

Methwold Annual Parish Council Meeting of the Parish Council
Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7.30pm
21 Room, St George's Hall Complex, Methwold

Present

Councillors: Cllr M French (Chairman), Cllr A Grassick, Cllr B Horton, Cllr F Riches,
Cllr T Thomas, Cllr K Rodriguez, Cllr. R Tilson, Cllr. R Minkler

6 members of the public

Clerk

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Cllr. Thomas proposed Cllr French as Chairman, Cllr. Horton seconded the motion – APPROVED, Cllr. French accepted

3. Cllr. Riches proposed Cllr. Grassick as Vice Chairman, Cllr. Thomas seconded the motion – APPROVED, Cllr. Grassick accepted

4. The parish council accepted apologies for absence from Cllr. Younge, Cllr. Scott, Cllr.O'Ware, Cllr. Rodwell, Borough Cllr Ryves and Cllr.Storey.

5. To receive Declarations of Interest from Members or to note Dispensations where applicable. Cllr. French declared an interest in item 11.3 Tree work (for information).

6. Cllr. Horton proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th April 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting, Cllr. Tilson seconded the motion - APPROVED

7. To agree the appointment of councillors to the following:

7.1 Planning Committee – Cllr. French, Cllr. Grassick, Cllr. Riches, Cllr. Tilson, Cllr Minkler

7.2 Finance Committee – Cllr. French, Cllr. Grassick, Cllr. Younge, Cllr. Tilson, Cllr. Horton, Cllr. Thomas

7.3 HR Committee – Cllr. French, Cllr. Minkler, Cllr. Riches, Cllr. Thomas

7.4 GDPR/Data Protection – Cllr. French, Cllr. Grassick, Cllr. Minkler

7.5 Policies & Procedures – Cllr. Tilson, Cllr. Rodriguez

7.6 Cemetery Superintendent – Cllr. Scott

7.7 Footpaths – Cllr. Scott, Cllr. Rodriguez, Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. Riches

7.8 SAMs Unit – Cllr. Minkler

7.9 Grants Group – Cllr. O'Ware, Cllr. Rodriguez

7.10 Batchcroft Trust representatives – Cllr. Horton, Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. Rodriguez

7.11 Open Spaces – Cllr. French, Cllr. Grassick, Cllr. Rodwell, Cllr. Scott, Cllr. Rodwell, Cllr. O'Ware, Cllr. Minkler

8 Open Forum for public participation

An opportunity to hear from members of the public, Borough and County Councillors

The Chairman thanks the public for their patience whilst the groups were being decided.

Resident asked where is the site of the residential development in Crown Street with 30 dwellings, is it at the bottom of Church View? The parish council are not aware of an additional application for 30 dwellings, which would require planning permission, a non-material amendment has been received recently for changes to a wall.

Members of the planning committee will investigate.

Will a list of all the Committees and groups be available on the parish council website? These will be available in the minutes.

CIL money – does this include a payment for the fence on the recreation ground? There is a specific list which CIL can be used for.

Has CIL been received for the Hythe Road & Herbert Drive developments? Clerk to check.

The fence on the Church View development and the recreation ground was shown on the planning application/development plan, Clerk to check the details and chase with planners.

The state of the car park at the old social club is a disgrace, the Chairman explained this is a Trust matter but that the contractor had met with the Chairman this week, and this will be rectified.

How do the public contact the Trust? Chairman explained how the parish council and the trust communicate.

Weed spraying around the village, when will this be done, the whole village looks a mess. Clerk to follow up.

The Old Chapel – is there an update, what is happening with the site, the hoarding, and the parking? This will be bought up again with Highways and Borough Council.

Speedwatch on Stoke Road at 3pm when the children are coming out of the school, did you record anyone speeding? Cllr. Minkler reported that this was the wrong time to hold a speedwatch session in this venue because traffic was moving slowly due to the traffic parked along this road.

