

**Minutes of the Meeting of Methwold Parish Council
held on Thursday 9th September 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. D Wortley, Mr. D Masters.

**Mr. M Peake – Borough Councillor
Mr. M Storey – Borough Councillor
9 members of the public**

OPEN FORUM

- A resident of Lower Green, Globe Street raised concern that planning permission for the development taking place at 61 Globe Street did originally include tarmacing of the approach road by the developer. This track is now to have a shingle finish and there is therefore a question of who will maintain the road. The road is an unadopted highway and the Highway Department will not maintain it. It was suggested residents could get together to maintain the road as it is usual for users of such a track to be responsible for repair.
- It was reported that there is a large pothole by the entrance to Scotts Lane, Brookville.
- The Sports Roadshow held in the village on July 10th/11th went well and clubs are to be run locally as a result.
- The B1112 Methwold Road dips are to be resurfaced to reduce undulation and improve ride quality as there have been recorded accidents in the last three years within the vicinity. Works are programmed to begin on October 4th 2010 and all through traffic will be diverted via the A134 to the C871 for the duration of the works, which is estimated to take 1 week.
- Methwold Community Action Group is planning to hold a Pride in Methwold day in October. Litter picking will be undertaken and suggestions were requested as to what other jobs could be done.
- It was reported that trees need trimming back from overhanging the place name sign at Brookville.
- Some discussion took place regarding placing more seats on the Recreation Ground. Methwold in Bloom will be consulted about this and the matter will be an agenda item for a future Parish Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:

Mrs. B Horton

It was noted Mrs. K McBride has resigned as a Parish Councillor as she no longer lives in the village.

2. No Declarations of Interest made.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 08/07/10 approved.**

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes:**

4.1 Committee Structure

It was agreed that with the current number of vacancies on the Parish Council all Councillors will be invited to attend Committee meetings. Future committee meeting dates will be set well in advance.

4.2 It was reported that the door to the Fenton Rooms can be blown back in the wind. The Chairman will ask the installers to add a self closing unit.

4.3 No grant applications have yet been made for seats in the village. It is possible the Recreation Ground Committee could look into this.

4.4 It is not known who owns the chalk wall to the side of St. George's Hall car park. Part of the wall may be in the village conservation area so there could be restrictions on how the wall may be repaired. Neighbours will be invited to attend a meeting with Councillors to discuss the wall and who may be responsible for its maintenance.

4.5 Some discussion took place regarding the decision to take down the fence at the Recreation Ground which enclosed the old play area. It was agreed at the July meeting that this would be done and the Parish Council is awaiting its removal. A suggestion was made that this space could provide an environmental area.

4.6 The Pound has been cleared and quotes will be sought to add guttering to the building.

5. **Reports:**

5.1 Chairman's Report:

- The container at St. George's hall was cleared at the same time as the Pound and there is now has spare storage space. Tables are stored in the Pound and the container contains spare chairs and some wood.
- Mr. Don Owen has resigned as a Parish Councillor as he is emigrating. There are now three vacancies on the Parish Council.

5.2 Clerk's Report:

- Royal Mail has been contacted regarding the possibility of erecting a post box outside the Post Office. It is possible the post box outside the former Post Office opposite the Recreation Ground could be relocated and the post mistress will be asked to approach Royal Mail to request this.
- Another window has been replaced as St. George's Hall as agreed.
- The Fire alarm at St. George's Hall has been serviced as it was not working. Batteries were replaced.
- All recommended electrical work at St. George's Hall has now been completed.

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

6.1 Precept request

The 2011 precept request was discussed at the August Parish Council meeting but no decisions were made as only three Councillors were present. A Finance Committee meeting will be held on October 11th.

6.2 Provision of sanitary disposal bins at St. George's Hall

One price has been obtained to provide sanitary disposal bins in the ladies toilets at St. George's Hall. Further quotes will be sought before a decision is made.

6.3 Donation towards printing of the Methwold Times

It was agreed to donate £120 to the Methwold Times.

6.4 Discussion took place regarding cutting the grass around the edge of the Recreation Ground. The grass cutting contractors will be asked to contact Mr. C Neville to discuss this matter.

