

(Extract – a reply from Colin Rose) 20/08/24

However, the bit about the clerk is new and again I would simply request you provide written proof as he claims to have such many times. He has also complained about the Police so I wrote to him explaining the 1969 Theft Act and why the Police could not recover all the possible £20k that the Clerk may have embezzled and who was not prosecuted as she had given £8k back and the hardest efforts of two Cllrs could not prove more than £8K.

From the above statement from BCllr Rose I wonder has the memory stick that was provided by Cox & Gardner in connection with the D.C investigating officer been lost. When I enquired information from the police of why the case was dropped and just a caution served without the 20K plus being collected as agreed at WPC extraordinary meeting on 15th March 2021. The P.C answer was several of the WPC did not want to go ahead plus the figures did not stack up (I have to be truthful my impression of her line manager made this comment) my notes show 9th March 2014 that the D.C check with her superintendent/line manager and got clearance to put it full WPC. The perpetrator offered all monies to be paid back in return for a caution. See below full details in the timeline below I have set out

It would be true to say at this stage that the lay investigators, Peter Cox and Peter Gardener, in conjunction with D.C. Foreman achieved a great result. D.C. Foreman indicated to me how pleased she was with the way figures were presented. I was copied-in/saw an email where Jen Millard, WPC Clerk, was working with Cox to apportion back Mrs Cope man's repayment to the various accounts it had been stolen from. The images below relate to these points.

My concerns at this time were that the people who wanted this fraud covered up had got their knives out for Peter Cox. As I saw it, I had a responsibility to protect Peter Gardiner and Peter Cox from interference, plus I was responsible to the full WPC, to keep them in the picture.

This email of the 16/2/2021 was sent as I was discussing with the WPC Clerk when to send this email to full Council (note that my on-phone screen PAGE 5 suddenly moved on at pace, therefore my message got superseded AS IT WAS BECOMING IMMINENT FULL DETAILS OF FRAUD WOULD NEED TO BE PASSED TO CLERK MILLARD TO FULLY INFORM THE FULL COUNCIL PRIOR TO AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

From: Roger Giles <roger.giles38@icloud.com>
Date: 16 February 2021 at 12:45:49 GMT
To: Welney Parish Council <welneypcclerk@gmail.com>
Subject: Peter Cox/ Larissa Form D/C / p Gardener Clerks investigation

Jen
Just stuff you can advise on I think it probably
Need sooner than later to be circulate
Just now I spoke to Larissa who was very very
Pleased
Larissa said Peter had excelled himself
And put all the investigatory stuff on a memory
Stick in a format that she could totally understand
Making her life very much easier
I will not mention figures at this stage but there is
A lot of monies involved Larissa will soon be in a position to move thing on
Larissa said the best has been done CPS will of
Course have look at. It and of course there are
Never any guarantee.s
Larissa said it was well worth the few spats she
Had with peter Cox who always apologise. To
Get this high level of detail
Larissa said please put it out there that Pete Cox
Has done well
Roger

The images below are of an email exchange with D.C. Larissa Foreman, regarding a plea bargain between the Welney Parish Council (WPC – mis-typed by D.C. Foreman as ‘PCC’ in her email) and the former Parish Clerk, Mrs Copeman.

On 9 Mar 2021, at 08:37, Foreman, Larissa

<Larissa.Foreman@norfolk.police.uk> wrote:

Hi all, I just wanted to canvas your thoughts on the possible outcome , Mrs Copeman has offered to repay the outstanding money, she is keen to keep this out of court. We could do a conditional caution and make sure she actually has the funds to repay . If you are in agreement with this as I understand the PCC is keen to recover this money asap.

Let me know what you think, Larissa

<roger.giles38@icloud.com>

Date: 9 March 2021 at 11:09:14 GMT

To: "Foreman, Larissa" <Larissa.Foreman@norfolk.police.uk>

Cc: Peter Cox <peter@whfh.org.uk>, peter.gardiner1@sky.com

Subject: Re: Mrs Copeman

Larissa

I go along copletly with

You're caution plus collect the money

Can I pas your letter to full

Council

Roger



Foreman, Larissa

To: Roger Giles

9 Mar 2021 at 11:17

[Details](#)

RE: Mrs Copeman

Hi Roger, I will just get it approved and let you know when you can pass it on.

