

Methwold Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 11th July 2024 at 7.30pm
21 Room, St George's Hall Complex, Methwold

Present

Councillors: Cllr M French (Chairman), Cllr A Grassick, Cllr F Riches, Cllr J O'Ware, Cllr R Minkler, Cllr K Rodriguez
Cllr M Storey

8 members of the public

Clerk

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence accepted for absence from Cllr. B Horton, Cllr. T Thomas, Cllr. J Rodwell &
Borough Councillor T Ryves.

3. Declarations of Interest (In accordance with S31 of the Localism Act 2011) and requests for dispensations – None

4. Cllr. Grassick proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th June 2024 as an accurate
record of this meeting, Cllr. O'Ware seconded the motion. APPROVED

5. Matters arising from the Minutes not included on the agenda but for information only - None

6. Open Forum for Public Participation

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

Cllr Storey – contacted Case officer at the borough council for update on Cranswick application – waiting for more
information from consultees. Possible timetable is - coming back to public consultation at the end of
September/October 2024, for application to the planning board in December 2024. Numerous comments made,
there is a lot to go through.

The footpath across the meadow has been cut.

The QEII hospital - understanding that this is still on timetable.

Norwich Western Link planning application - now available – 3.8 mile dual carriageway to link A1066 with the A47
west of Norwich, can be found on NCC website. <https://norwichwesternlink.oc2.uk/document/7>

New business forum to boost Norfolk economy – new business board seeks new members to join board to enhance
skills and boost the economy, they meet 4-6 times a year. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/>

Norfolk Rural Business Awards – <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkruralbusinessawards>

Construction of the Long Stratton bypass – to open by end of 2025

Norfolk County Council – Sleep Awareness Campaign – highlights to boost sleep in young people.

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/childhood-development-additional-needs/behaviour-sleep/older-childs-sleep>

More busses between Norwich and North Norfolk – Cllr Storey is pushing for more busses and improvement of local
transport in our area. This is one of several service enhancements which have been funded by £49.55 million
funding which NCC has been successful in securing from the Dept. of Transport.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/59229/More-buses-between-Norwich-and-the-North-thanks-to-bus-service-improvement-plan>

There is a lot more going on and details can be found on the Norfolk County Council website

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/>

Is the transport funding guaranteed now that there has been a change of government, or is it likely to be lost? Cllr
Storey understands that there are no changes but there have not been any meetings since the recent election but
funds are generally ring fenced, he will ask for confirmation.

Dog waste bin on rec. near Globe Street – work in progress.

Update on footpaths – Cllr Storey met with Feltwell Parish Council/Highways and suggested it would be beneficial for
Methwold Parish Council to arrange a meeting with Highways to discuss outstanding issues, these meetings are
already happening, and the council are aware of what is outstanding, the area they cover is very big.

If/when will we get the streets cleaned? Road sweeper used to be on a 16-week cycle, probably slippage on this
cycle due to weather but Cllr Storey will chase this. The weather is not an excuse they can hide behind.

Old Chapel – this is always bought up with Highways and they have stated that this is with a third party.

Cllr Storey confirmed that this is with third party.

Resident corrected that the land at Cock Corner on the opposite side from the RAF Memorial site, this is Highways land.

2023/24 CIL report cannot be opened, Clerk will check this.

Toilets on the recreation ground – at the last pc meeting the pc voted not to proceed with this project. The CIL monies which were earmarked for toilets, can the Clerk verify a traffic survey is one of the items that CIL can be used for? This was checked with the CIL Officer who confirmed that this is acceptable use of CIL funds before the parish council voted for the change.

2022/23 CIL report indicated there is £11k+ available part of this was earmarked for the traffic survey, and part for the maintenance of the village halls. As there has been additional CIL funds for 2023/24 would it be worth the parish council asking the parish what they would like the CIL funds to be spent on?

Can the Clerk clarify whether the Borough Councillor is still eligible to act as Methwold Borough Councillor if he no longer lives here and if not, what then happens? The Clerk did not think the Borough Councillor has to live in the parish and Cllr Storey did not think a Borough Councillor has to live in the area. Clerk will check with the Borough Council.

Residents attended to listen to a planning application but stated - I am not here to complain but to put a few things in order. I am the owner of 27 Main Road, which we purchased in 2003.

An application has been lodged for the waste ground at the rear of our property.

The owners of that land were the previous owners of our property and the wasteland, at that time we had to reinstate a 12 foot roadway that didn't exist along the boundary which was classed as a historic part of Brookville.

