

Short Synopsis

Welney parish council clerk stole over 30k of parishioners monies but was allowed to walk away with out paying over 20 k back

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Clerk when confronted by evidences by police confessed to the theft

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clerk in conjunction with police put in plea bargain pay all monies back in one lump in return for no court appearance just a caution (perpetrator had been left monies)

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once the DC running case got clearance from her superiors the plea bargain was fully ratified and minuted by full W P council on 15 march 2021

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from then on myself as WPC chair was trying to keep in loop but was hospitalised. In early 2022 when i was fully discharged from hospital it was clear at a parish council a u-turn had happened re WPC meeting 7 Dec 2021 the former clerk was allowed to walk away with over 20k of villagers monies see more detailed info below.

Former clerk embezzled more than £20k from council



LDRS

Jonnathan Hicks pleaded guilty at Norwich Crown Court after handing himself into police

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Local Democracy Reporting Service

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A former clerk who embezzled more than £20,000 from a parish council has pleaded guilty to fraud by abuse of position.

Jonnathan Hicks, 54, of William O'Callaghan Place, Dereham, failed to complete payments and wrote cheques to himself while working at Old Buckenham Parish Council in Norfolk.

it was to sum extent similar to the case off our former Welney PC clerk who only admitted the theft when presented with the figure that citizens Cox & Gardener had provided in conjunction with D/ C Forman i personally was chair & fraud case supervisor .D/c Forman put it to me copeman had admitted the theft but wanted to plea bargain pay all monies back if WPC would agree for her just to be cautioned thus keeping it out of court ,once the DC ,superiors had agreed this cause of action the DC gave me go ahead to put it to full WP council who unanimously ratified it see WPC minute 15 march 2021 Copeman the Welney clerk also orchestrated similar activities.

In a statement following his court appearance earlier this week, Naomi Bailey, council chairwoman, said Hicks, a former lorry driver, had orchestrated a "systemic pattern of deception... to defraud public money for personal enrichment".

systemic pattern of deception during the approx 12 years period under ken Goodger as chair who appeared to have ignored the red flags conveyed to him by concerned wpc personnel but when the theft was discovered by WP Clerk lawford .Goodger played this theft down clearly muddy the water in favour of the perpetrator

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"We were horrified to discover what had happened and have been working incredibly hard over the last six months to try and fix the mess we had been left with," she said.

in the case of Welney P C fraud as i see it when the current Welney clerk Lawson took over & Flagged he had found a black hole in the finances there was meeting held behind close doors ex chair Goodger pate's farm my information is that That that ex chair Goodger was joined by councillor Barker (Goodgers neighbour an insurance executive) plus non WPC member Barker Partner Detective Sergeant Sara Galore and some other councillors the strange thing was the WPC staff theft insurance was not evoked But several months Later when cox & Gardner were the investigating team cox Asked why the the original members of the Pates farm meeting had not approached the insurers there story to Cox was they were not aware they was insurance Cox then went to insurers but when he found their answers ambiguous he gave insurance details to get clarification to councillors Mat Barker the insurance executive but that bore no fruit

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"While there is plenty of work still to do, matters are slowly getting sorted. Steps have been taken to ensure that nothing like this can ever happen again.

By march 15 2021 the Perpetrator had Admitted the theft and agreed to pay all monies back (my notes are D/c Forman had checked the perpetrator had the monies a relative had died)when Jon Lovday was chair the working party sett up to assist The D/C to calculate the extent of theft (there brief was when they finalise to do a presentation to wpc on how the theft was allowed to happen plus recommend a fail safe way of preventing it happening again) But this last paragraph never happened it seems to me that as my hospitalisation was dictating to me to resign as chair my paper/ e mail trail shows that the current clerk Gen millard was having Dialogue with Cox re finalising the theft situation making a program of the various Welney P Council accounts that recovered monies should have be a portion to (if you go into my website click on clerks fraud then scroll down to red (time line of events) you will se the dialogues with Cox stops i also have an email from Clerk Millard stating it was on the card mat Barker would be the lead person in connection with WPC financial affairs. going back to last clerk prior to millard vikki Austin Russell Reed of Nalc had been in touch with Vikki stating professional help should be engaged to sorts out the various serious nefarious activity with the w Parrish council ex chair Goodger was still on council i have an email to all councillors from Goodger lobby ing them not to implement Russell Reves head of Norfolk Parish council,s directives .plus without permission from council / chair lovday behind the scenes Goodger and Barker appointed them selves to be the financial advisor.s to clerk Vikki Austin who suddenly left at this time due to the wpc financial situation Cox Was Bought in as RFO & clerk despite some councillors trying to demonise him he was fully ratified

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"We will continue to look after our beautiful village and while it will take some time to reveal the full extent of the deception, the village and its residents will always be our top priority."

unfortunately the top priority was by a number of councillors was to play down the theft by trying to demonise Cox clearly keep egg of ex chair face & the others that hooked there Carts up to Goodger forgetting the main priorities recovering parishioners monies

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At Norwich Crown Court his lawyer argued that some of the money may have been legitimate expenses taken by Hicks.

The former Welney clerk had a similar Pattern to Hicks this clerk made up fictitious invoices to trade persons but used the monies herself