Thanks for coming back to me so promptly.

Larissa

The email exchange of 9th March 2021 shown above, between D.C. Foreman and the two lay investigators and Roger Giles (Welney Parish Council Chair and fraud investigation supervisor) indicates that the fraud perpetrator, Mrs Copeman, wanted to plea bargain (pay all monies back in one lump sum if the WPC would agree to just a caution being served). D.C. Foreman also checked that the perpetrator had the £21k. Apparently, Mrs Copeman's mother had left monies in her will, so the money became available as this case was becoming finalised.

Following correct procedure, D.C. Foreman emailed the WPC's Chair /representative, Roger Giles, in readiness to instigate full Welney Parish Council involvement for gaining approval of the plea bargain finalisation of the case. Note the email sent by D.C. Foreman at 11.17am in which she indicates that she is awaiting circulation approval from her Detective Inspector./ Case supervisor

Once D.C. Larissa Foreman informed me that she had clearance from her superiors, I then texted Jennifer Millard, WPC's Clerk to action these matters, giving her D.C. Foreman's contact information. I was hospitalised at the time, so could not attend the meeting that Jennifer arranged.

A screenshot of the text to Jennifer and a link to the minutes of the WPC meeting on 15th March 2021 are shown below.



Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting 15th March 2021

https://www.welneypc.info/files/ugd/bb6013_b186e979f0db41909c2c195791d474aa.pdf

The images on the following pages show the string of emails between D.C. Larissa Foreman and WPC Clerk Jennifer Millard, referring to the WPC decision whether to accept Mrs Copeman's plea bargain or not – hinging on payment to the WPC of £21k owed by Pat Copeman, the former Clerk.

From: Foreman, Larissa <Larissa.Foreman@norfolk.police.uk>

Date: Tue, 9 Mar 2021 at 12:32

Subject: Copeman fraud.

To: welney.pccclerk@gmail.com <welney.pccclerk@gmail.com>

In relation to the Copeman case , I wanted to ascertain the views of the PCC in relation to seeking a positive outcome . As you are all aware this case has been ongoing since 2018 and there have been a number of difficulties in getting the evidence together In order to prove the total loss. Peter Cox has worked hard to produce spreadsheets and corresponding documents which details how much was stolen and the amount of money outstanding. This amount is additional to what Mrs Copeman has already paid back.

Dear Larissa,

Thank you for your recent email communication.

In an effort to respond quickly, I have emailed the Councillors seeking their opinions.

This decision will be resolved (confirmed) at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on Monday evening.

In summary we would be comfortable accepting that Pat is given a caution but only on the basis that the outstanding monies (which we understand total circa £21,000) are paid in full, in one single sum, at the earliest opportunity.

We note that in selecting this approach we hope to avoid further financial and administration burden on the taxpayer.

Please revert back to us at your earliest convenience, if the monies can not be paid in full, as this may affect our decision making.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Jennifer

The images below show a continuation of the communications with D.C. Larissa Foreman relating to the £21K plea bargain repayment sum to WPC. Clerk Jennifer Millard wrote to D.C. Forman as she needed to know, for the WPC Extraordinary meeting of 15th March 2021, if the £21K would be paid in full as it may make a difference to WPC's decision.

I think Clerk Millard was sending this last email before the meeting of 15th March just in case D.C. Foreman had met the Allotment holders, to verify the amount of allotment rent money paid, circa £700.00.

From: Welney Parish Council <welneypcclerk@gmail.com>
Date: 15 March 2021 at 09:06:47 GMT
To: Larissa.Foreman@norfolk.police.uk, Dorothy Harvey <dorothyharvey62@yahoo.com>, Roger Giles <roger.giles38@icloud.com>
Subject: Welney Parish Council / Welney Playing Field Charity

Dear Larissa,

I hope this email finds you well and that you had a good weekend.

