

MINUTES OF METHWOLD ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE FENTON ROOM ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX
THURSDAY 9th MAY 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: D Thomas –Chairman, J Marriage –Vice Chairman, P Crawley, D Charlesworth-Smith,
S Crump, K Plumridge, B Horton, S Burbridge, R Gibson,
11 members of the public
Cllr. M Storey

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Resident who was unable to attend the meeting sent an email, very pleased to see the flag flying for St George's Day and for a few days after.

As big vehicles are no longer running over the grass at Petch Corner will the developers re turf the damaged area so it doesn't stay looking a mess?

Could consideration be given to having a flower tub on this grass once the area has been re turfed?

Will the chevron signs which have been taken down from the wall at Petch Corner, be replaced once the fencing has been taken down, who is responsible for putting these back?

The Trod from Methwold to Methwold Hythe is overgrown and children are walking in the road, when will this be rectified? The parish council recently had a meeting with Highways and have been told that this work has been scheduled to be done. Highway Rangers spend 1 day every 3 months in the village undertaking tasks but they are restricted to what they are able to do when they are here. If there is anything which needs attention this can be reported to the Clerk who will report it or anyone can report problems on

www.fixmystreet.com

The developer asked Methwold Parish Council what they thought to the name Hythe Views Close for the development of 22 houses at the top of Hythe Road, the parish council didn't really have much to say apart from they thought it ironic that it is called Hythe Views Close yet there doesn't seem to be any windows facing Methwold Hythe and from the site you cannot see the Hythe at all.

The parish council was asked if they felt there was a need for a shop in the village; they agreed that they would be happy to see entrepreneurial input in the village. The possibility of a shop was looked at when the old social club was taken on and major supermarket chains were asked if they would be interested in setting up a shop in the Complex but only one out of the six who were asked replied saying that the village needed to have a footfall of a minimum of 3500 to research the viability of a shop. At present the Complex is zero rated, a commercial business would affect this rating possibly making the Complex unviable.

The road will be closed again outside The George will be closed again for Anglian Water to do repairs from 29th May for 3 days. The Clerk was instructed to ask Highways if they can install traffic lights to enable traffic to use the road behind The George whilst the High Street is closed.

Cllr. Storey explained that Norfolk County Council has this week moved to cabinet decision to run the Council. Cllr. Storey took the opportunity to wish his successor Cllr. Tom Ryves well in his endeavours for Methwold, Northwold, Whittington, Brookville and surrounding areas.

AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman for the coming year – D Charlesworth-Smith proposed D Thomas as Chairman, B Horton seconded, there were no other proposals – All voted – APPROVED
D Thomas signed the Acceptance of Office
2. Election of Vice Chairman for the coming year - D Charlesworth-Smith proposed J Marriage as Vice Chairman, B Horton seconded, there were no other proposals – All voted - APPROVED
J Marriage signed the Acceptance of Office
3. To receive apologies for absence - None
4. Declaration of Interest – Councillors invited to declare an interest in any item on the agenda-none.

5. To sign and approve the minutes of the meeting of 11th April 2019 as a true record of the meeting. B Horton proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by S Burbridge, APPROVED, R Gibson was not at the last meeting and abstained from the vote.

5.1 Matters arising for the minutes of the meeting 11th April 2019 – The Avenue is still overgrown, Clerk has been in contact with Northwold Clerk who will try to find out who is the landowner.

6. Reports

6.1 Report from the Open Spaces Working Party to consider the recommendations made at the Open Spaces Working Party meeting held on 25th April 2019 – **Post Office trees** have been trimmed but this was not as much as was anticipated, the Clerk has discussed an adjustment to the invoice with the Contractor who has offered a £300 reduction, J Marriage proposed to the parish council this is reduction is accepted, B Horton seconded APPROVED.

The PCC has proposed changes to the Memorial Garden – removal of posts and re-gravel, K Plumridge proposed to accept these changes, seconded by S Burbridge – APPROVED

Fair Hill Posts-after the discussion regarding swept path diagrams the Open Spaces group decided that a demonstration of how vehicles run onto Fair Hill and the grass outside Garden House wouldn't be independent. The parish owns Fair Hill and the land outside Garden House and the council are within their rights to install posts on parish land to prevent damage – J Marriage read put an article from 'The Times' which supported this decision. A member of the public explained that the post might cause vehicles to mount the pavement to swing round. J Marriage proposed to go ahead with installation of the posts, B Horton seconded – APPROVED - K Plumridge abstained

