

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD  
THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 at 7.00pm  
IN THE CAR PARK AT ST GEORGE'S HALL METHWOLD

Parish Councillors present: J Marriage – Chairman, R Gibson – Vice Chair, L Burge, R Scott, B Horton  
Also in attendance: R Buckle (Parish Clerk)  
Cllr Storey  
Cllr Ryves  
4 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all for attending the meeting, which is being held in the car park at St George's Hall Methwold to comply with COVID regulations.

The Chairman asked the members and those attending to remember Anthony Edwards who had been the Caretaker at St George's Hall for many years and who passed away recently, the Chairman shared anecdotes with the meeting, Mr Edwards efforts at the village hall are noted, he will be missed within the village.

The Chairman thanked S Crump who has recently resigned from the parish council, who had been a member for over 10 years and has made a significant contribution to the parish over this time, most recently as the Cemetery Superintendent, also for being part of Methwold in Bloom keeping the village looking nice (although MIB is not a parish council function), thank you.

Also S Burbridge who has resigned as a parish councillor, she will be sorely missed, thank you for your contribution. The Chairman reluctantly accepted these resignations.

1 The parish council to receive and resolve to agree apologies for absence. D Charlesworth-Smith, D Scott and P Crawley, apologies accepted.

2 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations. None

3 To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 6th May 2021. R Gibson proposed approval of minutes from meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021, seconded B Horton - APPROVED

4 Matters arising from the last minutes. – The open day did not go ahead in Mini Methwold on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

5 Reports

5.1 Update and report from the virtual meeting of Open Spaces and to consider recommendations made at the meeting held on the 27th May 2021:- Item 11 Quotes

There will be a workday on June 12<sup>th</sup>, due to low numbers able to attend there will be a second date arranged for this.

Play equipment inspection– a rota will be updated. There was an independent play equipment inspection Undertaken today, results will be emailed to the Clerk once report has been completed.

5.2 Update and report from the virtual meeting of Hall and General Purposes Working Party and to consider recommendations made at the meeting held on 3rd June 2021.

The Chairman gave an update on the Charitable Trust – waiting for the solicitors to draft the paperwork and for a meeting to be arranged to discuss next steps.

- i) Proposal to hold Car Boot sale in St George's Hall Car Park and the Fenton Room – two councillors propose to run a car boot sale in St George's Hall car park and the Fenton Room on July 18<sup>th</sup>, proceeds from this event will go towards the public toilets on the recreation ground. Parish council agreed to using the building and car park for a car boot sale.
- ii) Type of temporary building and location of building in the car park to be agreed – an area of up to 640 sq feet has been identified at the back of St George's Hall car park, this would be for a suitable temporary building which must comply with planning, conservation etc – and with the agreement of the parish council for the type of building, planning permission would be required.
- iii) Opening of the Complex (subject to Government Guidelines) – date proposed 21st June 2021 to be agreed. Date of 21<sup>st</sup> June was proposed, agreed. If government restrictions are extended and the hall cannot open Mini Methwold can still open for private hires of no more than 6 people or 2 households – Agreed.

## 6. Finance

Update from the virtual Finance Meeting held on Tuesday 8th June 2021.

- 6.1 Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation was circulated to all before the meeting.
- 6.2 Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List B Horton proposed to accept, R Gibson seconded - APPROVED
- 6.3 Proposal to approve the Internal Audit - B Horton, seconded R Gibson - APPROVED
- 6.4 Proposal to approve Annual Governance Statement – R Gibson, seconded R Scott – APPROVED and signed by Chairman and Clerk
- 6.5 Proposal to approve Accounting Statement 2020/21 – R Gibson, seconded R Scott – APPROVED and signed by Chairman and Clerk
- 6.6 Community Infrastructure Levy Annual Report – to confirm that no CIL funds have been used to date, the parish council have 5 years to use CIL funds - signed by Chairman and Clerk

## 7.

- 7.1 Updated Standing Orders to be approved – proposed J Marriage, seconded by R Gibson- APPROVED
- 7.2 All reviewed Policies to be approved – proposed J Marriage, seconded by R Gibson – APPROVED

## 8. Planning

- 8.1 To receive planning decisions - None
- 8.2 To receive planning applications – 21/00848/F Removal of condition 2 of planning permission 2/95/1509/F The Swan Stoke Road Brookville Norfolk IP26 4QZ – NO OBJECTIONS deadline for comments has passed.
- 8.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published.  
21/00468/F RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION. Revision to two external glazed screens to South elevation, and one glazed screen to North elevation. Re-positioning of one rooflight to south elevation at The Grand Barn Hall Farm Drive Methwold KINGS LYNN Norfolk IP26 4PN - **SUPPORT**  
21/00469/LB RETROSPECTIVE LISTED BUILDINGS APPLICATION. Revision to two external glazed screens to south elevation, and one glazed screen to north elevation. Re-positioning of one rooflight to south elevation at The Grand Barn Hall Farm Drive Methwold KINGS LYNN Norfolk IP26 4PN – **SUPPORT**

Cllr Ryves brought to the parish council's attention that the glamping site in Northwold has applied for change of use, the parish council does not receive planning applications for Northwold. There was concern that this may have an impact on the amount of traffic accessing the site via the restricted byway which runs between the B1112 in Brookville and the A134 in Northwold increasing the traffic on The Avenue. The parish council requested that the Borough Council look into this before the

planning meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June, could it be a condition that visitors to the glamping site have to use the A134 for access?

