

**Minutes of Methwold Annual Parish Meeting 2013  
held at St. George's Hall on Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Present:** Mr R Hood – Chairman of Methwold Parish Council, seven members of Methwold Parish Council and sixteen members of the public.

Mr Hood welcomed all to the meeting

1. Apologies for absence received from: Councillor M Wortley.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28/03/13 were signed as a true record of the meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes:

A parishioner queried a broken bin at Cock Corner, a dog bin to be ordered, put on Open Spaces agenda.

Parking outside on Mondays is terrible. The Parish Council have offered to paint yellow lines but were refused.

Schedule for street sweeping, have not been swept since December/January Hythe, February Ventura Close; ask for a schedule.

4. Chairman's Report: a new Clerk has been appointed, if anyone needs her contact details ask after the meeting, any queries to contact the Clerk.

Have had a couple of Councillors leave and new ones arrive; up to the full complement of 13 Councillors.

Projects undertaken and other news:

- Hall: the Doctors and Post Office still rent space at the hall. The Hall has been redecorated. Storage is being discussed; trying to apply for a grant and looking at kitchen refurbishment. The windows at the hall have been replaced. Looking to get the car park lines re done, looking at recycling, also looking at the drains which are a priority.

Open Spaces:

- more seats have been funded by individuals and the Parish Council.
- Hope to get a play area for children in Methwold Hythe, nothing as yet but it has been beyond the Parish Council's control, it may still happen.
- The tree survey has been carried out for safety reasons, total bill is £9,000; the work will take a phased approach over 3-4 years.
- Mr Williams is looking at getting the War Memorial refurbished and is looking for a grant to complete the work.
- The Pound has been registered; making sure that all land is registered.
- The Parish Council receive money from Wayleaves for the electricity.
- The Recreation wall has been repaired, the Church wall needs to be repaired. The recreation has been signed over as Field in trust, Queen Elizabeth playing field which ensures that for the foreseeable future it will stay as a recreation ground.
- Trees have been planted for the Jubilee.
- Play equipment has been installed with a 95%/98% grant from Wren. A parishioner thanked Councillors for a magnificent job.

## 5. Financial Report

- The Clerk is pulling together the figures, there has been an accounting problem, it has been difficult to identify where the money is coming from.
- There is money in the reserve fund and wayleave money
- By and large the expenses are increasing all of the time that is why the precept was raised.
- Heating and lighting costs are increasing
- Financially the Parish Council is in a comfortable position that does not cause any concern.
- Hall booking systems will be improving
- Open spaces are looking at the chafer bugs issue.
- Outline planning permission has been approved for the Pavilion, Parishioners are not sure if the Pavilion would be used. Now the High School has changed to an academy they are moving away from sport, there may be more need. It is a question of cost, the upkeep would need to be paid for; it is a struggle to cover the costs of the village hall, Nearly at the end of a 2 year feasibility study, need to determine the cost. At the stage to get quotes to determine the cost then a public consultation. There may be enough grants to get the building built but cannot get grants for running costs. It may be used for football and events but the question is whether the village wants to pay the running costs.

## 6. Matters raised by parishioners

- The folding doors do not work properly, Hall group to investigate.
- Curtains do not look right, they cost a lot of money.
- Pitch Corner sold, Estate Agent will not give the name.
- Public safety issue, car accident if slate falls of the roof.
- Dog fouling, problem with bins filling up, discussion on dog wardens, check times of emptying bins.

Mr Hood thanked everyone for attending.