

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
THURSDAY 8th APRIL 2010

Present: – Mr. R Hood – Chairman, Mr. D Owen – Vice-Chairman, Mrs. M Wortley, Mr. C Neville, Mrs. J Oliver, Mrs. D Charlesworth-Smith, Mr. C Marsland

Mr. M Peake – Borough Councillor

7 members of the public

PSCO's Claire Law and Esther Bortz attended the start of the meeting and reported on the following:

- The PCSO's are to be the new Homewatch Co-ordinators and are awaiting instructions.
- Villages are being warned to beware of potential raves which may result from a seemingly innocent booking of the village hall. Advice is that anyone with concerns should contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- There has been an increase in theft from vehicles (notably the Cranwich Heath area) and the public were advised not to leave valuables visible in unattended vehicles.
- Concern was noted regarding the number of fatal road traffic accidents that have now occurred along the dips on the Brookville to Whittington Road. The Road Traffic Police and Highways will be approached regarding possible measures that could be introduced to improve road safety at this location.
- Norfolk PSCO's cannot issue parking tickets but can give warning notices to vehicles. A traffic warden has visited the village and there is concern that yellow lines in the village need to be re-painted to ensure they are visible. Highways will be asked when this is to be undertaken.
- Complaints were voiced regarding problems caused by vehicles parking outside Methwold High School at the end of the school day. The PCSO's have visited the school to assess the situation and problems were not witnessed at the time. However, the Police are to be at school more regularly and parking will be monitored. A suggestion was made that it could be beneficial if yellow lines were instated opposite the Northwold Road junction.

- Discussion took place regarding the position of the speed camera van which was parked in Brookville during the day.

OPEN FORUM

- Complaints were made regarding sewerage that is overflowing in the Chalk Pit. This matter was reported to BCKLWN Environmental Health Team some time ago and an update on what action is being undertaken regarding the situation will be requested. Mr. M Peake offered to contact the Environmental Team.
- Further discussion took place as to how motorists should be warned about the dips in the road past Brookville.
- Home Watch signs have been erected at the entrances to the village. One at the top of Brookville, two in Methwold and one in Methwold Hythe.

1. Apologies for Absence

Mrs. B Horton, Mr. D Wortley. A letter of resignation has been received from Mr. I Murray.

2. No Declarations of Interest made.

3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 11/03/10 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

- The Clerk has contacted a local heating engineer regarding the problems with the heating system in St. George's Hall and is awaiting a response.

5. Reports

5.1 Chairman's Report

- A Wayleave agreement has been received from BT relating to installation of a junction box and underground cables at Lower Green, Globe Street. The Parish Council will receive a one off payment of £631.90.

- A request has been submitted to the Parish Council from owners of land at 61 Globe Street for a Variation to the Deed of Easement agreed in 2007 and relating to access over Lower Green. This matter will be forwarded to the Council's solicitor for consideration and will be an agenda item for the May Parish Council meeting.
- The Chairman has replied to letters received from Mr. P Barnes regarding the footpath outside Lion House, Globe Street and hire of St. George's Hall. The comments made in the correspondence have been noted.
- It is possible the Batchcroft Charity may be eligible to apply for grant funding to purchase seats for the village. An application is to be made to fund 2 seats for Methwold, one for Brookville and one for Methwold Hythe.

5.2 Clerk's Report:

- A new cradle seat for one of the swings at the Rec. has been purchased.
- It was agreed to arrange for the recreation Ground to be rolled once before the Rec. is used for the Family Fun Day, being organised by Methwold High School, to be held on May 3rd.
- Notices have been posted regarding the new vacancy on the Parish Council. There are presently three vacancies to fill.
- The Clerk attended an Employment matters course organised by Norfolk Association of Local Councils on March 31st.

5.3 Hall Committee Meeting Report:

- The Hall Committee met on March 29th. Discussion took place regarding use of St. George's Hall and how the new build at the High School, which is for community use, may effect hire of the hall. With this in mind it was felt the Parish Council ought not to spend large sums of money on St. Georges Hall until this possible impact can be monitored.
- It was suggested the window of the hall nearest the Post Office should be replaced as the frame appears rotten. The Chairman will check instructions given to Style windows, who recently installed new windows in the building, to ascertain why this window was not replaced at the same time as the others.
- An electrical survey of St. George's Hall has been booked.
- A plumber will be contacted regarding fixing the leak on the water heater in the kitchen.
- It has been suggested that the caretaker should pass money taken for Hall bookings to the Clerk each month for banking.

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

6.1 Councillors were presented with end of year accounts and bank balance for March 31st 2010. Accounts will be passed to the Internal auditor and acceptance of the 2009/10 accounts and review of reserve money allocation will be agenda items for the May Parish Council meeting.

7. **Planning**

Notice of decision:

8.1 Conversion to residential dwelling at former Pumping Station, Woodhall Road, Hilgay 09/02205/F

Permission granted

8. Correspondence

7.1 NCC Norfolk Infrastructure Fund -Have your say on a proposed new approach to funding infrastructure – <https://www.engagespace.co.uk/engage/norfolk/default.aspx>

7.2 Norfolk Rural Community Council – NCC is gathering information on the social, economic and cultural impact of slow provision of Broadband. Anecdotal evidence of performance having an impact on local people can be sent to laura.childs@norfolk.gov.uk

7.3 BCKLWN – request for information regarding derelict buildings in the parish.

9. Further reports/items for the next agenda

9.1 Mr. Owen continues to attend meetings of the Community Focus Group at Methwold High School and it is hoped joint working will benefit the community as well as the school.

The meeting was briefly suspended to allow Mr. Chris Stone to give an update on the Sports Roadshow planned to be held in Methwold on 10/11th July 2010. It is possible a request will be forthcoming for free use of the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground for this event.

9.2 Discussion took place regarding cycling on the Cemetery path. The alleyway at the Fair Hill end is no cycling but cycling is permitted along the rest of the track. It was also debated whether or not this path should be re-gravelled.

9.3 An enquiry was made as to when the Parish Council accounts can be examined. Anyone is able to request a meeting, at a reasonable time, with the Clerk to access Parish Council records. There is a statutory requirement for councils to provide local electors with the opportunity to inspect the Annual Return. After the inspection period an Appointed Date is set when local electors have the right to question the auditor.

9.4 It was noted that applications for the Peoples Millions grant scheme can be made after May 15th.

9.5 The circus will return to the Social Club again in June.

9.6 It was commented that the bulbs that have been planted in the village look wonderful and thanks were expressed to those who took part in planting.