Proposed toilet on the recreation ground – the development of Storey's Meadow means a Section 106 with approx. funds of £33k being available for play equipment on the rec. it is thought that we already have very good play equipment and that a toilet block on the rec. would be much better use of the money, Open Spaces feel this is in principal a good idea although there are concerns regarding vandalism, locking up and cleaning but would be a benefit for anyone using the rec. and would mean it would be possible to hold functions on the rec. There would need to be a Variation of Deed which is being discussed with the Borough Council but there is a cost for this of approx. £700 and if the County Council are involved this may mean up to £2k. The Developer has confirmed that he is willing for the Section 106 funds to be spent in this way if the parish council are willing to pay for the Deed of Variation, parish council are waiting for an update from the Borough Council. Are members happy for us to try to get the Deed of Variation from play equipment to public toilets? P Crawley proposed to proceed, B Horton seconded – APPROVED. Cllr. Storey was asked if he could clarify the situation regarding the Section 106 for this development, Cllr. Storey explained he would have to abstain from any contribution. Does the play equipment have to be for children or could the Section 106 money be used for adult play equipment, under the current banding it is thought that the money could be used for adult exercise equipment, a resident reported that a toilet on the rec. would be welcomed and far more useful for the village and an asset to the rec.

Skateboard ramp-problems with smashed glass and rubbish being left under the ramp, this will be discussed later.

6.2 Report from the Hall and General Purposes Working Party to include consideration of the recommendations made at the Hall and General Purposes Working Party meeting held on 2nd May 2019 – **Dividing doors in St George's Hall**, a quote to repair has been received but the manufacturer will only guarantee if there is a floor track to support the bottom of the door, currently is only supported at the top. It is thought a track in the floor will be a trip hazard and not suitable for those who wear heels. Alternative quotes will be obtained to replace the doors but it is difficult to find a local company who can do this, possibly bi-fold doors? In the meantime P Crawley will investigate the doors to see if an alternative repair can be found.

Chairs and tables for the Complex – currently there are several different types throughout the Complex, when there are large functions nothing matches. We are having more enquiries for wedding receptions so need to look uniform.

Internet throughout the Complex-is in and working, if required there is an option to buy more discs.

7. Finance

- 7.1 Approval of payments list-all councillors were issued with an income and invoice list. S Burbridge proposed to approve payments, R Gibson seconded – APPROVED.
- 7.2 Accounts Update – councillors were issued with a bank reconciliation for April 2019, the Precept has been received. The Internal Auditor's visit has been moved to the end of May to undertake the Internal Audit and this will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

8. Council Organisation

8.1 Election of Members and Co-ordinators for Working Groups –

Finance Committee – D Thomas, R Gibson, B Horton, J Marriage

HR Group – D Thomas, K Plumridge, D Charlesworth-Smith, J Marriage

Hall & GP Working Group – K Plumridge, R Gibson, J Marriage, B Horton, P Crawley, D Thomas (Co-Ordinator)

Open Spaces Working Group – S Crump, S Burbridge, J Marriage (Co-Ordinator), D Thomas

Planning Committee – D Charlesworth-Smith, S Crump, S Burbridge (Chair), D Thomas, J Marriage

Grants – R Gibson

Cemetery – S Crump (Cemetery Superintendent), J Marriage

8.2 Representatives for other Organisations e.g Batchcroft Trust etc.

Batchcroft Trust Representative – S Crump, B Horton, S Burbridge

Methwold Community Action Group Representative – S Burbridge

9. Planning

9.1 To receive planning decisions:

19/00221/LB Methwold Hall Barn Hall Farm Drive Methwold THETFORD Norfolk

IP26 4PN - Listed building application for the conversion of grade 2 listed barns to three residential units including part renewal of roof, new floors, new windows, new external doors and internal works. External works including provision of an access roadway, parking, new fencing and repairs to existing Wall Application Permitted 16 April 2019 Delegated Decision

19/00260/F Methwold 14 Stoke Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PE - New dwelling and detached garage Application Refused 16 April 2019 Delegated Decision

19/00211/F 73 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PX - Two storey side extension Application Permitted 18 April 2019 Delegated Decision

19/00457/F St Georges Hall 16 High Street Methwold Norfolk IP26 4NT - Alteration to the existing building including deepening existing windows, addition of an external doorway by converting a window opening, extension to provide a small room for making refreshments and extension to provide a single unisex/disabled public toilet Application Permitted 2 May 2019 Delegated Decision