The only access to this piece of land is a 12 foot road way, its 70 metres in length from the kerbside.

The first application was for 4 dwellings, 3 of which are executive 4 bed properties, they have got to enter and exit a 70 meter roadway which is 12 foot wide with a 6ft fence one side and a brick wall and hedge on the other side of this roadway.

The application claims that states a fire engine at 3.75 m or commercial vehicles could just get down there, The application does not seem to be completely accurate and truthful for a development on this site with limited accessibility.

A previous application was rejected on grounds of access and the wildlife which has had over 20+ years to establish on this land, it could be longer than this.

The application states that there will be 11 parking spaces for vehicles, if there are 3 x 4-bedroom dwellings and a single bed property the number of vehicles could be higher. Movement of vehicles up and down a 70 meter long, 12-foot roadway onto the B1112. No other access onto the site.

Another resident stated - on that planning application access from the site, there is a bus stop one side telegraph pole the other and there would be three driveways parallel to each other, further up the road are two large, protected lime trees, vision is limited and difficult to come out on to the B1112. On the access driveway there is a mature oak and a black poplar which is believed to be specimen rare. These would have to be felled to gain reasonable access to the site.

The parish council is one voice, so residents must make comment on the planning portal.

It was stated that Highways have said that the 2.4m from kerb side to walling is acceptable and no problem with sightlines, architect has stated to put a priority system for vehicles turning into the road, will have priority of any vehicle coming out of the roadway, if someone has to reverse 70 metres down a roadway this will cause congestion on the road. Nothing has changed from the first application so if rejected last time should it not be rejected this time. Chairman thanked the residents for their views on this application.

7. Reports: No Open Spaces Meeting in June 2024

7.1 Cllr R Minkler gave an update on SAMs2 and Community Speedwatch.

SAMs2

The Sams2 sign now has the potential to be located at all 8 locations in the Parish. Recently a new location was approved by Highways to replace the missing pole on Hythe Road Methwold. The SAMs2 sign continues to be moved weekly around the parish with emphasis on the 4 high speeding locations Brookville, Methwold Hythe, Stoke Road Methwold (both directions), and Hythe Road Methwold.

Speeding statistics produced from the SAMs2 sign show consistently high speeding percentages at most locations and have not improved this year.

Charts were displayed and the key speeder locations show how traffic is unable to reduce speed given all the efforts made by the Parish to publicise activity and prevent speeding.

Community Speedwatch

There is a marked improvement in the reduction of traffic speed when the CSW team is out. Brookville has been chosen by Norfolk Police to take part in a survey to ascertain the relationship between the speed watch sign placements and the percentage of speeders. This survey was started in Spixworth and Brookville was chosen because of the high number of returns from the Teams.

In June I attended the Norfolk Speedwatch annual event held by Norfolk Police and have witnessed their continued commitment to the speed watch schemes. The Police policy on speeding in Norfolk appears to depend mainly on local speed watch teams, and to this with their own team of Speed Camera Officers (SCO's) of which there are only 11 to cover the whole of Norfolk. Therefore, visits to our parish by the SCO's are infrequent and lacking. Evidence for the need to take action.

On Wednesday 26th June whilst attending a normal speedwatch session the speedwatch team witnessed several motorbikes speeding and performing wheelies along the Main Road in Brookville. One bike recorded at a speed of 81 mph, over 60 motorbikes came through Brookville on that night.

There has been another accident today on the Stoke Road outside the Academy. This makes 4 accidents along that road that I know of since moving here in November 2022. It is not known what caused this accident but given the location and aftermath of the accident with the car ending up on the pavement and cycleway, it is fortunate that school pupils and pedestrians were not killed or injured.

Proposal for a traffic survey

Given that the SAMs2 sign statistics show no improvement in traffic behaviour and with the low level of support from the Speed Camera Officers, I propose that the parish council instruct to have a full traffic survey carried out. This survey can be paid for by CIL monies and the results used to make recommendations about traffic calming. Highways have been asked for costs and what it entails, Chairman proposed that this is taken to Open Spaces for discussion and next steps.

A resident asked if the data can be looked at to find out the time of day and vehicle speed, is this during the night? Cllr Minkle replied to say the statistics show that this is not the case.

