

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
THURSDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2010

Present: Mr. R Hood – Chairman, Mrs. B Horton, Mrs. D Charlesworth-Smith, Mrs. M Wortley, Mrs. J Oliver, Mr. C Neville, Mr. C Marsland, Mr. D Marsters, Mr D Wortley, Mr. J Marriage

Borough Cllr. Mr. M Peake

Borough Cllr. Mr. M Storey

2 members of the public

PCSO Claire Law and PCSO Esther Bortz were in attendance before the start of the meeting to give a Police update and answer any questions posed:

Everyone has the opportunity to register with the “Police Direct Service” to either receive phone messages or e-mails giving Police updates. This service notifies those registered of any suspicious behaviour in the area and also informs users of Police prosecutions.

Claire Law is the dedicated Police Support Officer at Methwold High School and will be visiting the school for half a day each week during term time.

Members of the public reported problems caused by vehicles parked on the hatched lines by the entrance to the Old Feltwell Road. PCSO Claire Law asked people to report to the Police when this is happening by calling 0845 456 4567 so a picture can be compiled as to when this problem is occurring. PCSO Law will investigate the problem.

OPEN FORUM

- A request was made by Methwold Community Action Group to erect a Christmas tree outside St. George's Hall and to hold Christmas celebrations around the tree on December 21st 2010.

- The Community Action Group recently held a Pride in Methwold day to undertake maintenance jobs around the village. The weather hampered achievement but leaves and conkers were cleared from Cock Corner and foliage was cleared from the path adjacent to the Church wall at the Rec. It is hoped the seats at Brookville and Methwold Hythe will be painted at a later date.

1. **No Apologies for Absence.**

2. **Declaration of Interest:**

None stated

3. **Co-Option of new Councillor**

Having volunteered to stand as Parish Councillor Mr. Jim Marriage was co-opted to the role. Mr. Marriage duly signed his Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interest forms and took his seat as a Councillor.

4. Election of Vice-Chairman

The previous Vice Chairman having resigned from the Council proposals were requested for a new Vice-Chairman. Mr. C Neville was proposed and seconded and with no further nominations duly elected to the role.

5. **The Minutes of the meeting held on 14/10/10 were agreed as a true record.**

6. **Matters arising from past minutes:**

- Pot holes along Thornham Road have been reported to Highways.
- Brambles and other vegetation are overhanging the footway along The Old Feltwell Road. It was suggested a reminder to keep hedges etc. trimmed back could be published in the Methwold Times.
- The hall caretaker has been asked to clear the guttering at St. George's Hall.
- A query has been raised as to when the land next to the Recreation Ground where the electrical sub station stands was sold. National Grid owns the land

occupied by its substations but investigation will be made as to when ownership of the area in question was transferred. This matter will remain an agenda item.

- Nothing further has been heard from the Busy Bees regarding the use of cupboards in the Fenton Room kitchen.
- Norfolk County Council Rights of Way Officer, David Mills, was invited to attend the December meeting of the Parish Council. He cannot make this date and has warned that there may be a particularly savage cut on rights of way spending in the near future.

7. Reports:

7.1 Chairman's Report:

- The Chairman is investigating the possibility of replacing the door closure to the Fenton Rooms as something more substantial is needed.
- The Chairman is to compile a specification of work required to provide water to the New Cemetery.
- Some discussion took place regarding granting permission to Methwold Action Group to erect a Christmas tree outside the Fenton Rooms. It was agreed in principal that this should be permitted and this will be confirmed at the December Parish Council meeting. It was stated that such requests ought to be made in good time to allow inclusion on the agenda.

7.2 Clerk's Report:

- The Clerk is booked to attend an evening presentation regarding preparation for the 2011 Local Elections.
- Following an invitation, Mr Reg Land, Conservation Manager at Hilgay Wetland Creation Project will attend the Parish Council meeting in January to talk about the work he is involved in at Hilgay. Mr Paul Miller from the Environment Agency will also be present. The meeting will be open from 7.00pm to allow the Parish Council agenda to start at 7.30pm.
- Borough Councillor Mr Peake provided an update regarding the sewerage contamination at Chalk Way, Methwold. A contractor has been asked to quote to clear the contamination and the residents or their insurers should give the go ahead for this work to be undertaken. Percolation tests have been carried out to ensure the planned new soak away is sufficient and it is hoped work will be completed before the summer of 2011.
- Some discussion took place regarding when the mole catcher is present in the village. The contractor will be asked to provide time sheets stating when he is in Methwold.

8. Accounts for October were approved for payment.

8.1 Clearing of the area around the Pound

Discussion took place as to what maintenance work may be needed to tidy the area around the Pound. It is difficult to open the doors of the Pound due to a build up of soil. Enquiries will be made into the cost of removing soil, levelling and laying gravel.

**9. Planning:
Applications:**

Grid Ref. No: 573226292950

Location: EFFG Woodlark Farm, Methwold

Details: Installation of on-farm electricity generator with anaerobic digestion plant and concrete feedstock pad

Ref. No: 10/01713/EXF

Location: 19 Feltwell Road, Methwold Hythe IP26 4QJ

Details: Extension for time for the implementation of planning permission 07/02349/F: two storey side extension and conservatory

Permission

Recommended

10. Correspondence:

1. Letter from Carol Hillier
2. Letter from Karl Rands – Area Manager West Highways
3. Consolidation of Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Orders
4. Pear Technology mapping software – further information to be given to Councillors
5. Letter asking if the Parish Council will decorate a Christmas tree in St. George's Church. Mrs Horton and Mrs Wortley offered to undertake this as in past years.

In Folder to be passed to Councillors

1. Local Development Framework - Core Strategy CD
2. Land Registry – Registering your Council's property
3. BCKLWN Tree Preservation Order 2010 No. 4
4. Playing Field Newsletter
5. Sports Development Update

6. Letter from Elizabeth Truss
7. King's Lynn incinerator

11. Further reports/items for the next agenda:

- 11.1 It was reported that street light No. 239 on Fair Hill is not working.
- 11.2 Comment was made regarding again regarding problems with parking in the High Street on market days. People need to report issues to the Police at the time by ringing 0845 456 4567.
- 11.3 It was noted that dog poo is not being picked up by some irresponsible dog owners and this has been noted by the Borough Council Environmental Team. A reminder will be placed in the Methwold Times.
- 11.4 The telephone box in Brookville is reported as being in need of cleaning. This is the responsibility of BT.
- 11.5 Parking by the raised area in St. George's Hall car park can result in vehicles becoming blocked in. It was suggested hatching of this area would solve this problem.
- 11.6 The road is crumbling where Ventura Close meets Hythe Road.
- 11.7 Mrs. Wortley is assisting with a request which has been made to plant a tree in the Cemetery.

Resolution to exclude the public to discuss the following:

1. *Rules relating to the Cemetery*

A further letter has been received relating to the memorial that has been positioned between two graves in the New Cemetery. The Parish Council does not want to set a precedent and as this stone has neither been granted permission to be erected in its present location nor has payment been accepted for the additional inscription a request has been made for the stone to be moved. Rules relating to the cemetery will be confirmed with undertakers and stone masons who are known to use the cemetery and a copy will be sent with each Rights of Burial issued.

2. *It was agreed to undertake a three year contract with Initial Washroom Solutions for the provision of sanitary waste bins at St. George's Hall.*