

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2011

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

Borough Cllr. Mr. M Storey

5 members of the public

OPEN FORUM

- A large pot hole at the entrance to Scotts Lane still needs to be repaired.
- PCSO's Claire Law and Esther Bortz were present at the beginning of the meeting to give a Police update. Everyone was advised to be vigilant as there has recently been theft of heating oil locally. Catalytic convertors are also been stolen.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Mrs. M Wortley
Mr. M Peake – Borough Councillor

2. **Declaration of Interest:**

Mr. P Ashman declared an interest in item 7.

3. **The Minutes of the meeting held on 10/02/11 were agreed as a true record.**

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

- Power Networks has offered a payment of £100 per annum for siting of the sub station by the Church in Methwold. The agreement with the electricity company regarding this site expired some years ago and a new contract needs to be negotiated. Discussion took place as to what payment would be acceptable and further investigation will be made regarding how much the Parish Council should request and whether any back payment can be claimed.
- A query has arisen as to whether there is a Right of Way past No. 55 White Plot Road, Methwold Hythe. There is no public Right of Way shown on the Definitive map.
- DEFRA has advised the clerk that there is no concern regarding a number of dead sea gulls recently found near the Oakery Landfill Site, Lodge Road, Feltwell.
- The Parish Council has not received any further information regarding the proposed incinerator to be sited at King's Lynn.
- Elizabeth Truss MP is not available on Thursday evenings to attend a Parish Council meeting. Enquiries will be made as to when she could hold a surgery in Methwold. There is concern regarding whether the proposed incinerator to be sited at King's Lynn could have any impact for residents of Methwold and Ms Truss could be asked to speak about the plans for the incinerator.
- A defibrillator, financed by money from SAD and Methwold Community Action Group is to be installed at the Fire Station. The Fire Service will pay the annual electrical running costs associated with housing the defibrillator and a request has been made for the Parish Council to contribute towards the cost of insurance. This will be an agenda item for the April Parish Council meeting. Methwold Ladies Group has arranged for training on use of the defibrillator to be held on April 13th.
- Brambles along the Old Feltwell Road and at the Churchyard still need to be cleared as they overhang the footpath.
- Street light number 26 along Hythe Road is still not working.
- It has been suggested the Post box outside the former Post Office at the New Hall should be moved to outside the Post Office at St. George's Hall. Royal Mail has been contacted about this and the matter will be an agenda item for the April Parish Council meeting.
- Mr. Ashman has reported to BT that glass is broken in the phone box in Methwold Hythe. He has also cut brambles from around the bus shelter in Methwold Hythe.

4.1 No written request has yet been received from Methwold Primary School for use of the Recreation Ground to hold a fete. This item will remain on the agenda for the April meeting.

4.2 No written request has yet been received regarding establishment of a wild fire garden in the Recreation Ground. This item will remain on the agenda for the April meeting.

5. Reports:

5.1 Chairman's Report:

- A quote to replace lead stolen from the roof of St. George's Hall will be discussed after a resolution to exclude the public.
- The Chairman has approached Bonnetts regarding repairing the railings around the cross at Cross Hill.
- Style Windows are to fit closures to the Fenton Room door.
- There is ongoing correspondence regarding a memorial in Methwold Cemetery which has been sited in the walkway between graves. Plots are sold as single graves in the New Cemetery and permission has not been granted for a stone to be erected between plots. The stone cannot remain in its present position as this would set a precedent. An offer has been made by a local undertaker to arrange for the stone to be re-sited if necessary.
- Some discussion took place regarding pest control at the Recreation Ground and in the cemetery. The service of the present pest controller may no longer be needed and this matter will be further discussed at the April Parish Council meeting. Mr. Ashman offered to undertake pest control at the Recreation Ground free of charge.

5.2 Clerk's Report:

- An invitation for Councillors to attend Methwold High School Presentation evening on April 1st 2011 has been received.

6. Accounts for February were approved for payment.

Expenditure

Payee	Net	VAT	Gross
E.ON Energy - hall	529.65	15.10	544.75
Lighting maintenance x2	200.48	37.59	238.07
Staff			849.90
Maintenance expenditure			19.09
Iceni Pest Control	25.00	5.00	30.00
CGM – grounds maintenance x2	239.46	47.90	287.36
E.ON – street lighting	51.02	2.55	53.57

Pace oil	746.85	37.74	784.19
T Feetham	453.00		453.00
NPFA subs			20.00
NRCC subs			15.00
Viridor	216.62	43.32	259.94
P Ashman			75.00

Income

PO – use of hall		51.00
Doctors – use of hall		60.00
Cemetery		25.00
Hall lettings		82.50

6.1 Discussion took place regarding repair to what are known as the ‘Jubilee seats’ in the parish. It is estimated the materials to repair each seat will cost £75.00. It was agreed the Parish Council would contribute up to £75.00 towards the cost of repair of each seat.

