

**MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL**  
**THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012**

Present: Mr R Hood – Chairman, Mrs B Bluck, Mr J Marriage, Mr D Masters, Mr D Wortley, Mr C Stone, Ms S Stones, Mrs M Wortley, Mr C Neville, Mr J Henry, Mrs M Truss, Mrs B Horton, Mr P Ashman.

Mr M Storey – Borough Councillor  
3 members of the public

PCSO's Claire Law and Sara Clipperton were present before the start of the meeting to give an update from the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team. Crime figures for the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> to date were reported and included one report of burglary to a dwelling, two burglaries to non dwellings, two thefts from vehicles, four other thefts (relating to incidents at Methwold High School) and two incidents of violence against a person.

Thefts of number plates have occurred locally and have been used to steal fuel from petrol stations. The advice from the Police is to be vigilant and report anything suspicious on the 101 non-emergency number.

**OPEN FORUM**

- A resident of Methwold Hythe was present at the meeting to voice his objection to a planning application at 6 Old Severalls Road. Objections are that the proposed annexe at No. 2 is attached to the complainants dwelling and thus there are potential implications of noise. An increase in vehicular movement at No. 2 may result in a hazard due to parking and traffic movement on Old Severalls Road. It was suggested the resident should inform the Borough Council of his objections and the Parish Council will consider its response to the planning consultation in item 7.2.
- Petch Corner is an eyesore due to derelict buildings. The Borough Council has been made aware of this in the past and Building Control will be contacted again.
- A petition has been raised with eighty-one signatures in support of further play equipment for the Recreation Ground.

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Mr M Peake – Borough Council

**2. No Declarations of Interest made.**

**3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 09/02/12 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.**

**4. No Matters arising from past minutes.**

**5. Reports:**

5.1 Chairman's Report:

The Chairman has been 'out of action' for a while and therefore did not have a great deal to report.

- He has received communication regarding speeding vehicles in the village, parking outside Methwold High School and dog mess in Brookville.
- It was noted that the Police have requested a 3% rise to the Police aspect of Council Tax.
- The Chairman has spoken to a reporter regarding parking problems outside Methwold Primary School.

## 5.2 Clerk's Report:

- The Badminton Club has been informed that the Parish Council does not own the badminton mat but that if the mat is to be replaced with a new mat the Toddler Group may be interested in making use of the old mat.
- Fenland Leisure Products has been instructed to repair the play equipment at the Rec. as quoted and this should be undertaken very shortly.
- The Clerk and members of the Parish Council attended a seminar organised by the Borough Council regarding The Localism Act and Neighbourhood Planning. Once slides from the presentation have been sent to the Clerk they will be forwarded to Councillors.
- The Eastern Daily Press, The Bury Free Press and the King's Lynn News and Advertiser have been approached to publish a press release regarding parking problems around Methwold Primary School. A further draft press release was considered and agreed for publication if requested.

## 5.3 Reports from Working Party meetings:

*Copies of the notes from the Working Party meetings held on February 20<sup>th</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup> had previously been presented to Councillors and are filed.*

### i. Jubilee Tree for Cock Corner

Much discussion took place regarding the type of tree to plant on the green at Cock Corner to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A Home Oak has been recommended by the Open Spaces Working Party but concerns were voiced regarding the possible root growth of the tree and its spread which could block light. Residents near the suggested planting spot have not been consulted nor has the Highways Department who it is believed own the land. It was agreed by ten in favour with two abstentions to plant a Home Oak on the green by Cock Corner subject to obtaining permission from the owner of the land and undergoing investigation of possible interference with underground services by the roots.

It was agreed to also plant a Jubilee Tree in the centre of the turning circle at the Cemetery. All were in favour of planting a tulip tree in this spot.

### ii. Maintenance of the War Memorial

Mr C Stone offered to apply for a grant from the War Memorial Trust to undertake maintenance of the War Memorial.

### iii. Other matters raised at the Open Spaces Working Party Meeting

Further correspondence is awaited from the solicitor of the owner of the land in Methwold Hythe which it is hoped will become a Play Area.

The Open Spaces Working Party is continuing to research the possibility of providing a board showing the footpaths in the village and a price is being sought to provide a suitable map.

### iv. Matters raised at the Hall and General Purposes Working Party

Insulation has been installed in the roof space at the Fenton Room.

The Fenton Room has been decorated and quotes are now being sought for re-painting of the exterior of the Village Hall complex.

Quotes are also being sought for tarmacing of the Rec. car park and possible subsidence at the Village Hall continues to be investigated.

Thanks were voiced to Mr Geoff Roberts and Mr David Wortley for arranging removal of a loose coping stone at St George's Hall. It was suggested some repair may need to be undertaken to the exterior of St. George's Hall during the summer.

It was reported that mice have been seen in the foyer of St. George's Hall.

The caretaker has repaired a broken window at the Fenton Room and replaced the window grills which had been displaced.

## **6. Accounts for February were approved for payment.**

### **Expenditure**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
E.on Energy	71.98	3.60	75.58
Staff remuneration			816.67
MHB- Lighting maintenance	105.12	21.02	126.14
Anglia Insulations	1275.50	255.10	1530.60
CGM	119.73	23.95	143.68
E.on - Hall	468.98	23.45	492.43
Abacus			36.00
Viridor	75.00	15.00	90.00

### **Income**

Post Office	£51.00
Doctors	£60.00
Other Hall lettings	£25.00

Councillors were presented with an expenditure list showing money spent against the budget.