8. Finance

8.1 Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation

Current Account total on 28 th June 2024	£48,527.37
Tracker Account total on 28 th June 2024	£30,183.09
Saver Account (CIL & S 106) total on 28 th June 2024	£63,693.13
Emergency Reserve Fund on 28 th June 2024	£25,576.95
Total	£167,980.54

Interest received in June 2024 was £462.04

8.2 Cllr Grassick proposed to approve payments of invoices, Cllr Rodriguez seconded - APPROVED

Some mats have been pulled out from under the gym equipment and the blue seating area, therefore there will be an additional cost to replace these, a quote will be obtained to replace these.

9. Planning

9.1 To receive planning decisions

18/01938/S257 Confirmation of public path order Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 257. – Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council Stopping Up of Footpath Order 2011 – Footpath 9 commencing from grid reference 573014:294848 (Point C) turning approximately 90 degrees in a south-easterly direction for approximately 50 metres, the creation of a new footpath, at a minimum width of 2m to grid reference 573057:294832 (Point B) to continue north on footpath 9 – confirmed.

24/00576/F (Methwold Old Butchers Shop Old Cottage) 25B High Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4NT - Change of use from vacant butchers shop (class E) to 1-bedroom dwellinghouse (C3) and replace the existing asbestos roof with red tiles Application Permitted
14 June 2024 Delegated Decision.

24/00767/LDE 54 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PU - APPLICATION FOR LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE FOR: Existing vehicular access to residential dwelling
Was Lawful 18 June 2024 Delegated Decision.

24/00585/LB Barn of Arches Hall Farm Drive Methwold THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4PN - A glazed front extension including external and internal alterations. Application Permitted 21 June 2024
Delegated Decision.

9.2 To receive planning applications

24/01147/F Single storey link extension, part conversion of stables and alterations to dwelling. at Ivy Cottage 30 Holders Lane Brookville Thetford Norfolk - SUPPORT

24/01127/F Erection of detached Single Storey Annexe for Parents at Green Glades Brandon Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RJ – SUPPORT with caveat that the dwelling always remains an annexe and never sold separately.

9.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published.

24/01192/F Construction of Self Build Dwelling and Creation of New Access to 43 The Lodge, Main Road, Brookville at The Lodge 43 Main Road Brookville Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RB – OBJECT due to access

24/00738/F 4 super insulated, energy efficient houses built to Passivhaus standards, with landscaping, access and parking at Land Rear of 27 Main Road Brookville Norfolk – OBJECT due to access

24/01223/CU Change of use residential annexe/holiday let to single dwelling. The Swan Stoke Road Brookville Thetford Norfolk – NO OBSERVATIONS

Question raised regarding the building in The Avenue, please can planning enforcement be contacted to ensure the garage is being built correctly? From The Avenue it looks like there are transom windows all along the side, how will cars access the garage if this is the case? Clerk was instructed to contact Planning Enforcement.

10. Items received for the agenda:

Cllr. Grassick updated on Church Wall Meeting held on June 19th with Church Wardens and Church Architect. The group completed a walk round the wall to see the condition of the wall and what can and can't be done. Gravestones which are close to or leaning against the wall will have to be moved, to do this a faculty will need to be set up first and permission given by the Diocese.

One section of wall completely missing, this part is below ground level, to repair the wall would have to dig the wall back and concern would be if any human remains are in this area, a ground penetrating radar would be required to x-ray here, this is costly. There is Japanese knotweed in this area to take into consideration. A small report with costs will be put together by the architect but a full survey is recommended, Cllr Grassick is waiting to receive this report.

Faculty will be instigated by Churchwarden with no cost to parish council.

Recreation ground corner broken away, architect suggested could take wall back and replace with railings. This may prove to be unacceptable because it is in the Conservation part of the village. The Conservation Officer will be contacted.

11. Correspondence

The Parish Partnership Scheme is now open for submissions, closing date 6th December 2024

UK Powernetworks – letter received to inform they are reducing payment for wayleave by £10.62 per annum.

Email received from resident regarding bonfires – Clerk has sent the link to the borough council website ref: bonfires.

Methwold Times – donation given to have minutes in the copy, increase of pages required to accommodate the complete minutes, updated cost to be sent to parish council to be added to future meeting.

12. Chairman's Report – not this month

13. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – August 8th 2024,

In February Cllr Storey asked to clarify UK100 and equality, inclusion and diversity. These have been implemented but not many know what they are, Cllr Storey updated – initial enquiry revealed that the person he spoke to at NCC

knew little about this, Chairman asked Cllr Storey to contact CEO of NCC to find out and report back. Clerk to email the two specific questions from the parish council.

14. 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:

14.1 Staff Matters

Meeting ended: 21.05

DRAFT