There are vehicles parking overnight in St George's Car Park, what can be done to stop this? There is already a sign saying no overnight parking, it is very difficult to stop this. Closing the gate was considered but there is a cost associated with this and might have a knock-on effect for hall users. There is already a no overnight parking sign on the entrance to the car park.

Cllr. Storey joined the meeting at 8.20pm and apologised for his lateness which was due to another meeting.

A couple of meetings ago a councillor asked Cllr. Storey a question regarding the UK 100 – the parish council were not given the opportunity to discuss or vote on this, how much is it going to cost?

Cllr. Storey asked the councillor (who was not present) to send him an email requesting the information so that he can reply.

It is the season for annual meetings for parishes and the county council.

Cllr. Storey shared some fascinating facts about Norfolk

1/3rd of the UK gas supply is provided via Bacton terminals

50% of UK electric 10.4Kw offshore power generated in Norfolk

There are 42 Fire Stations (10 months old)

750 Fire Fighters

47 Libraries

421 Schools

£19 billion contribution to the national economy per annum by Norfolk

6159 miles of roads

39500 businesses in Norfolk

Norfolk covers 2074 sq miles

£3 billion a year raised by tourism

Revenue budget of £1,803 Billion

223900 residents aged over 64 years old

Roughly 918369 residents in Norfolk

147263 school age children in Norfolk

90 miles of coastline

409124 homes

11000+ businesses – financial and professional

2400 miles of walking routes, cycle paths and bridlepaths

£144 billions of agriculture produced

3000+ science and health workers

On Tuesday 7th May NCC agreed a 5 year adult social care plan for Norfolk – all details are on the NCC website.

More can be found out at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41736/Care-support-and-health>

Economy boosting local enterprise partnership is to continue.

Inspectors say - progress and improvement are evident at Norfolk Fire and Rescue.

Apprenticeships – Norfolk hits 1 million milestone - <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/57304/Apprenticeships-Norfolk-hits-1m-milestone-in-levy-transfer-scheme-success#:~:text=Businesses%20can%20enquire%20about%20receiving,or%20calling%200344%20800%208024.>

9 Reports

9.1 Update and Report from the Open Spaces Working Party to consider the recommendations made at the Open Spaces Working Group on 25th April 2024, to include:

9.2 Cllr. Minkler proposed to accept the quote of £2255 + VAT and installation for three noticeboards, Cllr. Horton seconded the motion – APPROVED - Funds were allocated in last years budget and carried over.

9.3 Cllr. Rodriguez proposed to accept the quote of £96 for 2 signs for the gate to recreation ground, Cllr. Horton seconded the motion – APPROVED

9.4 Cllr Rodriguez proposed to permit the installation of a dog bin at Globe Street end of rec. and on the corner in Methwold Hythe, cost for new bin is approx. £200 + VAT and will incur additional cost of £190.32 for BCKLWN to empty this bin and the one in Methwold Hythe which is to be replaced. Cllr. Horton seconded the motion – APPROVED

An email has been received from the Greenscape Officer at the Borough Council informing the parish council that after conducting a health & safety review of all the dog bins in the parish they empty all 8 dog bins are either too high or too large, the problems have to be rectified by 20th May otherwise the bins will not be emptied. Other local councils have received this email and have sent letters to the leader of the Borough Council to object, an email will be sent from Methwold Parish Council. New bin in Globe Street and Methwold Hythe will be set at the regulation height. Cllr Rodriguez proposed to permit the installation of a dog bin at Globe Street end of rec. and on the corner in Methwold Hythe, cost for new bin is approx. £200 + VAT and will incur additional cost of £190.32 for BCKLWN to empty this bin and the one in Methwold Hythe which is to be replaced. Cllr. Horton seconded the motion – APPROVED

9.5 Quotes – concrete slabs for benches on rec. to June meeting

9.6 Quote – Topple Tests to headstones in Cemetery, more quotes are required, to June meeting

9.7 Quote for solar panel speed signs – Cllr. Minkler explained that he has discussed solar powered signs with Westcotec but due to the level of speeding traffic these are not suitable.