The Council / Charity are meeting tonight, to ratify the instructions already given to you.

I wondered if there was any update since we last spoke as it would be nice to provide one this evening.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Jennifer

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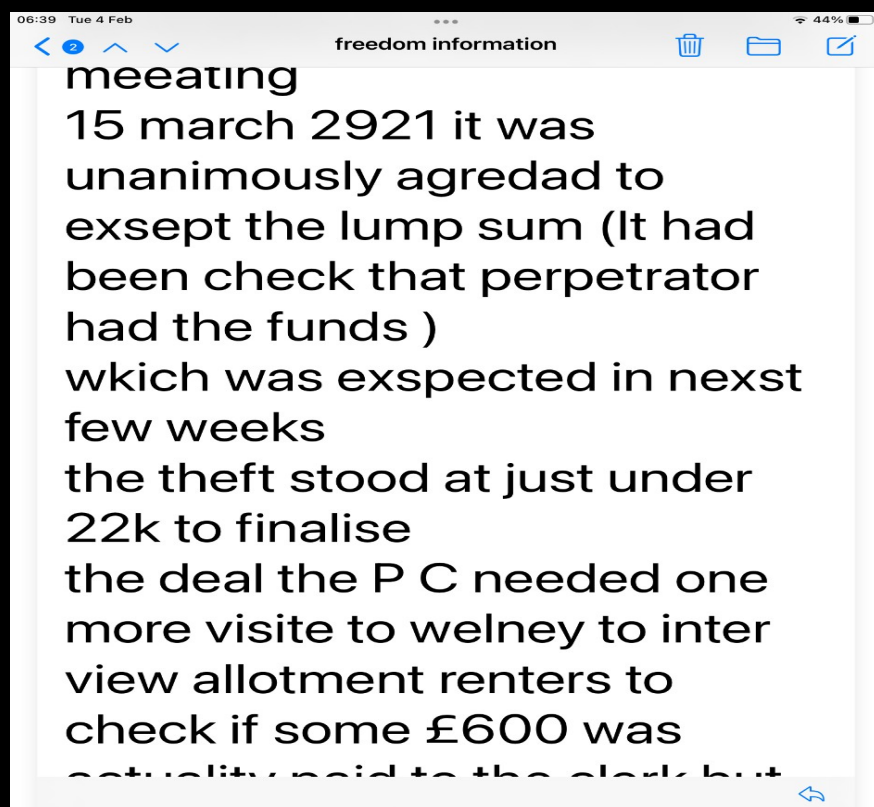
I will be checking that Mrs Copeman has the 21k to repay this amount before any decision is finalised.

Option 1 : PCC in agreement that Mrs Copeman receives conditional caution and pays back the 21k

Kind Regards Larissa

In the event, the D.C. did not reply, and the £21K was accepted, agreeing the option that the DC had specified (see below), having got clearance from her superiors (as per Foreman's email of 9th March 2021, at 11:17am).

ad



The image below is of a section of the minutes of the WPC meeting of 4th May 2021 which refers to my resignation as Chair when hospitalised. Also shown are correspondence referring to my delayed release from hospital and resultant absence from the WPC meeting, and my closing presentation report notes.

Welney Parish Council.

The meeting was a virtual meeting using the Zoom meeting platform and was held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

MINUTES

1/21 To receive apologies for absence

In attendance: Councillor Harvey, Councillor Barker, Councillor Pratley.

Apologies were received from: Councillor Giles, Councillor Wardle, and Councillor Spikings of the Borough Council. Councillor Loveday joined the meeting part way through having been unable to establish internet connection at the start. Councillor Lowry was not in attendance.

2/21 To approve minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Welney Parish Council

It is understood that due to Covid -19 restrictions no Annual Meeting of the Welney Parish Council was held.

3/21 To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest on agenda items Not Applicable

4/21 Election of a Chairman

It was proposed and seconded with all in favour that Councillor Harvey be elected as Chairman, all were in favour.

5/21 Reports from Chairman / Clerk (if any)

The Clerk read out a report written by the former Chairman Councillor Giles. Councillor Harvey read out her own report.