## **7. Planning:**

### **Planning applications received for consultation:**

7.1 Front porch extension, infill rear/side extension (replacing conservatory) and new detached garage in rear garden at 10 Main Road, Brookville 12/00245/F

Support

7.2 Conversion of outbuilding to form a self contained annexe at 2 Old Severalls Road, Methwold Hythe 12/00219/F

Objection

*It was agreed (with two abstentions) an objection to this application should be raised as it is likely to result in increased vehicular movement and on street parking in Old Severalls Road.*

7.3 Extension of thick juice tanks. Tanks to be cut and jacked up at Wissington Sugar Factory 12/00307/F.

Support

7.4 Construction of replacement house and removal of existing pre-fabricated chalet bungalow upon completion at 31 Holders Lane, Brookville.

Support

## **8. Correspondence**

8.1 Norfolk Rural Community Council E-newsletter.

8.2 West Norfolk Village Games 2012.

8.3 Norfolk Playing Field Association 'The Playing Field' Magazine.

8.4 Norfolk Association of Village Halls Newsletter.

8.5 WNVCA 'Lite Touch' Magazine.

8.6 Request received for use of the Rec. on June 4<sup>th</sup> for archery event. The Parish Council granted this request with the understanding that the organiser has all necessary insurance in place.

### **9. Curtains for the Fenton Room**

Some discussion took place regarding the number of projects being considered by the Parish Council at present. The cost of all projects needs to be considered and the long term budget implications must be addressed before decisions are made. It was suggested the Finance Committee should meet to consider how reserve money should be allocated to projects and priorities need to be considered with regard to any proposed spending strategy.

With this in mind it was agreed to put any proposal for new curtains for the Fenton Room in abeyance until budgeting decisions have been made.

Research will also be undertaken regarding the need to purchase fire proofed curtains and the Womens Group will also be asked if curtains could be made by members.

### **10. Storage at St. George's Hall**

It was agreed to purchase a lockable steel storage cabinet at a cost of £105 plus VAT to be placed in the boiler room at St. George's Hall for use by the caretaker for storage of cleaning materials.

However, further storage options will be considered when deciding spending priorities. It has been suggested storage cupboards should be placed in the foyer of St. George's Hall for use by regular users of the hall. It was also suggested as users are asked to clean the hall then equipment is needed to enable them to do so.

### **11. Chairs at St. George's Hall**

Mr J Marriage successfully sold eighty two of the tubular steel chairs from St. George's Hall raising £450.00. Forty two chairs remain, thirty of which could do with refurbishment. As up to two hundred and fifty chairs may be needed on occasions it was agreed, with all in favour, to purchase eighty polypropylene chairs at a cost of £1040 (this figure will be offset against the money raised through the sale of the tubular chairs). Polypropylene chairs can be stored in the container in the hall car park.

### **12. Registration of land owned by Methwold Parish Council**

It was agreed to investigate the cost of engaging a solicitor to register land owned by the Parish Council with Land Registry.

### **13. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

### **14. Further reports/items for the next agenda:**

14.1 Complaints have been received that it can be cold in the Fenton Room due to drafts experienced through the gap below the doors of the kitchen hatch.

14.2 Highway Engineer Andy Wallace visited the parish some time ago and agreed to arrange reinstatement of the White Plot Road name sign in Methwold Hythe. The sign is leaning against a garden wall rather than being positioned in the centre of the verge as originally. 'Slow Children' signs were also promised which have not yet materialised. Mr. Wallace will be contacted for an update.

14.3 Three moles have been caught on the Rec.

14.4 Minutes are being posted on the Methwold.net website and information from the old Methwold website has been transferred to the new website. A page has also been added for Methwold Parish Plan and Council policies and procedures will also be added. A calendar of hall bookings is available so use of the hall can be tracked. It was agreed, with one abstention, that a guest book should be added so communication can be made with the Parish Council via the website.

14.5 A request was made for re-location of the bottle bank. The bank is sited by the Social Club and thus this is not something the Parish Council can instigate.

14.6 Comment was made regarding the collapsed wall at Petch Corner which presents a hazard. This will be reported to Highways.

14.7 It was reported that there is often dog mess by the Post Office and on the pathway between Ventura Close and Trent VC Close. A reminder will be placed in the Methwold Times that the dog warden may be visiting the parish.

14.8 The plastic guttering down pipe has been dislodged at the rear of the Fenton Room and it was suggested it may be beneficial to replace the plastic pipe with metal which might be more resilient to footballs being kicked against it.

14.9 In appreciation of free use of the hall complex a First Aid kit has been donated by Methwold Community Action Group for use in St. George's Hall.

*As the meeting had been running for two hours it was agreed to suspend Standing Order no.1z allowing the meeting to continue.*

*A resolution was passed to exclude the public to discuss matters relating to Methwold Cemetery and to consider quotes for work at St. George's Hall.*

1. Playground Project

Some discussion took place regarding the progress regarding provision of further play equipment in the parish. It was noted that funding research was not available free of charge as first believed and thus with the need to consider prioritisation of reserve money it was decided to postpone any decision regarding allocation of any money towards further play equipment. Quotes have been received for possible new play equipment and the Open Spaces Working Party will consider what is offered.

It was noted Methwold Recreation Group holds around £4000 which could be released towards new equipment and if this was matched by the Parish Council there would be a stronger case for attracting grant funding.

2. Maintenance work/replacement kitchen for St. George's Hall.

It was suggested further work for St. George's Hall will be considered once reserve money has been allocated.

3. 2012 Grounds Maintenance Contract

Having received four quotes it was agreed to continue with the grounds maintenance contractor engaged in previous years as they offered the most competitive price.