9.2 To consider the following planning applications:

19/00617/F Change of use from garden room static caravan to holiday accommodation at Hithe 2 Holders Lane Brookville Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RE – it was thought that this caravan and surrounding landscaping has only recently been installed, concerns were raised regarding an increase in traffic on Holders Lane especially as the lane is narrow with few passing places, cars already have to reverse out onto the Main Road if they meet a car along here. Concern also regarding additional noise and will this set a precedent for others to have holiday accommodation in their gardens? D Charlesworth-Smith proposed to OBJECT to this application, S Burbridge seconded – all voted to OBJECT

19/00777/F Demolition of the existing 1 story pre fab bungalow and replace it with a new bungalow at 36 Globe Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PQ – the proposed dwelling is very nice and in keeping with other developments within the parish, however, local knowledge suggests that asbestos may be present in the existing building and a request was made that this is investigated before demolition takes place, with all relevant safety precautions taken to ensure safe demolition and disposal if asbestos is found. J Marriage proposed to SUPPORT this application, K Plumridge seconded – All voted to SUPPORT.

9.3 To consider any planning decisions and applications received after the agenda was produced

19/00636/F Northwold: Change of use of agricultural grassland to equestrian with the siting of a stable block, covered horse walker and an all-weather gallop – High Fen Thornham Road Methwold. – K Plumridge proposed to SUPPORT this application, seconded by S Crump – All voted to SUPPORT

10. Items received for Agenda – The development at Petch Corner has removed part of the old chalk wall opening the development out onto Buntings Lane, this has been reported to the Borough Council and is being investigated as a breach of planning approval, this is in the conservation area.
Can the Clerk ask Highways to put traffic lights at the back of The George when the High Street is closed at the end of the month?
11. Correspondence which has not already been circulated – The Clerk read out the correspondence.
The clerk was asked to ask Highways about the ownership of the old piece of the Brandon Road behind the cottages following receipt of an anonymous letter advising that it was no longer accessible over its whole length

OPEN FORUM

Is there any update in the kissing gate on Footpath 10? Not heard anything yet.

There have been no lorries using Eldens Lane to access the water treatment plant in the past month although there have been approx. 10 vans.

When obtaining a quote for spraying the Cemetery please can the outside of the Complex be sprayed as well, it is an eyesore. The quote for this will be discussed in item 13.

Footpaths – we need to obtain information of footpaths in and around the parish to ensure they are included on the Definitive Map, we have until 2026 to do this, if anyone can help identify any of the Footpaths that are not already on the map a statement to say these paths have been used over the past 20 years will be required please contact any member of the parish council or the Clerk, this includes bridleways. Once all this information is collected it will be published and fingerposts will be installed.

Footpath 10 is impassable, Cllr. Storey reported that he cannot access this site to cut the grass because the metal fencing is locked but he will be contacting the developer.

It has been reported that dogs have been seen on the rec. For information dogs on leads can be walked on the footpaths which run through the rec. Dogs should not be off the lead or allowed into any of the play areas.

There has been some fly tipping on the Brandon Road just past the last house on the left heading towards Brandon, this can be reported on www.fixmystreet.co.uk

At the entrance to The Avenue the verge is very overgrown and is causing an obstruction for vehicles trying to pull out onto Main Road.

Community Speed Watch – Cock Corner at 5pm witnessed near misses and people not adhering to the speed limit.

Streetlight outside The Pound is glowing red, can this be reported?

The Chairman asked permission to extend the meeting to finish business-AGREED

12. 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:
NEST pension for Clerk – the parish council has an obligation to provide a pension for the Clerk, signatures are required for the direct debit mandate, D Thomas requested permission to sign the D/D mandate form, R Gibson seconded - APPROVED and signed
Proposal to board up the base of the skateboard ramp with sheet metal to try and stop the problems with rubbish and smashed glass being dumped underneath here-the Clerk has tried to obtain quotes for this but has only received one quote so far, Clerk to try and obtain more quotes for comparison.
Spraying weeds in the Cemetery and around the Complex – two quotes have been obtained Quote A was the preferred quote as this was more detailed, acknowledging that the parish council have received a request not to spray certain graves, this quote gave the option for 4 visits per year.
J Marriage proposed to accept Quote A, S Burbridge seconded APPROVED

Cemetery Hedges – to be cut August/September – the Clerk went out to three Contractors and has received one quote for £640.00, J Marriage proposed to accept, S Burbridge seconded APPROVED

Meeting closed 9.50pm

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