The Clerk read out her own report.

6/21 Appointment of Members to Working Parties / Reporting

Below is correspondence with Clerk Millard about my absence from the WPC meeting of 4th May 2021 and pre-empting my resignation, at that meeting, from the position of Chair.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Roger Giles <roger.giles38@icloud.com>

Date: 4 May 2021 at 10:30:15 BST

To: Welney Parish Clerk <clerk@welneypc.org.uk>

Subject: welney parish council

hi jen

i am still not home

as there are problems putting cares in place for a period of time until i am fully recovered

as you know i was hoping to join tonight meeting

will keep you posted if i am sent home later today

just check out the notes / report attached

best

roger

Dear All,

I have just spoken to Roger, who regrettably whilst being well enough to be released from hospital has on technicalities not yet been released. He therefore offers his apologies for tonight's meetings and whilst he wishes to remain as a Councillor, he does not feel that it would be correct to stand as Chairman. You will therefore need to elect a new Chairman this evening.

Best Wishes

Jen

Below is my Chair's report, including references to the police and WPC investigation team's work on the fraud case against the former WPC Clerk, Mrs Copeman, which was read out at the WPC meeting of 4th May 2021 by Clerk Millard.

Welney parish council

ex chair Giles report

it would be true to say at times there were difficult moment since i joined the wpc my vision was to help bring a strong community spirit back to this excellent village we all live in some may say it was easier back in the 60s when the majority of residents worked around on the village farms but change has to happen plus we need to be able to adapt with COVID many people have worked from home , and more working from homes may be practised in the future possibly regenerating village life

all of use are aware we have recently been through many chair / clerks changes which has made the paper trail very difficult to follow on top of this Covid compounded a difficult situation whoever some of the main problems have been identified & recognise as problems so that is a start it is not going to easy but-there is good chance now of correcting situations (the public will be updated as our legal advisor allows)when this is done it will be easier for the basic parish council business to be kept up to date and not put the massive pressure on parish clerk we must congratulate Peter Cox/ peter garden for their detailed work in connection With D/C Forman re re theft of monies also as rustle of NALC will tell you peters cox was invaluable sorting out the wpc fiancé when they were in Dire straits it would be true to say Dot has held the job of vice chair well plus kept up the

pressure on high ways to action stuff they agreed 18 months or more ago well done dot plus another shining light is Ann bringing her Manny skills including grant application to our great advantage plus the environment agency keeps working towards finishing of the bank improvements plus installation of rd barriers very slowly getting their one very bright light has appeared in the way of Jen out very proactive clerk who has navigating our boat not getting put of by the very turbulent water's. Jen business background has been invaluable well done Jen a realistic budget has put the precinct up but the spendings are clearly documented i would like to thank our country/ borough councillors for their interest & Advise plus Russell/ nalc fo there patients and strong support there are several new people who have moved in showing interest in resurrecting our sporting culture that was always been the hall mark of Welney; new blood new ideas are very valuable i would like to think once the wmc is up & running the w pc could organise a social evening for parishioner bring their ideas to then table that they would like progressed already we have some very proactive villagers re running the environment friendly rug project rd camera/ highways safety craft clubs keep fit yoga soccer is ready to kick of and much more the fishing club is very proactive keeping safe walking surface so 90 years olds like Mareleen are safe it would be great to see tourists and fishing flourish so are great lamb & flag Pub keeps open as wee all know the flag supported the house bound delivering basic groceries to their door s during the pandemic what and asset i no will have missed out several key people but thank them as well

roger

chair

ps my back problems have improved so i can again play a fuller roll i would put up again for chair but being honest my back problems are still difficult so the full +council

It would be true to say at this stage that the lay investigators, Peter Cox and Peter Gardener, in conjunction with D.C. Foreman achieved a great result. D.C. Foreman indicated to me how pleased she was with the way figures were presented. I was copied-in/saw an email where Jen Millard, WPC Clerk, was working with Cox to apportion back Mrs Copeman's repayment to the various accounts it had been stolen from. The images below relate to these points.