

# Methwold Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm  
21 Room St George's Hall Complex Methwold

Parish Councillors present: – Cllr. R Scott - Chairman, Cllr. D Scott, Cllr. J Marriage, Cllr. C Beukes, Cllr. S Liddle, Cllr. M French, Cllr. J Rodwell.

Cllr M Storey, Cllr T Ryves

Five members of the public

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and apologised that the meeting was being held two weeks later than normal, this was due to unforeseen circumstances.
2. The parish council to receive and resolve to agree apologies for absence. B Horton, D Charlesworth-Smith – apologies accepted.
3. Declarations of Interest (In accordance with S31 of the Localism Act 2011) and requests for dispensations. Cllr. Rodwell declared an interest in item 8.2 - 22/01806/F and will not take part in the discussion or vote.
4. Cllr Marriage proposed to approve the minutes from Thursday 13th October 2022, Cllr Beukes seconded APPROVED Cllr. French abstained.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes not included on the agenda but for information only – None.
6. Reports and recommendation from Open Spaces – Quotes will be dealt with in item 13.  
Thank you very much to the Nursery on Stoke Road for donating the two benches which have been installed in the Cemetery.
7. Finance
  - 7.1 Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation Cllr Marriage proposed to accept the Bank reconciliation, Cllr French seconded - APPROVED
  - 7.2 For Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List – The medium priority tree work has now been completed, the contractor honoured the price quoted in May 2021 for this work to be carried out. Cllr. Beukes proposed to approve the payments, Cllr D Scott seconded - APPROVED
8. Planning
  - 8.1 To receive planning decisions  
22/01356/F British Sugar PLC Wissington Sugar Factory College Road Wissington Wereham KINGS LYNN Norfolk PE33 9QG- Erection of steel frame clad building housing pilot plant for the production of Spirulina powder Application Permitted 19 October 2022 Delegated Decision  
22/01352/F 14 Stoke Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PE Proposed Rear and Side Two Storey Extension With Rear Single Storey Extension and Front Porch Application Permitted 14 October 2022 Delegated Decision  
22/01560/F 47 Main Road Brookville THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4RB - Detached double residential garage, serving existing dwelling Application Permitted 24 October 2022 Delegated Decision  
22/01839/LDP Heath Bungalow Brandon Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RL - Lawful Development

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Certificate: Erection of Temporary garden room, no foundations, no toilet or drainage. Application Withdrawn 27 October 2022 Withdrawn Application

#### 8.2 To receive planning applications

22/01806/F Proposed Two Storey Side Extension, Single Storey Rear Extension and Front Porch at 12 New Road Methwold Hythe Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QN – extension for comments requested – NO OBSERVATIONS

21/01560/F Retrospective application for pond (non-commercial use) at 1 Warren Cottage Brandon Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk – extension for comments requested – NO OBSERVATIONS – same as previous comments

22/01559/F Detached 3-bed dwelling bungalow and onsite parking at 47 Main Road Brookville Thetford Norfolk- NO OBSERVATIONS

22/01943/F A proposed first floor side extension over existing garage, alterations to garage along with internal alterations at 82 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk – NO OBSERVATIONS

22/01966/F The de-carbonisation project comprises of a new 1st effect evaporator, a Juice Run evaporator, inter-connecting pipework, new heat exchanger's, structural steelworks and civil bases at Wissington Sugar Factory College Road Wissington Wereham Norfolk PE33 9QG - NO OBSERVATIONS

#### 8.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published

22/02104/F Proposed detached garden room, Heath Bungalow, Brandon Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk – NO OBSERVATIONS

#### 9. Items received for the agenda

Architect – Toilets – meeting has been held with an architect to investigate the site and discuss feasibility study, this will be taken to the next meeting. Three site options have been identified but need more investigation, these are a) The Pound, b) the other end of the car park at the rec. c) the site of the old pavilion where the concrete pad is sited. It was agreed that Cllr. Marriage is to contact the Tree Officer at the Borough Council for advice on the different options and the position of the trees.

#### 10. Correspondence – Update on the list given to Highways.

Question from resident - Neighbourhood Plan.

Next Police Priority Setting Meeting Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Transport East survey to be completed by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Community Action Norfolk – AGM Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 5pm – volunteer required to attend.

Skip hire – January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 price increase for rental 0.03p per day, haulage increase £2.74 per cubic metre.