7. Planning: Applications:

Ref. No: 10/02011/CU

Location: Glebe Wood Lodge, Brandon Road, Methwold

Details: Change of use to vehicle repairs, sales and residential garden use

Support – but reservations regarding access and egress

Ref. No: 11/00292/F

Location: Meadow View, 3 Brook Lane, Brookville

Details: Conversion of existing garage including a new roof to form bedroom in roof space and hobby room on the ground floor.

Support

Ref. No: Y/2/2009/2025

Location: Sports and Enterprise Centre, Methwold High School

Details: Retrospective amended design for oil tank and associated fencing

Notice of decisions:

Ref. No: 10/02108/F

Location: 5, Stoke Road, Methwold

Details: Two storey side extension

Permission granted

Ref. No: 11/00003/HZ

Location: Wissington Sugar Factory

Details: Hazardous Substances Application: 7891 tonnes of petroleum products

Permission granted

8. Correspondence:

- A request has been received for provision of a seat in the New Cemetery. The Parish Council has no objection to this request but consideration will need to be given to location and funding.
- The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk has taken over the collection of glass at Methwold Social Club.
- Notification of Norfolk Association of Village Halls AGM

- Copy of Definitive map showing extension to bridleway at Hilgay

The following correspondence will be passed to Councillors:

1. WNVCA Lite Touch
2. Donation request from East Anglia's Children's Hospices
3. Norfolk Link Extra
4. Parish Matters Magazine
5. Norfolk Age UK – Campaign for Later Life in Norfolk

9. Methwold Parish Council Assets and Liabilities

It was agreed to move item 9. to after a resolution to exclude the public had been passed.

10. Provision of dog waste bins and signage at Methwold Hythe

Complaints have been received regarding dog mess in Methwold Hythe. It was suggested two dog waste bins and appropriate signage should be installed. Mr. Ashman was asked to provide a map of where dog waste bins could be located and this matter will be an agenda item again for the April Parish Council meeting. Dog waste bins cost from around £85.00 and emptying of the bins is £1.13 per week. It was also noted that there continues to be a problem with dog fouling along the footpath between Methwold High School and Brookville.

11. Further reports/items for the next agenda:

11.1 It was reported that there is a grassed area at the end of New Road, Methwold Hythe over which a footpath has been established. This path is not recorded as a Right of Way and it is not known who owns the land. A suggestion has been made that shingle should be put down on the path. As this area is not owned by the Parish Council the Council cannot grant permission for shingle to be laid.

11.2 Methwold Community Action Group has been awarded a grant of £380 towards the provision of a display board for the parish showing Rights of Way. The Parish Council has previously agreed to contribute towards this initiative. The Norfolk County Council Rights of Way Officer for the area will be asked to visit the parish to help move this project forward.

11.3 It was asked whether there is a First Aid box in St. George's Hall complex. A box is located in the Fenton Room kitchen.

11.4 Methwold Community Action group is planning to hold carols around the Christmas tree again in 2011. It was suggested a request in writing for use of the Village Hall for the event should be submitted to the Parish Council.

11.5 It was noted that rubbish is still left for collection by the roadside at the end of Scotts Lane, Brookville but two residents at the end of the lane are reported to have their household waste collected from their property.

11.6 A comment was made that there is no shelter provided for smokers outside St. George's Hall. As hirers do smoke outside the hall consideration will be given to the provision of a rubbish bin for cigarette ends to encourage butts not to be thrown down.

Resolution to exclude the public to discuss the following:

- 1. The Chairman suggested a rise in cemetery fees to keep in line with neighbouring parishes. This will be an agenda item for the April Parish Council meeting.*
- 2. A quote of £250 has been received for replacing the lead stolen for the roof of St. George's Hall. It was agreed the Chairman should liaise with the contractor and proceed if the lead is to be 'cut in', otherwise a further quote will be requested.*
- 3. Item 9 of the agenda was discussed and it was agreed to attempt to register land owned by the Parish Council. Further discussion regarding assets and responsibilities will be undertaken at the working party meeting to be held on March 22nd. A specification of maintenance work to be considered for St. George's Hall will be compiled at the meeting on the 22nd.*
- 4. A water heater is needed in the Doctors room at the Village Hall. This will be an agenda item for the April Parish Council meeting.*