

## **MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL**  
**THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011**

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

Borough Cllr. Mr. M Storey

6 members of the public

Mr Reg Land, Conservation Manager for Hilgay Wetland Project and Mr Paul Miller of the Environment Agency were in attendance before the start of the meeting to give a presentation introducing Hilgay Wetland Creation Scheme.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust has purchased former farm land in Methwold parish to create a wetland habitat of principally reedbed. The Hilgay Living Landscape site is one of five Norfolk Wildlife Trust sites where work will be focused over the next few years.

Funding for the next ten years is being provided by the Environment Agency flood risk management scheme. The site is replacing the Norfolk Wildlife Trust site at Cley.

Part of the site will be known as Methwold Severalls.

### **OPEN FORUM**

- A large pot hole at the entrance to Scotts Lane still needs to be repaired.
- The Carpet Bowls Club wish to purchase a roller to ease manoeuvre of the bowling mat. A request was made for the roller to be stored in the foyer at St. George's Hall. This would involve removal of the seat adjacent of the storage cupboard in the foyer. This will be an agenda item for the February Parish Council meeting.
- Thanks were voiced and a letter received from Methwold Community Action Group for use of St. George's Hall over the Christmas period.

- A pre-Olympic weekend is planned for the village and events will take place in conjunction with Methwold High School on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**1. No Apologies for Absence.**

Mrs. J Oliver  
Mr. M Peake

**2. Declaration of Interest:**

None stated

**3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 09/12/10 were agreed as a true record.**

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

- The Busy Bees have been contacted again regarding clearing cupboards at St. George's Hall.
- Moles are still evident at the cemetery and on the Rec.

**5. Reports:**

5.1 Chairman's Report:

- Burst pipes at St. George's Hall over the Christmas period caused problems with the heating and for the Post Office. The caretaker has repaired numerous leaks in pipes and the heating is now working again.
- The Chairman has received a phone call regarding mud not being cleared from Whiteplot Road, Methwold Hythe. This is a traffic offence and the police have spoken to the farmer thought to be responsible, although the road is still not being cleared. Enquiries will be made as to where the road ceases to be a public highway.
- A specification for laying water pipes at the cemetery was given to Councillors for discussion after a resolution to dismiss the public at the end of the meeting.

5.2 Clerk's Report:

- Investigation is ongoing regarding what agreement is in place with UK Power Networks for siting of the electrical substation adjacent to the Pound.
- Parish Council elections will take place in May 2011 and it is expected election packs will be issued in February.
- Guttering has not been erected at the Pound due to inclemental weather.

- The Annual Inspection of the play equipment at the Recreation Ground has been recorded as being Low Risk.

**6. Accounts for December were approved for payment.**

6.1 It was agreed to proceed to fit a door closure on the external end door of the Fenton Rooms at an estimated cost of £90. If the closure is beneficial consideration will be given to fitting a closure on the St. George's Hall foyer entrance door also.

6.2 It was agreed to give Methwold Action Group free use of St. George's Hall complex and car park for celebrations to be held for the Royal Wedding on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2011. The meeting was suspended briefly to allow Mr Chris Stone to give an idea of what is planned. A street party is to be held on the car park with possibly a dinner time party for the elderly at the Social Club. The Foolhardy Circus Group is booked to perform a clown show in St. George's Hall and it is hoped various evening entertainment will be offered at establishments in the parish.

**7. Planning:  
Applications:**

Ref. No: 10/02108/F

Location: 5 Stoke Road, Methwold

Details: Two storey side extension

observations

No

**Notice of decisions:**

Ref. No: 06/00051/NMA\_1

Location: Hall Meadows North of 33-45, High Street, Methwold

Details: Non-material amendment to planning consent 06/00051/F: construction of 5 dwellings and garages

**Permission refused**

Ref. No: 10/01914/F

Location: Land adjacent to 30 The Avenue, Brookville

Details: Construction of a single storey dwelling and double garage

**Permission refused**

**8./9. It was agreed to hold a working party meeting to consider amongst other matters, redecoration of St. George's Hall and whether the PA system in the hall should be repaired**

**10. Pest control review to be undertaken following a resolution to exclude the public at the end of the meeting.**

**11. Response to Norfolk County Council's 'Big Conversation'**

Councillors had been presented with information regarding 'The Big Conversation'. The County Council is facing a future with far fewer resources to spend on services. Local Councils are being asked if they wish to take on some highway and Public Right of Way services. It was agreed the Parish Council would be interested in taking on services depending on what financial assistance would be provided by Norfolk County Council.

**12. Correspondence:**

The following correspondence will be passed to Councillors:

1. Kickstart Norfolk
2. Proposed amalgamation of Methwold High School and Hockwold Primary
3. Power and Recycling plant at Saddlebow
4. Norfolk Gritting Routes
5. Citizens Advice – appeal for financial assistance
6. Norfolk Link etc.
7. NRCC Signpost
8. Norfolk Police Authority open meeting re. budget 20/01/11 @7pm, Jubilee House, Wymondham
9. RBL 'Great Poppy Party Weekend'

A letter was received from a resident of Methwold Hythe who has volunteered to be a Parish Councillor. Co-option will be an agenda item for future Parish Council meetings until the election in May if vacancies are not filled.

**13. Further reports/items for the next agenda:**

13.1 It was reported that a large number of dead seagulls have been found by the Oakery landfill site. DEFRA is said to be investigating this.

13.2 Brambles overhanging the footpath need to be trimmed back along the Old Feltwell Road.

13.3 It was requested that co-option should be an agenda item for each meeting until either the May election or the vacancies on the Parish Council are filled.

13.4 A request was made to update Councillors details on the Methwold website.

13.5 It was asked why the Parish Council accounts are not published (the annual audit return form is displayed as legally required). This matter will be an agenda item for the February Parish Council meeting to decide whether accounts should be itemised as part of the minutes.

13.6 It was noted the bin by the post box in Brookville is often full.

13.7 There was no heating in St. George's Hall over the Christmas period due to frozen water pipes. It was suggested pipes may need better lagging. Toilets in the Fenton Room end of St. George's Hall complex were also frozen.

13.8 A hole in the pavement by the Methodist chapel, where the bus stop pole was moved from, needs to be filled in.

13.9 Pot holes have been repaired along Thornham Road but the chippings are coming loose and the road is still dangerous as a consequence.

13.10 It was reported that the Right of Way to the side of Rose Cottage, White Road may have been blocked.

*Resolution to exclude the public to discuss the following:*

- 1. Levelling and gravelling of the area outside the Pound will be an agenda item again for the February Parish Council meeting.*
- 2. The quote received for replacing the outside lights at the Fenton room was accepted.*
- 3. A price of £75 was given for a weeks work to clear moles from the cemetery. This was accepted.*
- 4. A specification has been compiled for laying water pipes at the cemetery and quotes for the work will now be sought.*