#### 11. Open Forum for Public Participation

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

Cllr. Ryves read out a letter that he has sent to EF Plastics – there were 8 x 40t lorries queuing along Buntings Lane and onto Hythe Road to get into the factory today, the original plan was for 5/6 lorries per day to service the factory, it has been reported that 12/15 lorries are going into the site each day, this is unacceptable. It is reported that Buntings Lane is deteriorating, this is a private lane. The Chairman reported that he had also received calls about the number of lorries queuing onto Hythe Road.

Cllr. Ryves read out his report - Freebridge – housing challenges the stock of privately rented accommodation has fallen quite quickly, Homelessness is increasing, and there is a record low in properties being offered by Freebridge, due in part to the repairs backlog (currently 100+ empty properties). For the first time in 10 years families are having to be put into B & Bs. The homelessness support infrastructure is under significant pressure. There is no emergency accommodation available. One innovation is that Freebridge are introducing food banks and that might be something we should consider, Along the lines of the food pantry Feltwell

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QEH – now almost 4,000 pit props holding the roof up. The ex-PM, Ms Truss, visited and made soothing sounds. Supposedly a decision will be made before Christmas. Personally, I would like to see due consideration of a re-siting of a rebuilt QEH to Hardwick, but QEH management only have a plan A. Norfolk Foundation – another package of funding for households has been announced. This is not something the PC can get involved in but our local charities can. Last time we applied for a grant of £10,000 for support of fuel bills and 100 households in the community were supported Through the Batchcroft Trust. I do wonder whether the St Georges Hall Trust might be a vehicle for extending this – one for the trustees to consider perhaps?

Methwold Hot Spot- Well done to all those involved in getting the Norfolk Foundation £2,000 grant to support this

Penny Black grant - I am pleased to have been asked for and been able to make a small donation from my Councillor community grant pot to support Penny as she donates food to the elderly in our community

Community Infrastructure Levy briefing - I was not able to attend this today but will send the notes to the clerk as I am sure that we should be putting forward projects that might be able to take advantage of this. Cllr. Storey – This winter and next are going to be difficult, with concerns about food, energy and hardship, NCC have information which people may find helpful on their website. Communities need to help each other.

NCC are working on the Budget and would like to hear from residents on how this money could be spent before 16<sup>th</sup> December. Cuts are at the forefront and there is not a large pot available, there is a deficit of £60 million, this is a large sum to find without affecting adult and childrens services, any suggestions from the public would be welcome.

Andrew Jameson from NCC gave a good insight on the Budget online on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Hot Spots/Warm Banks – NCC libraries are open for all, closest are Downham Market and Thetford.

If anyone needs assistance, please contact Cllr. Ryves or Cllr. Storey.

Resident asked how the Norfolk Police Commissioner is funded, they have their own Precept.

Lorries in Buntings Lane, what was the original allocation, and can this be enforced?

The Old Chapel are still parking their cars in St George's car park – to the Trust

Ladies Toilet in the Fenton Room the doors need handles on the inside – to the Trust

Hooray for the new noticeboard in the rec. car park, there are notices on this already.

It has been noticed that posted are being taken down from the telegraph posts near the Cemetery?

Old Chapel – Bus stop sign – Cllr. Storey is still discussing with Highways.

Resident stated that a Code of Conduct complaint was made to the Monitoring Officer, resident has received a response to say the Monitoring Officer will be in contact.

Do Highways not wash road signs? They do but not regularly.

12. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda December 8th 2022.

Cllr. D Scott reported that the recent Christmas Craft Fair was a success which raised £525 for the toilets on the rec fund.

Cllr. J Marriage gave a £10 donation to the fund.

13. 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 –

i. Quotes for Grass cutting and grounds maintenance – 6 contractors were invited to quote, 4 quotes received, the council discussed and Quote 1 for a 3 year contract was proposed by Cllr D Scott, Cllr. Beukes seconded – APPROVED

ii. Wildflower Meadow quote to clear area – 1 Quote received – Cllr. Marriage proposed to accept, Cllr. R Scott seconded – APPROVED

iii. LGA 2022/23 National Salary Award – Contractual rise backdated to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022

iv. Staff matters – A discussion took place regarding a staffing issue. It was resolved that protective/safeguarding measures are put in place.

Council agreed to pay for Clerk to join Ascentis and SLCC Membership.

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The council agreed that the HR Committee will be Cllr. R Scott, Cllr. D Scott, Cllr. J Marriage, Cllr C Beukes, Cllr. S Liddle & Cllr. M French.

The Cemetery Superintendent role will be carried out by Cllr. R Scott.

Meeting ended 9.15pm