6.5 It was agreed a further letter should be sent requesting the agreed increase in rent of the Post Office space at St. George's Hall be paid.

7. **Planning:**

Applications considered:

1. Provision of steel containers for use as workshops, offices, drying rooms and rest/canteen area and welfare facilities at Wissington Sugar Factory, College Road, Stoke Ferry 10/01486/F
No observations
2. Part demolish rear lean-to and construct two storey rear extension at 50 Globe Street, Methwold IP26 4PQ
Support

Decision Notices:

1. Construction of a CO2 capture, processing, compression and outloading station at Wissington Sugar Factory, College Road, Wereham 10/01202/F
Permission granted
2. Construction of two storey extension following demolition of existing single storey conservatory at Hythe Road, Methwold 10/01152/F
Permission granted.
3. Construction of temporary log cabin for managers accommodation with office space at land adjacent Oaklands, Severalls Road, Methwold Hythe - Application withdrawn
4. Notice of meeting of Development Control Board to consider proposal to construct one dwelling at land south of Old Severalls Road, Methwold Hythe 10/01010/F

8. Correspondence:

- A letter has been received requesting the use of the Recreation Ground to play football. This will be an agenda item for the October Parish Council meeting when the Chairman will have contacted those concerned to see what is actually wanted.
- The Busy Bees have responded negatively to the request to pass copies of keys to the cupboards in the Fenton Room to the Parish Council. Councillors will meet with members of the Busy Bees to discuss this matter further.
- Notification of home fire risk checks will be published in the Methwold Times.
- Norfolk County Council is adopting a policy to reduce street lighting for part of the night in some areas. Within the next twelve weeks lights in the areas concerned will be altered so that they go off automatically between midnight and 5am. Areas affected in the parish will be The Avenue, Brookville, Trent V.C Close and Ventura Close.

In Folder:

1. Council Tax Referendums -
2. BCKLWN Local Development Framework - Core Strategy Focused Changes to Proposed Submission Document. Representations can be submitted on-line at <http://west-norfolk-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>. A proposed change is that Northwold will be added to Methwold to create a joint 'Key Rural Service Centre'.
3. Norfolk Association of Village Halls Newsletter
4. NRCC Signpost
5. NPFA The Playing Field
6. Norfolk ALC AGM
7. WNVCA In Touch
8. Norfolk Link etc.
9. Norfolk Police Authority's Policing Plan Summary 2010

9. Further Reports – for information only:

- 9.1 It was reported that a Dangerous Building Order has been placed on Debs Den in the High Street and repair work should be completed on the building within the next six months.
- 9.2 Pot holes along Thornham Road will be reported to Highways again as there is concern that they would cause a hazard for motorcyclists.
- 9.3 Drains outside the Almhouses along The Old Feltwell Road need clearing.
- 9.4 It was reported that brambles are overhanging the footpath along the Old Feltwell Road.
- 9.5 The Hall caretaker will be asked to check the guttering at St. George's Hall as it may be blocked.
- 9.6 It was queried how emergency services may reach the village if the Brookville Road is to be closed during maintenance work.
- 9.7 It was reported that there is broken glass in St. George's Hall car park.

9.8 Surveillance is being undertaken following reports of dog mess not being picked up by dog owners.

9.9 A planning application is ongoing regarding expansion of the mineral extraction site at The Oakery, Feltwell.

9.10 It was reported the refuse collection vehicle may not continue to collect rubbish from Brook Lane if overgrown hedges along the lane are not trimmed back.

9.11 Enertrag is not proceeding with plans for a wind farm at Weeting.

9.12 It was queried as to who is responsible for cleaning the phone box in Brookville.

9.13 The Council has received notification that the sewerage problem at the Old Chalk should be resolved.

9.14 It was commented that a seemingly poor repair has been undertaken to part of the road opposite Hall Farm Drive.

9.15 Moles are evident in the cemetery.

Resolution to exclude the public to consider the following:

- 1. A memorial has been erected in the cemetery without permission from the Parish Council. The stone has been placed between two single grave spaces and is out of line. The Parish Council wants the memorial to be moved.*