
Welney Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Welney Parish Council, Tuesday 5th December 2023, 7.15pm at the William Marshall Centre

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

Those Present: Cllr Spears, Cllr Gardiner, Cllr Goodger, Cllr Lowry, Cllr Bombata, BCLlr Spikings, BCLlr Rose, CCLlr Dawson, Clerk M Hilton.

Apologies: none

Public: one

MINUTES

- 1. Welcome and Opening remarks:** the Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Spears said a few words regarding Cllr Harvey (Chair). He said on opening this meeting as Vice Chair, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Cllr Harvey for her commitment to the Parish Council as both Cllr and formerly as Chair. Cllr Harvey made this difficult decision due to additional family commitments which require her constant attention.
Through her time as Chair Cllr Harvey has helped steer this Council to a stable footing in both finance and compliance with the assistance of our Parish Clerk, and I am sure you would all agree that she will be sorely missed.
- 2. To elect a new Chair:** Cllr Spears was proposed, but he declined the offer and he then proposed Cllr Goodger, unanimously Cllr Goodger was voted as the new Chair. There was no need to vote a new Vice Chair as Cllr Spears is happy to continue in this role.
- 3. To receive apologies for absence:** none given
- 4. To declare any conflicts and pecuniary interests on any items on this month's Agenda:** none received
- 5. To approve the Minutes from the last meeting:** these were approved and signed by the Chair
- 6. Public Forum (ten minutes only):** BCLlr Spikings remarked on how well Cllr Harvey had steered the Council through difficult and troubled waters. She also said it was nice to see Cllr Goodger as Chairman and looks forward to working with him. BCLlr Rose agreed. CCLlr Dawson said hear, hear. A parishioner remarked it was sad to see Cllr Harvey leave, and said what an excellent craft fair that was held at the William Marshall Centre. He asked why he was named in a recent letter to him a 'vexatious complainer'. The Chair remarked this was because of the repetitive nature of the questions he asks every month. The parishioner was told he may bring new items up in the public forum but, all repeated questions will not be engaged with. The parishioner asked the Clerk to send 2020 minutes to him, she agreed to do this.
CCLlr Dawson has been working with Cllr Goodger regarding bringing the telemetry for the Wash Road into the 21st Century. It has been agreed £60K has been put aside to be spent on this. This will include improving the signage and introducing foreign language signs. Cllr Spears said the flashing sign at the top of New Road has not worked for about two years. Highways have already said this is too old to repair. CCLlr Dawson said to wait until the new signage is installed as this may alleviate the matter. The Lamb and Flag pub no longer allow lorries to turn around in their car park, so it is important to have something at the top of New Road so the lorries are not stuck with no space to turn around when the road is flooded.
- 7. To discuss and consider the Action Log from previous meetings:**
 - Stump of traffic sign, Wash Road: Andy Wallace stated this had been completed. However, Cllr Gardiner went past today and its still there. The Clerk will contact Highways again.
 - Invoice for Sandgate Meadow from the Borough Council: this has now been received. 2018, 2019 and 2020 have already been paid to the Council although no invoice has ever been received from BCKLWN. 2021,2022,2023 are being negotiated by BCLlr Rose and RUG to see if any hardship fund can be agreed upon. The Council agreed to allow RUG to negotiate this with Tracy Brooker from BCKLWN.

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

Mobile; 07368 420237 Email; welneypcclerk@gmail.com 6th December 2023

Welney Parish Council

- 40mph speed sign near Welney House Farm A1101 has been damaged: Andy Wallce has ordered this.
- Dip in the road outside Lindsey House: Cllr Gardiner is dealing with this issue with Graham Highgrove.
- A 30pmh sign to be installed on the gateway into the village. Mr Leek is dealing with this.
- There is surface water near Sandgate Meadow. The Clerk will report this.

8. Reports from individual Councillors, Council Groups and Clerk

- i To approve planning applications:** To discuss planning applications if any: none this month
- ii To discuss the purchase of a second hand SAM2 unit from Upwell Parish Council:** *Cllr Gardiner.* This item will be discussed with item 10 iv.
- iii To discuss Marshalls Charity:** *Cllr Bombata.* Cllr Goodger reported an interest in this matter. Cllr Bombata wanted to make the Parish Council aware that changes had been made with how the people of Welney benefited from this charity. He said that he had not seen anything regarding a consultation process. Cllr Goodger said notices had been put up on the three noticeboards in Welney. Cllr Bombata was asked if any residents had approached him regarding the subject and he said they had not. Cllr Goodger said that Marshall Charity had undergone a change in constitution and hoped that more communication with the villagers would take place. Cllr Bombata proposed to contact Marshalls Charity regarding poor widows getting any money. This was not supported by the other Councillors.
- iv To note meeting dates for 2024 and discuss holding bi-monthly meetings:** *all.* After a discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council meetings would be bi-monthly in 2024.
- v To discuss the purchase of defibulator magnets:** *all.* It was decided not to purchase magnets for the parishioners as 999 give the details for the opening of the defibulator cabinets. Cllr Lowry said she is the only person checking the defibulators weekly, which she is happy to do, Cllr Bombata said he will help as and when required.
- vi To discuss Hurn Drove resurfacing works and consider apply for grants:** *all.* Hurn Drove is a restricted by way. Cllr Gardiner asked CCllr Dawson if this would be lifted, Cllr Dawson said the County Council will not adopt the road. CCllr Dawson has £6K to put towards the resurfacing of the road. The Clerk was asked to contact CIL to see if any monies are in the pipeline for Welney. Currently the roadway is unusable for disabled people due to the poor condition of the road. After a discussion it was agreed to apply to Marshall's Charity for some funding (Cllr Spears will do this) and for the Clerk to apply to the Parish Partnership Scheme for a grant of £25K. the Clerk will also ask Land registry for details of ownership on Hurn Drove.

9. To note any Health and Safety issues: none reported

10. Finance

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

Payments for December 2023 Authorisation

Payee	Goods/Services	VAT	TOTAL	DD/EP electronic payment /direct debit	Supplier/Service
Melanie Hilton Salary	968.92	0.00	968.92	EP	49 Hours, includes back pay from 1st April 2023
HMRC	358.15	0.00	358.15	EP	Month 8
Nest Pension scheme	53.55	0.00	53.55	DD	Clerks pension
Paul Spears	20.00	0.00	20.00	EP	Poppy Wreath (Paul paid cash)
K and M Lighting Services	25.66	5.13	30.79	EP	Street light maintenance
Npower	130.14	6.51	136.65	DD	Street light energy
TOTAL	£1,556.42	£11.64	£1,568.06		

- ii. To note income and expenditure balances reconciled from the previous month: this was noted
- iii. To note RUG invoice queries: this was discussed under item 7.

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Welney Parish Council

iv. To set the budget and precept for 2024-25: the Clerk discussed line by line the budget for 2024_25. After some discussion the budget was approved and the precept was agreed to stay the same as last year.

11. To propose any items for the next agenda:

- Wash Road update
- Casual vacancies
- Review the emergency numbers for the defibrulators

12. To note the date of the next parish council meeting – 6th February 2024 at 7.15pm at William Marshall Centre

13. Close: the meeting closed at 21.00pm

Signed by the Chairman **Date**