

**Minutes of the Meeting of Methwold Parish Council
Held on Thursday 14th October 2010
at St. George's Hall.**

Those present: -- Mr. R Hood – Chairman, Mrs. D Charlesworth-Smith, Mrs. M Wortley, Mr. C Neville, Mr. D Wortley, Mr. D Masters

4 members of the public

OPEN FORUM

- It was asked if the Parish Council would consider clearing the area at the front of the Pound as it is overgrown and needs leaves need removing. This will be an agenda item for the November Parish Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:

Mrs. B Horton, Mrs. J Oliver, Mr. C Marsland,
Mr. M Peake – Borough Councillor

2. No Declarations of Interest made.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 09/09/10 approved.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes:

- Comment was made of the improvement to the B1112 Brookville to Stoke Ferry Road following work by Highways to flatten the road. It was suggested Highways should be thanked and hopefully no further fatal accidents will occur at this location.
- Potholes along the Thornham Road have been reported to Highways and enquiries will be made as to when any repair work will be undertaken.
- One quote has been received to add guttering to the pound. This will be discussed at the end of the meeting after a resolution to exclude the public.
- Royal Mail has been asked about the possibility of moving the location of the post box from by the New Hall to outside the Post Office. It was suggested that a notice should be placed in the Methwold Times asking parishioners to contact Royal Mail to request this.
- Mr Neville has met with Ian Burton from Country Grounds maintenance regarding strimming the perimeter of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed this area will be trimmed as part of the last cut of the season. If Country

Grounds Maintenance continue to be the maintenance contractors for 2011 then the area around the Rec. fencing will be sprayed rather than strimmed.

- Brambles remain overhanging the footway from a property along the Old Feltwell Road.
- The Village Hall caretaker has been asked to clear the guttering at St. George's Hall.
- Nothing further has been heard regarding the sewerage problem at The Old Chalk Pit. The Borough Council will be asked for an update on the situation.

4.1 Wall at St. George's Hall car park

The Chairman has met with the owners of the eastern boundary wall of the Village Hall car park regarding repair of the wall. A letter has also been received from the owners notifying the Parish Council that the southern end of the wall will be taken down and replaced with fencing and the remaining wall will be repaired but lowered.

4.2 Meeting with Busy Bees

Mrs. Wortley has asked the Busy Bees to clear cupboards in the Fenton Room kitchen. This will be monitored.

4.3 Use of Recreation Ground

The Chairman has met with residents who are keen to establish a football club to play on the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council has nets and lining equipment and would be willing to make the Village Hall available for use as a changing area. Those interested have been invited to write to the Parish Council requesting use of the Rec. and St. George's Hall so arrangements can be considered further.

5. **Reports:**

5.1 Chairman's Report:

- The Chairman has received a letter relating to a memorial stone that has been positioned out of line in the New Cemetery. Some discussion took place regarding rules and Health & Safety concerns relating to monuments. All memorials must receive permission from the Council before siting. The stone mason who placed a memorial in the walkway will be asked to move the headstone as permission was not granted for its erection.
- The Parish Council Finance Committee met on 11/10/10 to consider the 2011 precept request. Spending for the current financial year is running to budget and the general consensus at the meeting was that there should be no increase to the precept in 2011.

5.2 Clerk's Report:

- Mr Jim Marriage has put his name forward for co-option as a Parish Councillor. At present there are four vacancies on the Council. Co-option will be an agenda item for the November Parish Council meeting together with the election of a Vice-Chairman.

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

6.1 2011 precept request

It was agreed to keep the 2011 precept at £29527, the same as 2010.

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

It was decided to move this agenda item until the end of the meeting, after a resolution to exclude the public had been passed.

7. No planning applications received for consultation

8. Correspondence

Mr Reg Land, Conservation Manager for Hilgay Wetland Creation Project, has confirmed that he would be willing to attend a Parish Council meeting to give a presentation on the project (which is in Methwold Parish). He will be invited to the January meeting.

1. Letter received from Norfolk County Council regarding a funding gap of £155m
2. Norfolk Link etc.
3. Letter of introduction from Rural Partnership Officer
4. Proposed Power and Recycling Centre at King's Lynn
5. Mayor's Civic Award for Voluntary Service
6. 2011 Census: Councillor Handbook
7. WNVCA In Touch
8. Mini Service Review – Parish Council Elections. It is proposed the Borough Council will pass charges for Parish Council elections to parishes as from the next financial year.

9. Further Reports – for information only:

- 9.1 A query was raised regarding ownership of the land adjacent to the Pound on which the electrical sub-station is sited. It is possible the Parish Council sold this land some time ago but research will be undertaken to try to clarify this.
- 9.2 Highways will be asked if they are responsible for cutting the hedge at Halls Meadow.
- 9.3 David Mills, NCC Rights of Way Officer, will be invited to a future Parish Council meeting to see if he can provide answers to points raised regarding responsibilities relating to footpaths.
- 9.4 Permission was granted for three memorials in the cemetery. The Chairman will compile rules relating to monuments in the cemetery confirming that permission must be obtained from the Parish Council for all memorials before they are erected.

A resolution was passed to exclude the public to discuss the following:

- 1. Having obtained one written quote only it was agreed to engage Initial Washroom Solutions to provide sanitary bins at St. George's Hall, Methwold. The contract will be for 12 months at a cost of £360 for provision and emptying of five bins.*
- 2. One quote was also received to add guttering to the Pound. It was agreed guttering should be erected on all sides at a cost of £450.*