

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
THURSDAY 14TH APRIL 2011

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

6 members of the public

Mr. M Storey – Borough Councillor

PCSO Tracey Milburn and another gave a brief update on Police concerns. Advice is to remain vigilant as scrap metal, farm machinery, diesel and catalytic convertors are being stolen locally. Any suspicious vehicles or behaviour should be reported to the Police.

A member of the audience raised concern that youngsters seem to be gathering at St. George's Hall car park. It is hoped the car park gate can be locked again at night.

PCSO Claire Law will be contacted regarding holding a meeting in the village to publicise the reformed Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

OPEN FORUM

- The pot hole at the end of Scotts Lane, Brookville has been filled.
- The Community Action Group has organised a street party to celebrate the Royal Wedding on April 29th. It was noted that St. George's Hall car park will not be used as was previously considered.
- It was suggested a seat is needed on the Recreation Ground. It was also noted there is no play equipment on the Rec. suitable for toddlers.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Mr. D Masters, Mrs B Horton

Borough Cllr. Mr. M Peake

2. Declaration of Interest:

Mr. P Ashman declared an interest in item 7.1.

3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 10/03/11 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from past minutes:

- Concern was raised again regarding the reported dead seagulls found near

The Oakery landfill site. When approached DEFRA were unable to state a reason for the dead birds although they were aware of the event. DEFRA and the Environment Agency will be asked about this again as it was felt there may be issues with what is sent for landfill, especially with the effects that could result from contamination to the local water supply.
- Brambles overhanging the footway along The Old Feltwell Road have been cleared. The village handyman will clear brambles from the Churchyard wall.
- Mr. J Marriage is set to repair the first of the Jubilee seats. The seat in Brookville is to be repaired first with others to follow. It is hoped it may be possible to also repair the seat at the Rec. but this could mean combining the remains of two seats.
- There remains concern that household rubbish is collected by the Borough Council from two properties along Scotts Lane, Brookville but all other residents are asked to leave their rubbish at the entrance to the lane for collection. This makes little sense.
- Mrs. D Charlesworth-Smith has contacted Elizabeth Truss MP to arrange a visit by Miss Truss to Methwold. Miss Truss will visit Methwold on Friday June 24th. This will be publicized through the Methwold Times and by posting notices.
- It was reported that the Whiteplot Road name sign has not been replaced following work undertaken by BT when it was taken down. Highways will be informed. It was also noted the surface of the footpath along Whiteplot Road is breaking up.

- Norfolk County Council Rights of Way Officer has been contacted again regarding various parish matters but he is unavailable until May to visit Methwold.
- Thanks were expressed to Mr. P Ashman for undertaking maintenance work on the Methwold Hythe notice board.

4.1 A verbal request has been expressed on behalf of Methwold Primary School for use of the Recreation Ground in June 2011 to hold a fete. A written request has been asked for but so far this has not been received therefore this matter will be an agenda item again for the May Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council voted not to grant the request until written confirmation has been received as notification is needed that the Primary School holds adequate insurance cover for the event.

4.2 A letter has been received from Methwold Community Action Group requesting part of the Rec. be established as a wildflower area. It was agreed the area which is fenced off and was the location of the old play equipment could be used. It was also agreed the position of the gates into the area could be altered if this is done with no cost to the Parish Council.

4.3 Various prices have been suggested as to what the Parish Council should expect to receive as wayleave payment for the siting of the electrical sub-station in Crown Street between the Rec. and the Churchyard. The sub-station was sited in the village in the 1940's and the original lease was for twenty five years. It is believed the lease was not ever renewed therefore the Parish Council is now in negotiations with Energy Networks to establish a new lease. Advice will be sought from a land agent.

4.4 It was agreed to officially request relocation of the post box in Crown Street from outside the former Post Office to by the Fenton Room. It will be asked whether the Parish Council can arrange resiting of the box.

5. Reports:

5.1 Chairman's Report:

- A new door closure has been fitted to the end door at the Fenton Rooms.
- The lead stolen from the roof at St. George's Hall has been replaced.
- A letter received from Simon Wright MP regarding the ongoing issue relating to a headstone wrongly positioned in the New Cemetery at Methwold was read to Councillors. The Chairman has drafted a reply which was also read out and all agreed the letter should be sent following slight suggested amendment.

5.2 Clerk's Report:

- A second working party meeting was held to further consider work needed at the Village Hall complex. A specification for decoration of the Fenton Room was compiled. Quotes for the work will now be sought. A quote for replacement of the lights in the main hall is also being requested.

- Methwold Annual Parish meeting is to be held on Wednesday April 20th.
- Fifteen candidates have been nominated for the Parish Council election to be held on May 5th 2011. Therefore there will be an election to fill the thirteen seats.