Smiley face speed signs not authorised by Norfolk Police.

Another SAMs2 sign is felt to be a better option to the speeding traffic issues in the Parish and will cost less money to implement. To Open Spaces for more discussion

10 Finance

10.1 Accounts Update

Current Account total on 28th April 2024	£80,717.82
Tracker Account total on 28th April 2024	£30,070.63
Saver Account total on 28th April 2024 (CIL/Section 106 & Donations)	£69,165.69
Emergency Reserve Fund 28th April 2024	£25,481.65
Total	£205,435.79

Precept £73,390.84 has been received, £950 payment from the insurance company for the RAF Memorial.

£8776.16 of CIL funding has been received, agreed that this will be moved into the Saver Account.

Transfer if £14,503.00 from CIL/Section 106 fund into Current account to pay for Picnic Benches, Seats and Outdoor Gym Equipment

10.2 Cllr. Horton proposed to approve the payments, Cllr. Rodriguez seconded the motion, APPROVED

11 Planning

11.1 To receive planning decisions

24/00113/F Keepers Cottage Decoy Road Southery Downham Market Norfolk PE38 0PH Proposed replacement dwelling with garage. Application Permitted 24 April 2024 Delegated Decision

24/00404/F The Fallows 28A Old Feltwell Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PW - Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 22/00785/F: Conversion of existing garage and single storey rear extension to dwelling Application Permitted 25 April 2024 Delegated Decision

11.2 To receive planning applications

24/00576/F Change of use from vacant butchers shop (class E) to 1-bedroom dwellinghouse (C3) and replace the existing asbestos roof with red tiles at (Methwold Old Butchers Shop Old Cottage) 25B High Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4NT - SUPPORT

24/00633/F Retrospective Change of Use of redundant barn to form single dwelling at Blackberry Barn 49H Main Road Brookville THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4RB - WITHDRAWN

24/00627/F Installation of pilot plant for the production of Spirulina power and associated development including the erection of steel frame clad building, a new tank, supporting columns and gantry at Wissington Sugar Factory College Road Wissington Wereham Norfolk PE33 9QG - SUPPORT

11.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published

24/00584/F A glazed front extension including external and internal alterations at Barn of Arches Hall Farm Drive Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP25 4PN – this has been resubmitted because the flood Risk Assessment has been received – council to resend previous comments.

Planning Appeal Decision – APP/V2635/W/22/3313723 – PLANNING REFERENCE 22/01013/O Land S of 14 to 28 High Street Methwold Norfolk – outline application with some matters reserved for the erection of 7 no detached CSB houses with garages and associated works - Appeal Dismissed

For information only -

24/00084/TREECA T1 Horse Chestnut and located in the corner of the rear garden. The tree is around 3 metres from the building on one side and flint/clunch boundary wall on the other. Remove 5 lower branches as they currently prevent light from reaching the boundary and building walls, resulting in damp.

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Red House 1 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PP

24/00096/TREECA T1 - Maple tree- partial crown reduction by 2.5m - 3m to reduce it back from the footpath, carriageway and cables. Reduce shrubs on opposite side of the driveway away from the cables

12 Items received for the agenda

12.1 Biodiversity presentation will be made at the June meeting.

12.2 Speedwatch and SAM sign report for April/May SAMs2 – the parish council are responsible for the SAMs2 unit, Cllr. Minkler and a volunteer are looking after the placement and data for this machine.

Community Speedwatch Group – co-ordinated by Cllr.Minkler

12 active members of which 2 live in Methwold

The group covers 3 villages over 5 official locations

The group now has two sets of equipment eg: speed device and signs with enough members two different locations can be covered at the same time.

Methwold Hythe has the biggest issue with speeders but no local volunteers.

