

# Minutes of the Meeting of Methwold Parish Council Held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at St. George's Hall.

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

Mr. M Peake – Borough Councillor

Mr. M Storey – Borough Councillor

6 members of the public

2 Police Community Support Officers

## OPEN FORUM

- The Chairman welcomed the Community Support Officers to the meeting. The Officers had nothing to report other than a recent successful meeting held to promote Homewatch. It was noted that the mobile Police Camera Safety Vehicle had been in Brookville the previous evening and it is likely the van will be in situation at later times of the day during the summer than is usual during winter months.  
Concern was voiced regarding open air parties being held in the parish as organisers only need to apply for a licence for such an event if alcohol is to be sold. Therefore the Police do not necessarily know if private events are arranged.
- Methwold Community Action Group was not successful with the grant application made to DEFRA. An application will be submitted again next year. However, a grant of £1000 has been received from the Borough Council and a Sports Roadshow is to be held the weekend of July 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussion took place regarding footpaths across Storey's Meadow. One path has been cut but there is a second path that is overgrown which needs to be cleared.
- Sewerage is overflowing in the Old Chalk Pit. The Borough Council is aware of the situation and Mr. Peake and Mr. Storey offered to look into this matter. The Environment Agency will also be contacted.

### 1. Apologies for absence:

Mrs. B Horton, Mrs. K McBride, Mr. D Wortley

### 2. No Declarations of Interest made.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10/06/10 approved.

### 4. Matters arising from the Minutes:

4.1 It was agreed to look at Committee structure at the next parish Council meeting.

- A site meeting was held at Scotts Lane to consider the collection of waste from households along the lane. Cllr. Brian Long who attended the meeting made the following comments:
  1. The Borough Council Policy is to collect rubbish from adopted highways and not private or un-adopted roads.
- The Borough Council will collect waste and recycling from immediately outside peoples land if vehicles can access safely (vehicles need to be able to turn round).
  2. The collection crews usually determine where it is safe to operate.
  3. Usually homes that are on private roads or drives that cannot be collected by the Refuse Collection Vehicle are asked to present waste and recycling in plastic bags.
  4. The Borough Council offers a scheme for assisted lifts for those who have medical grounds.

It has been suggested that a skip could be sited at the entrance to Scotts Lane so bags of waste are not left on the verge. Highways are said to be against this and there are other factors to consider which may not make this suggestion feasible.

Discussion took place regarding overgrown hedges along the lane. As this lane is a private road it is hoped the residents will work together to keep access clear.
- Concerns regarding the width and markings of the cycle track to Brookville will be passed to the Highway Engineer.

## **5. Reports:**

### **5.1 Chairman's Report:**

- It is hoped the Batchcroft Charity may be able to apply for a grant to provide seats in the parish.
- Mr. Owen and Mr. Neville have looked at the chalk wall at St. George's Hall car park with a view to repair. It was suggested that the height of the wall could be lowered. Confirmation of who owns the wall and whether a reduction in height would be permitted as it is within the village conservation area will be sought.
- It was agreed not to replace the pedestrian gate between the old play area on the Rec. and the main area. The fence will be taken down and a padlock will be fixed to the Churchyard gate to stop unauthorised vehicle access to the Rec.
- No dogs are permitted on the Rec. and this message will be conveyed through the Methwold Times.
- Style windows will be asked to replace a fifth window at St. George's Hall

### **5.2 Clerk's Report:**

- Discussion took place regarding emptying the storage container in St. George's Hall car park. Mr. Neville will investigate what can be done and

report back at the August Parish Council meeting. It was agreed crockery belonging to the Batchcroft Charity can be stored in the container if there is room.

- The matter of cupboards in the kitchen at the Fenton room being locked was raised again. The Busy Bees will be invited to attend the August Parish Council meeting to discuss this.
- It was agreed the date for the August meeting of the Parish Council should be used to hold a Hall Committee meeting and a Finance Committee meeting. Open Forum will still be held but usual monthly agenda items will be postponed until the September meeting.
- The trees by the road at the rec. have been trimmed back by the Hall caretaker.
- The Clerk is to attend the Norfolk Association of Local Councils/Society of Local Council Clerks Summer Conference on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- A headstone has been positioned between two graves in the cemetery. Consent for the headstone to be positioned was not given and this matter is being investigated.

6. **Accounts for June were presented and approved for payment in accordance with the budget.**

7. **Correspondence:**

A letter has been received from the editor of the Methwold Times requesting a donation towards the cost of printing the Times. This will be a future agenda item.

**In Folder:**

1. Norfolk Link etc.
2. Safer Neighbourhood Area Panels – dates of meetings
3. Standards Board Committee agenda and minutes
4. NRCC AGM
5. NPFA AGM
6. Norfolk Constabulary – Revised Structure for Local Delivery

8. **Planning:**

Applications considered:

1. Construction of two new dwellings following demolition of existing bungalow at 37 Whiteplot Road, Methwold Hythe 10/00651/F  
Recommended approval but concerns regarding access

Decision Notices:

1. Alterations and extension to dwelling at 38 Old Severalls Road, Methwold Hythe 10/00318/F

Permission granted

2. Single storey rear and first floor side extensions to dwelling at 4 Ventura Close, Methwold 10/00734/F  
Permission granted
3. Construction of a residential annex following the removal of existing redundant agricultural building at 1 Brook Lane, Brookville 09/02144/F  
Permission refused

Notice received of Tree Preservation Order 2010 No. 4 served upon the occupier of 1 Bide A Wee Close, Main Road, Brookville

**9. Co-option of new Councillor**

Mr David Masters was co-opted as a new Councillor and duly signed his Acceptance of Office.

**10. The revised Deed of Easement relating to land at Lower Green, Methwold was accepted and signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.**

**11. Revised Model Standing orders were adopted and Financial Regulations were reviewed.**

**12. Further Reports – for information only:**

12.1 It was reported that a Dangerous Building Order regarding Debs Den in the High Street will take effect from August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was noted that other chalk buildings and walls in the village, notably at Petch Corner and by the shop, are in need of repair.

12.2 No key can be found for the Pound. The padlock will be replaced.

12.3 A query was made as to why a private party held at St. George's Hall could be stopped by the Police but a recent outdoor party was allowed to continue.

12.4 It was reported that two dog owners are under suspicion for allowing their animals to foul the footpath.

12.5 It was suggested the PCSO's should be contacted regarding youths cycling inconsiderately along the footpath/cycle path.

12.6 Odour possibly from the poultry farm in Brookville was reported.