

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING HELD

THURSDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2022 at 7.00pm

21 ROOM, ST GEORGES HALL COMPLEX, METHWOLD

Parish Councillors present: J Marriage - Chairman, D Scott, R Scott, P Andre, I Cotterell, S Turner. P Crawley Councillor Ryves, Councillor Storey and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies accepted B Horton and Denise Charlesworth Smith, due to bereavements,

It is with deep regret that Rose Gibson has resigned from being Vice Chairman, and also as a Councillor, due to ill health, for which we all extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

2. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation – None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2022, Proposed by R Scott and Seconded by I Cotterell.
4. Matters arising from the minutes of 13th January 2022 – R Scott enquired if we had had any further contact from Ashwood Developments concerning the proposals for the field at the back of the Complex – None received.
5. Update and Report from R Scott re Open Spaces meeting of 27th January 2022.
 - a) Volunteers were requested to cut back shrubs around the Parish, particularly alongside Norfolk House, not required until nearer Spring, probably mid to late March, to hopefully sort out before the Japanese Knotweed appears. Volunteers accepted from Brian Nixon, Andrew Gibson, Jose O'Ware and Richard Scott. More volunteers are encouraged.
 - b) Allocation of CIL Funding – Proposal for Funds to be allocated from Current account to Recreation Funds for new Toilet Block £6672.49. Proposed Polly Andre, Seconded D Scott
It was noted that an amount of CIL money was to pay for Fenton Rooms to be replaced, but this has been postponed by the Builders until next week. Also there is C106 money due from the new housing development alongside the Recreation Ground for about £33,000 which will also be added to the New Facilities fund. We are still chasing companies to supply quotes for the proposed building works.
6. Finance
 - a) Accounts Update. Bank Reconciliation shows we have a total of £12146.97 in Current account.
 - b) Approval of payment – Income and Invoice List – proposed by Peter Crawley, Seconded by Ian Cotterell.
7. Thornham Road Application has been withdrawn.
 - 7.1 Application for Two storey extension at Old Severalls Road, has been permitted by Delegated Decision.
 - 7.2 Rear and Side Two storey extension to 14 Stoke Road Methwold – No Objections
 - 7.3 Extension at Catsholme Rd, Thornham – No Objections

8. Items received for the Agenda – None
9. Clerk has written to Liz Truss MP concerning our Rates for the Complex requesting clarification of why these charges were suddenly payable after a period of Zero charges and now we are being invoiced for £10,000 per year. Councillors have been sent the reply from the Revenue and Benefits Manager of King Lynn Borough Council advising of their previous mistake in not charging us previously WAS correct. However, now that we are applying for Charitable Trust status from 14 October 2021, we have been credited a total of £4062.64 which will be processed shortly.
10. Open Forum for Public Participation:
 - a) The grass on Fairhill has been cut about by vehicles working on the building development and Farm vehicles going into the Farm. Tractors advise the road is not wide enough for their vehicles. Public requested the Parish Council to write a letter to Mr Webb, the developer and request he arrange to sort this matter. Cllr Ryves advised he was seeing Mr Webb on 11th February, but refused to bring this matter up with him, seeing it as a private matter.
 - b) Blackboards on St Georges Hall need repainting as they still show the Xmas Craft Fair, and could it be used to advertise the Theatre Club event on 2nd April.
 - c) The Fly Tipping on Hythe Road/Blackberry Lane still remains and needs clearing
 - d) Where is the Funding from last Years Fun Day as it does not appear to be in Parish Council Funds. – D Scott reported that it is was held by Methwold Action Group and Jim Marriage will speak to Chris Stone to see if we can get this transferred to Council Funds.
 - e) Any progress on the Bus Stop sign? Cllr Storey reported that it HAS been made and is in storage, awaiting to be fitted.
 - f) Cllr Ryves asked if the Parish Council was going to do anything for the Jubilee Celebrations. D Scott advised this was being covered by the Methwold Action Group, for which there was to be a meeting on 28th February to decide further events.
 - g) Jim Marriage advised us of the website address for report any Highway Defect, such as blocked rains and potholes: apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect
 - h) It was requested that the weeds around the village were sprayed at an earlier time than previous years. Jim agreed to contact our contractor to discuss this and the public suggested we contact local farmer who is known to spray other areas around.
 - i) It was reported that a man from Highways recently visited the village re drains and potholes and it has been noted that issues are gradually getting attended to.