting £250k per annum for the next 4 years to tackle climate change and to support communities. More than a 1/4 of tariffs have not been increased. We have been identified as one of the areas to benefit from the government's levelling up scheme and are keen to engage but awaiting details of what this could mean.

Other preceptors charge for their own services. When all are combined the average band D property charge is £2,014.93p.

This last year working with Welney Parish Council the BC has agreed a precept increase and BCllr. Colin Rose has helped in getting the William Marshall Centre back in to use contrary to written statements by certain Welney Parish Councillors that it was uninsurable. It was necessary to await their resignations before your current chair was able to request help. The building should have no impediment to its continued use for any appropriate communal activities. It will need maintenance on an as and when basis which should simply mean adjustment of the jacks by the builders. It must be understood that Modular construction is a newish system for which B. Regs are still being established by the BRE. I would like to reassure parishioners that I sought advice from a body which deals with complaints in the industry and the LABC CNC and I was in regular contact with the BCKLWN's Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer. I was also able to look at all the builder's engineer's calculations.

The next Police Safer Neighborhood Action Panel will take place as a hybrid on 13th April at 19.00, venue to be confirmed but probably Barroway Drove VH. Here ends my report.

- #### 5. To receive a report from our County Councillor:
- the budget at County Council has been approved. Adult services have been given an increase in their budget. A warning was given that future years may include a Council Tax rise to help with care. Highways department have worked hard this year and their Clerk to the Council; Melanie Hilton (CiLCA Qualified).

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thanks from the Chair is appreciated. There has been progress with communications between Parish Councils and Highways and a template has been produced which will be shared with the Clerks. There have been various meetings regarding the Welney causeway flooding issues and various options have been discussed. Funding for any of the projects will be hard to find as there is no specific pot this money can come from.

The Clerk added at this point may of the Councils she had written to asking for support in this matter and already responded in full support of this issue finally being resolved.

6. To receive a report from Residents User Group (RUG) and Speed watch: Councillor Gardiner reported that Speed watch had started up again after a winter break. During this time, he had been working with many other Councillors planting £100 of bulbs around the village. These were donated by 'Make Welney Beautiful'. None person has left the Speed watch team and a volunteer replacement is now being looked for it is about one hour per week, if anyone want to join, please contact Councillor Gardiner.

Rug are a small group of volunteers for Sandgate Meadow, these volunteers look after the maintenance of the park and the children's play area. Funding is completely from donations. Functions are also held including apple pressing and some other functions. Borough Councillor Spikings had donated £300 for tree planting and Borough Councillor Rose had donated £400 for gravel to resurface the paths. This money has come from their Councillor funds. RUG will have to spend £300 to cover the rest of the cost for the gravel paths. Also, the lawnmower needs to be serviced and some power tools need replacing.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk:

Hi as you know this is my second stint as Welney Parish Clerk. I stayed for a week in 2020 and re-joined after a long chat with Dot in May 2021.

I was quite adamant in what I would and wouldn't do for the Parish Council when I came back and have focused my time getting you a quality set of accounts. You now receive a quarterly progress against the budget reviews and the bank statements are signed off quarterly too against the cashbook. I have saved the Council money on subscriptions, payroll provider and a change of bank account.

All policies up to date with a schedule for review put in place too.

There is now a proper filing system for documents both on the computer and in the office.

With the help of the Councillors, we have applied for CIL grants for, a new speed awareness camera, village gates and a new bus shelter.

I have built a new website which give the community a lot more details on what the Council do.

The money raised in 2004 has a small surplus left after purchasing new goal posts and the new basketball pad and re installing the basketball hoop.

For the first time last year we held a Christmas Lights Competition, which will now be an annual event.

It's been a very busy ten months for me as your Clerk, 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 and myself. Long may this continue.....

8. Open Forum – public opportunity for questions to Councillors or issues about matters in the Parish:

- a former Councillor asked the Chair regarding monies taken by a former Clerk and was the Police case now closed. The Clerk explained that this could not be discussed in public and the Police case had now been closed.

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- The same parishioner questioned the Chair regarding the public liability insurance for the William Marshall Centre, she assured him that the insurance was in place. Repairs to the building have been made and a maintenance contract has been taken out and the insurance company are very happy with this too.
- Another former Councillor was pleased the building was now open and suggested that a management committee was set up to start doing events. The Chair had said this was already in hand.

1. **To Close:** the meeting closed at 7.49pm

Signed by the Chairman **Date**

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