#### 9. Correspondence

Proposed motion for Methwold parish Council – Queen Elizabeth Hospital – support for the bid to obtain funding to build a new hospital, J Marriage proposed MPC support, R Gibson seconded – SUPPORT  
Shop- new proposal has been received for two containers in the car park, this was posted on Facebook but has not been approved by the parish council, the Chairman has spoken to the proposer and explained what is required and that the parish council would prefer there to be a community shop, in keeping with the conservation area and planning permission will be required. It has been suggested that the proposer visit The Plunkett Foundation website. The proposer will come back to the parish council once they are able to. New group have contacted the Clerk regarding setting up a feeding support group for new mums, this is a charity group, it was proposed that the rate be reduced to £15 per session for 3 months to enable to group to get established, the parish council support this proposal.

Request for double yellow lines at the bottom of Chapel Lane at the High Street and Crown Street junction. This was passed to Highways who have said *'We do request that these type of requests are taken up with the parish first as any order of this type would require their buy in before we took forward.'*

*Chapel Lane is a private road and therefore any line would not be allowed on this road as we have no jurisdiction over it and it is unlikely we would accept the lines on High Street and secondly they would only benefit the people leaving the private lane. If we had progressed the lines it would need to go through a full legal process and consultation and if valid objections in reason and number are received the scheme would not be taken forward. One of the determining factors for schemes of this type is the accident record which at this location is very good at present.'*

Parish council asked to investigate a summer house which has been placed in a garden in Brookville, this is not under the parish council's remit and has been passed to Cllr Ryves.

Post Office Methwold – New Opening times from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9am until 2pm.

Request for the parish council to discuss chestnut trees at the end of the High Street, the Cemetery walk lower end between the gate and the nursery, surface water drains from Cock Corner to Lancaster Park gates are blocked, Footpath from Cock Corner to Lancaster Park gate, tree roots on the path outside the Cemetery and Academy towards Brookville – this has been passed to Highways, we await their response.

#### **Open Forum for Public Participation**

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

Bus stop outside The Old Chapel, can Cllr Ryves and Cllr Storey do anything to support the village with the problems we have with the parking on the bus stop? Cllr Storey apologised that this has not been done, leave it to Cllr Storey and Cllr Ryves.

The roads have not been swept recently, the detritus on the roads has been reported on [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) it is particularly bad outside the new development on Hythe Road to the Herbert Drive development. The paths on the Hythe Road development need to be installed to stop so much mud being brought out onto the road, the last email from Highways said this was with Norfolk County Council for the plans to be signed off.

A list of the problems will be sent to Cllr Ryves and Cllr Storey to follow up.

There are some trees missing on the recreation ground and in the Churchyard, can these trees be replaced? To Open Spaces.

Wereham Village Hall is open, why is St Georges Hall not open yet? The Clerk has written to all groups asking them to complete a questionnaire to find out when they wish to return, to date only a few have responded. Zumba and Little Bunnies are already using the Complex. Bookings are being taken for after the restrictions end, these may be subject to changes in government restrictions.

Who is responsible for the weeds along the front of the primary school? It is thought that the primary school is responsible for this area.

Ventura Close to Buntings Lane looks a mess, who is responsible for this area? It is thought this would be St George's Management Group.

Footpath 10 is no longer passable due to the weeds and nettles. The diversion needs to be investigated to ensure it is in the correct position. A meeting will be requested with the land owners, the public Rights of Way Officer and the parish council to try and resolve the problems with Footpath 10.

Who owns the trees on Hythe Road at the entrance to Ventura Close, these are damaging a wall? It is thought that the adjacent landowner is responsible for the trees that are on their property and highways if they are on a highway verge. This is not a parish council responsibility.

Cllr Ryves gave the meeting an update on the New Mayor and Political leader at the Borough Council.

Cllr Storey explained that there had been a very low attendance at the recent Local Plan sessions, all parish councils were sent the information and link, the final session is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

10. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda - July 8th 2021

Two footpath signs have been removed in Brookville; this will be investigated.

Waste collections continue to be a problem in Scotts Lane, the 6 new houses have a bin collection but the remaining houses have to bring their rubbish to the end of Scotts Lane to be collected. Cllr Storey is to follow this up.

Herbert Drive has a lot of sand/dirt on it and wood has been reported as being dropped along here. The road sweeper had been coming 1 x month to clean up but it needs to be done more often.

There are now 5 vacancies on the parish council, recently it was noted that there were over 100 complaints and some personal comments aimed at parish councillors on facebook, where are these people now, if you can do a better job then put yourself forwards for co-option.

Speedwatch due to lack of volunteers the group are unable to run, if you would like to volunteer, please contact the Clerk who will pass your details on to the co-ordinator.

11. 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: Quotes:

11.1 Litter Bin Emptying – Three quotes were obtained for emptying the bins regularly, the Clerk produced a report which had been sent to all councillors Quote A = £ 2223.48 + VAT per annum Quote B = £2400 per annum and Quote C = £1400 per annum R Scott proposed Quote C, seconded by J Marriage, R Gibson abstained. Quote C was accepted as best value.

11.2 Streetlight Maintenance 3 year contract – Quote A £1613.52 + VAT per annum, Quote B £936.00 + VAT per annum and Quote C £552.50 + VAT per annum, R Gibson proposed Quote B as this is the closest to the current contract, L Burge seconded – Quote B was accepted as best value

11.3 Tree Survey-priorities and costs – The tree survey has been completed, with high, medium and low priority work costed, J Marriage proposed that the high priority work is carried out at a cost of £9255.00 + VAT seconded by R Scott - APPROVED

Meeting closed at 8.45pm