Monthly stats from the Police for April have been delayed because of holiday, these will be available for the next meeting however we are likely to be the highest in terms of hours covered.

Using figures from the SAMs sign we can now evaluate the contribution of Speedwatch and its effectiveness.

Charting one particular day in Brookville when the Speedwatch group attended for 1.5 hours. It can clearly be seen that the usual 30% speeding traffic was reduced to 6% while the sign session was on. Most of the traffic travels throughout the day at 40mph. Approx. 4000 vehicles per day.

SAMs2 Sign

There are 8 official locations for the sign throughout the 3 villages, 7 are active. One post is missing near the new builds on Hythe Road Methwold opposite the public path. This has been chased up with Highways and will be speaking to the Highways Engineer.

The SAM sign padlocks have been replaced and a duplicate set of keys is now with the clerk for safe keeping.

Another set is with the Speedwatch volunteer who has been trained to relocate the sign as per the schedule in my absence.

The SAMs sign has a new schedule to move every Monday over the 8 locations and as the Memorandum of Understanding, the sign will not return to any location before 8 weeks have passed.

Statistics: information is downloaded after each week at each location. Any amount of statistics can be obtained from the sign but for comparison of locations it is best to look at just 3 identifiers – maximum speed, average speed of speeders and the percentage of traffic over the speed limit.

Figures for 3 sites for comparison

Brookville 40mph (incoming traffic from Stoke Ferry)
Max: 90mph (on 15/4 at 01.25am)
Average Speeder: 46mph which would result in a fixed penalty
Percentage traffic over the speed limit: 30%

Methwold 40mph (On Stoke Road at the crossroads with High Street incoming from Brookville)
Max: 80mph (on 03/05 at 05.40am)
Average Speeder: 45mph under the fixed penalty speed
Percentage traffic over the speed limit: 10%

The Hythe 30mph
Max: 50mph (late afternoon)
Average Speeder: 35mph which would result in a fixed penalty
Percentage traffic over the speed limit: 60%

These statistics show that Methwold Hythe has an issue with speeding and not enough resources in the CSW team to keep monitoring the Hythe, Cllr Minkler asked for the councils permission to hand deliver a notice to all houses in Methwold Hythe asking for volunteers to come forward and help run Speedwatch sessions in Methwold Hythe, the council were given a copy of the notice and all agreed to this.

The council agreed to post the notice on the parish council website and on their Facebook page. Cllr. French suggested that a monthly SAMs and Speedwatch report might be published in Methwold Times.

Cllr Minkler proposed to letter drop the leaflets in Methwold Hythe, Cllr. Grassick seconded – APPROVED Clerk to make contact with the Editor.

13 Correspondence

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (WRTO 4899) – 22nd May to 25th May, Black Drove Feltwell to facilitate carriageway works.

Police – Anti Social Behaviour – After the recent spate of anti-social behaviour in Methwold - glass being smashed on the rec. and the damage to the fence at Mini Methwold the police will add the village their hot spot patrols and focusing on anti-social behaviour and crime prevention in the village.

NHS Norfolk and Waveney – Major boost for mental health services in Norfolk and Waveney with new NHS Talking Therapies service – <https://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/norfolk/>

Community Action Norfolk – Rural Housing Enabler – this role is to support communities to develop new affordable homes for local people when a need has been clearly identified.

2024 Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards - <https://forms.office.com/e/2XhNvEwgQs>

Norfolk Association of Local Councils – training for councillors available.

14. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – June 13th 2023

Cllr. Minkler thanked the council for the training he recently attended, and he has benefitted greatly. There is the Local Council Award Scheme, would like to propose to investigate this. Discuss at Julys meeting.

Biodiversity – to be presented at Junes meeting.

Can Cllr. Minkler confirm the police view the three villages as three separate sites, yes this is correct.

15.To pass a resolution (under the Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960 to exclude members of the public and press for the following confidential items: None

Meeting closed at: 21.10