

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL THURSDAY 14th JANUARY 2010

Present: – Mr. R Hood - Chairman, Mrs. B Horton, Mrs. M Wortley, Mr. C Marsland, Mr. C Neville, Mr. D Owen.

4 members of the public

2 PCSO's in attendance at the start of the meeting

The Police gave a report prior to the start of the meeting to allow them to then leave.

Speed awareness has been undertaken near the Primary School but no one was registered as travelling at more than the speed limit.

The Safety Camera Team are to use Brookville as one of their identified locations.

PCSO's can use speed radar guns and send out warnings to motorists which are then logged. This could be undertaken in the village.

A Police surgery will be held at St. George's Hall when the doctors surgery is running and then possibly outside in the warmer weather. Times may vary and will be confirmed.

Oil thefts have been taking place in the area and the public were reminded to be aware of unrecognised vehicles and to take registration numbers to report any such vehicles. Reporting can be undertaken by phoning 0845 456 4567 or by using the Norfolk Police website.

OPEN FORUM

- Homewatch is to be established in the village, starting in Globe Street.
- A request has been made to use the Recreation Ground for a cricket match between Methwold High School and residents of the village. This will take place

in May and any money raised will be used to support entry of the inter village games.

- It is hoped maps of the parish footpaths can be obtained and that the Parish Council will contribute a third of the cost.
- The Community Action Group organised carols around the Christmas tree which proved to be a good community event which was well supported. The groups AGM is to be held on January 19th.
- Comment was made about the removal of phone boxes in the village. The Clerk was asked to investigate experiences of other parishes who have already adopted phone boxes, especially with regard to charges incurred. .
- The cover of a cellar outside the old bank in Crown Street was reported as a possible hazard.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Mrs. J Oliver, Mrs. D Charlesworth-Smith, Mrs. K McBride, Mr. D Wortley.

2. No Declarations of Interest made.

3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 10/12/09 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising:

- It was agreed Rights of Way Officer David Mills should be asked to attend the March Parish Council meeting.
- A padlock and chain is to be fitted to the gate between the Rec. and the Churchyard. This has not yet been done due to the recent bad weather.
- A new notice board is being made for the cemetery and the seat in Brookville will be repaired once the weather has improved.
- The lighting and the heating in St. George' Hall may both need to be looked at as there has been complaints of no heat in the doctors surgery and that some lights in the main hall are not working. An electrician will be asked to repair the heating and provide a report of what other work may need to be undertaken.

- The Borough Council will be contacted about the removal of phone boxes in the village and it will be noted that the Parish Council feels that it could be beneficial to keep the phone box in Millgate Street.
- It was requested that the siting of a bollard at Lower Green be an agenda item for the next meeting.

5. **Reports:**

5.1 The Chairman's had nothing to report as matters he was to raise had already been discussed.

5.2 Clerk's Report:

- Communication has been received from Norfolk Association of Local Councils regarding Parish Council grit bins and insurance liability. There is no liability on the Parish Council if the Council purchased the bin and agreed its location with the County Council, the County Council have filled the bins and the Parish Council has not designated an individual to spread the grit.
- Councillors were reminded of planning training to be held on January 21st.
- Communication has been received from Highways regarding the footpath which has been relayed at the entrance to Globe Street. Drainage channels have been removed at the request of the owner of Lion House as there was concern that they were causing a damp problem in the property. The Parish Council is concerned there is now nowhere for the water to run off and as a result the path could be treacherous in icy weather. The slope of the footpath also appears to be wrong and it was commented that the tarmac was laid incorrectly as machinery broke down while the tarmac was being laid. These comments will be passed to Highways.

5.3 Play equipment Report:

The Council was notified of the comments from the 2009 Recreation Ground equipment report. Some matters listed as requiring attention have already been dealt with and others noted as medium risk will be further investigated.

6. **Accounts for December were presented and approved for payment.**

The Parish Council insurance renewal is due on February 8th. Delegation was agreed for the Clerk and Chairman to investigate brokers and arrange appropriate cover.

7. **Correspondence:**

1. Norfolk County Council street lighting policy. Norfolk County Council is considering introducing part night lighting which will mean lights controlled by NCC will be switched off from midnight to 5am (or 1am to 6am during British Summer Time). This does not affect lights maintained by the Parish Council but will affect 15 lights in the parish maintained by NCC. These lights are located on Ventura Close and Trent VC Close.
2. Fasterfuture campaign – campaigning for a super-fast broadband in West Norfolk.

3. Boundary Committee – update on unitary status for Norfolk. Presentation slides from a meeting held by the Borough Council were shared with Councillors.
4. Correspondence has been received from a resident of Brookville regarding speeding along the B1112 and the apparent lack of maintenance work undertaken by the Highway Department in Brookville. As a consequence a further visit by the NCC speed awareness flashing signs (SAM II) has been requested and comments regarding maintenance will be passed to Highways.
5. BT has requested that the Parish Council grant a wayleave agreement to allow a telegraph post to be sited outside No. 51 Globe Street. The Parish Council would receive a one off payment of £155 for the wayleave. It was decided to enquire whether wiring could go underground rather than erect another pole.

8. Planning:

The Development Control Board is to consider planning application 09/01616/CU, change of use from residential to business at Hythe Court, Hythe Road, Methwold.

9. No Further reports nor items for the next agenda were put forward.