
Welney Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Welney Parish Council, Tuesday 18th November 2025, 7.15pm at the William Marshall Centre

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

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

Apologies: Cllr Clayden, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Gardiner

Public: one

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and opening remarks:** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
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):**
 - CCllr Dawson and BCllr Rose had nothing to report.
 - The Chair reported he had passed a list of overhanging branches and hedges to Highways for them to cut back. CCllr Dawson said this should be completed soon.
 - A parishioner reported asking a former Parish Council clerk about repaying £22K. He contacted the police, who stated the case was closed by Cllr Gardiner, though Cllr Lowry disagreed with this. The Chair clarified that the police had closed the case, ending further discussion.
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. The contractors who installed the new road signs should have also removed the roundel. The Clerk has chased this issue again, but no further forward.
 - To ask the Environmental Agency (EA) if a dog waste bin could be installed on Bedford Bank. The Clerk did not get a response from the EA, so the Council decided to close the matter.
7. **To note the meeting dates for 2026:** this was noted.
8. **Discussion of recent social media allegations:** The issues began with a debate about dog waste bins. While people may express opinions, making false claims could lead to legal action by individual Councillors.
9. **To review the Code of Conduct and Media Policy:** discussed as part of item 8.
10. **Debate on creating and adopting a Virement Policy:** Councillor Bombata praised the Clerk's work on the annual budget and noted that having a policy would help the Council maintain transparency regarding under- or overspending. After considerable discussion, he proposed the motion. However, since no one seconded it, the motion was not carried forward.
11. **To discuss Freedom of Information Publication Scheme:** this was approved.
12. **Sandgate Meadow Park correspondence:** The Clerk reported BCllr Spiking's advice to secure a 99-year lease for added land protection. The Chair noted that most Council members are on the Friends of Sandgate Meadow committee, raising concerns about fairness in decision-making. Cllr Barker stated there is no legal obligation for

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

Mobile; 07368 420237 Email; clerk@welney-pc.gov.uk 19th November 2025

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the Parish Council to support 'Village Green' status applications, but suggested a door-to-door survey to gather village opinions before any Council support. The Clerk was asked to inform Paul Fox of this discussion.

13. Reports from individual Councillors, Council Groups and Clerk

- i. Cllr Goodger now has a key to activate the flashing signs, though it cannot turn them off. New signs have been installed on the Cambridgeshire side. The road is currently at least one meter above flood level.

The water pipe installation will proceed through Welney in January; as a result, Tipps End will be inaccessible during this period.

- ii. Sam 2 camera: No report.

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

Cllrs Gaylor and Goodger will send the Clerk a list of 'blue' streetlights to replace.

15. Finance

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

Payments for October 2025 Authorisation

Payee	Goods/Services	VAT	TOTAL	DD/EP electronic payment /direct debit	Supplier/Service
Melanie Hilton Salary	699.24	0.00	699.24	EP	44 hours
Melanie Hilton expense	9.00	0.00	9.00	EP	Mileage September meeting
HMRC	249.96	0.00	249.96	EP	Month 6
Nest Pension scheme	26.11	0.00	26.11	DD	Clerks pension
Upwell Computer Repairs	1,194.00	0.00	1,194.00	EP	New laptop, Microsoft Office and Norton and setup (pd 22/9/25)
Npower	113.82	5.69	119.51	EP	Streetlight Energy
K and M Lighting Services	26.96	5.39	32.35	EP	Street light maintenance
TOTAL	£2,319.09	£11.08	£2,330.17		

Payments for November 2025 Authorisation

Payee	Goods/Services	VAT	TOTAL	DD/EP electronic payment /direct debit	Supplier/Service
Melanie Hilton Salary	730.20	0.00	730.20	EP	46 hours
Melanie Hilton expenses	17.66	0.00	17.66	EP	Mileage Budget meeting October 2025, paper
HMRC	264.05	0.00	264.05	EP	Month 7
Nest Pension scheme	28.95	0.00	28.95	DD	Clerks pension
William Marshall Centre	100.00	0.00	100.00	EP	6th May , 1st July, 2nd Sept, 21st Oct, 4th Nov
Community Heartbeat	100.00	20.00	120.00	EP	Village Emergency Telephone System
Npower	133.25	6.66	139.91	DD	Streetlight Energy
K and M Lighting Services	26.96	5.39	32.35	EP	Street light maintenance
TOTAL	£1,401.07	£32.05	£1,433.12		

- 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 approve the Internal Auditor for 2025-26: Robin Goreham was approved to complete the internal audit.
- v. To note the budget and precept for 2026-27: this was approved

16. To propose any items for the next agenda:

17. To note the date of the Annual Parish Meeting – 3rd February 2026 at William Marshall Centre at 7.15 pm.

18. Close: the meeting closed at 20.20pm.

Signed by the Chairman Date