6. Accounts for March were approved for payment.

Expenditure

Payee	Net	VAT	Gross
E.ON Energy	51.02	2.55	53.57
Staff remuneration	814.34		814.34
Lighting maintenance	100.24	20.05	120.29
Inland Revenue PAYE			342.99
Anglian water - Hall			18.83
Anglian water - Cemetery			18.54
Iceni Pest Control	25.00	5.00	30.00
NALC subs			215.52
CGM	119.73	23.95	143.68
Initial Washrooms	30.00	6.00	36.00
WT Parker	375.37	75.07	450.44
Ashill Fire Protection	70.00	14.00	84.00

Income

Post Office	£51.00
Doctors	£60.00
Other hall lettings	£137.50

6.1 Mr. P Ashman has offered to undertake pest control at the Rec. for free. This offer was gratefully accepted and the present pest controller will be informed his services are no longer needed.

Discussion took place regarding pest control in the Cemetery as problems with both moles and rabbits persist. It was agreed to contact the owner of the land to the rear of the Cemetery to request permission to enter the land to undertake further pest control later in the year. Mr. Ashman will submit a quote to undertake pest control in the Cemetery on an annual contract. Other quotes will also be sought.

6.2 It was agreed to replace the non-working street light outside No. 69 Hythe Road at a cost of £155.00 plus VAT.

6.3 Two dog waste bins and associated dog fouling signs have been requested in Methwold Hythe. The suggested location of the bins will be forwarded to Highways and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk for approval. The Borough Council will also be asked to provide signage.

6.4 A review of Cemetery fees will be undertaken at the May Parish Council meeting.

6.5 The Chairman has made enquiries and it is expected that a Doctors surgery will continue to be held in Methwold although open surgery is no longer feasible as a large number of users of the surgery were not Methwold residents. Appointments to

attend Methwold surgery can be made by residents of Methwold but those from outside the village are expected to travel to Feltwell. It was agreed to replace the water heater (up to a cost of £125) in the Doctors Room at St. George's Hall as the present heater no longer works.

**7. Planning:
Applications:**

Ref. No: 11/00463/FM

Details: To create two ponds and area of hardstanding at Land South of Drift House, Severalls Road, Methwold Hythe

Permission recommended

Ref. No: 11/00536/F

Details: Provision of a prefabricated office building to include welfare facilities and services at Wissington Sugar Factor

Permission recommended

Ref. No. 11/00396/F

Details: Construction of two bungalows and garages at 3 Main Road, Brookville.

Permission recommended but with concerns regarding egress.

Amendments received to planning applications 11/00292/F Conversion of existing garage including a new roof to form a guest bedroom at Meadow View, 3 Brook Lane, Brookville and 10/0201/CU retrospective change of use to vehicle repairs, sales and residential garden use at Glebe Wood Lodge, Brandon Road, Methwold.

Notice of Decision

Ref. No. 10/02141/CU

Details: Change of use to create a nature trail at Land South of Drift House, Severalls Road, Methwold Hythe.

Permission granted

8. Correspondence:

In Folder to be passed to Councillors

1. NCC proposal to cease to maintain Hockwold Primary School and alter the lower age limit of Methwold High School.
2. Introductory e-mail received from Norfolk Wildlife Trust Conservation Officer for Methwold Wetland Trust.
3. Norfolk RCC Signpost magazine
4. WNVCA Open Day etc.
5. Norfolk Link.
6. Norfolk County Council part night lighting update
7. Localism Bill information

9. Methwold Parish Council Assets and Liabilities

Work will be undertaken to register land belonging to Methwold Parish Council.

10. Further reports/items for the next agenda:

10.1 Mr. P Ashman has organised a petition to send to Norfolk County Council Highways Department regarding concerns with White Plot Road, Methwold Hythe. County Councillor Tony White has been approached and a visit from Highways is expected.

10.2 Comment was made that chip papers are being discarded around the village and glass bottles are being broken in St. George's Hall car park.

10.3 It was noted that the drain outside Windfalls in the High Street appears blocked. This will be reported to Highways.

10.4 Mr. J Marriage provided Councillors with a proposal to undertake replacement of the present tap and provision of a further tap at the Cemetery. Money has been reserved for this project and a decision will be made at the May Parish Council meeting as to how to proceed.

10.5 It was noted that the editor of the Methwold Times has accepted submissions for publication from some Parish Council election nominees.

10.6 The problem with cars parked along the High Street on Monday market days was mentioned once again. The Police are aware of the situation but this will be an agenda item again for a future meeting when suggestions of possible ways to relieve the situation can be made.

10.7 It was noted that the advertising board for Rumbles constantly remains constrain place at Cock Corner.

10.8 The railings around the cross at Cross Hill have been replaced after being hit by a vehicle once again. Highways will be asked if bollards can be erected around the cross to protect it.