

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
THURSDAY 12TH JULY 2012

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

6 members of the public

OPEN FORUM

- Letters from residents of Brookville were presented asking that the current 40mph speed limit be extended along the north west of the B1112 through Brookville to encompass the two properties at True Hill and the north end of Brook Lane. This request will be passed to Highways.
- It was noted the 'No Cycling' signs along the cemetery path at the entrance to Globe Street are obliterated and are in need of replacing. Cyclists have been tearing through the gap and the Open Spaces Working Party was tasked with researching the cost of regravelling this part of the path to deter cyclists.
- Concern was raised regarding the deteriorating condition of buildings at Petch Corner. The Borough Council has been made aware of this previously but Building Control will be informed again that walls are crumbling onto the footpath.
- The question of whether any proposed new play equipment at the Recreation Ground should be fenced was raised and it was stated that this matter is still under consideration. A public meeting is to be held on July 23rd at 7pm in the Fenton Room to discuss the proposals for new play equipment.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Mrs B Bluck, Mrs M Wortley.

Mr M Peake – Borough Councillor

It was noted Mrs M Truss has resigned as a member of Methwold Parish Council. It was agreed a letter of thanks should be sent to Mrs Truss for her service to the Parish Council.

2. No Declarations of Interest made

3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 14/06/12 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from past minutes:

- Comment was made regarding the accuracy of the minutes from the meeting held on 14/06/12. It was agreed any clarification which might be included by the Clerk should in future be identified in some manner.

5. Reports:

5.1 Chairman's Report:

- The Chairman has attended meetings of the Working Parties and the Parish Council Finance Committee. He has also met with the caretaker of the Village Hall and discussion has taken place regarding the need to replace flashing on the roof of the boiler room at the Hall.
- The Chairman has also approached the electrician who fitted the Frost Stat regarding checking that the Frost Stat is working correctly.
- The hand railings at the back door of the Hall need some maintenance work.

5.2 Clerk's Report:

- Documents relating to the Wayleave agreement for the sub-station adjacent to St. George's Churchyard have been returned to the solicitor acting for the electrical company and a response is awaited.
- A further letter has been received from the owners of No. 57 Globe Street regarding a hard access across Lower Green; the contents of which was made known to the Council. The advice from solicitor Nicholas Hancox was that a new right of way across Lower green should be paid for and if any slabs were to be laid they should be laid professionally, to make sure they would be safe and a legal agreement would be needed. The owners of No. 57 have stated that they do not wish to progress the project and thus the Parish Council resolved by six votes in favour (three abstentions) not to discuss this matter further.
- The Clerk is reviewing risk assessment procedures and documentation. The generic risk assessment supplied by NALC has been adapted and risk assessment for the Village Hall will be updated. It was noted an annual fire extinguisher check is undertaken by Ashill Fire Protection Ltd which is now due and the annual play equipment inspection which is contracted through the Borough Council should be undertaken in August.
- The Clerk is booked to attend a course entitled 'Grave Matters'. The Parish Council will be asked to pay one third of the £25.00 fee for the course.
- The Clerk has met with Highway Engineer Andy Wallace and has passed on concerns raised at previous Council meetings. Mr. Wallace has said that 'trods' are not sprayed with weed killer by the Highway department as they are not official footways. The Highway Inspector is due to inspect the Methwold area and pot holes should be noted during his inspection. The Highway Rangers should be in the village the week commencing August 6th.
- The pest controller formally used by the Parish Council has been asked to provide a quote to eradicate moles from the Cemetery. The Clerk has made contact with a ferret handler who would be willing to use ferrets to cull rabbits in the Cemetery in the autumn.
- Communication has been received from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk regarding changes to the refuse collection. Marketing & development Manager, Hayley Kurt, has offered to visit a Parish Council meeting to explain changes. She will be asked why there is a need to visit the parish as this would involve funding which it was thought could be put to better use.

5.3 The Report from the Hall and General Working Party meeting held on June 18th was considered and accepted as part of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting. The report is attached as appendix A.

- Some discussion took place regarding the possible subsidence of the Fenton Room extension. The gauges attached to the walls of the Fenton Room to monitor possible movement have shown no indication of a problem but it is felt cracks on the internal wall of the ladies toilet may be getting wider. The Parish Council is to seek quotes for a test pit to be dug in the car park at the end of the Fenton Room to investigate whether there is a problem with the drains. This matter will be an agenda item for the August meeting of the Parish Council.
- Other matters as listed in the Working Party Report were considered and will be acted on as noted.

5.4 The Report from the Open Spaces Working Party meeting held on June 28th 2012 was considered and accepted as part of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting. The report is attached as appendix B.

- Mr C Stone expanded on points raised at the Working Party meeting. It is hoped any new play equipment provided at the Recreation Ground could be maintained through money raised from recycling banks which could be provided in the village. The meeting was briefly suspended to

allow a member of the public to contribute. The Parish Council was informed that the Borough Council provide the bottle bank by the entrance to Methwold Social Club. It had been thought the Social Club received income from the bank but this is not so and further investigation will be undertaken regarding this matter.

- The WREN grant application to provide further play equipment at the Recreation Ground is progressing well.
- Regarding use of the Recreation Ground by Methwold United for the 2012/13 season it was agreed by all to charge £1 per Home Team member per match (£11). The Club will be contracted to a) level and re-seed the used goal areas, b) ensure that a thorough litter sweep is conducted after every home match and c) if the Club wishes to change the position of the pitch the exact new position of the pitch must be agreed with the Council and the Club is to be responsible for moving and re-setting the goal posts which must be inspected by the Council.
- Some discussion took place regarding the need to provide access points to the Recreation Ground for wheelchair users.
- It was requested that quotes be obtained for trimming the hedge at Methwold Cemetery.
- Comment was made regarding the recent repair to the Churchyard wall as part of the repair has cracked. It was noted the specification did not ask for the wall to be topped but the contractor will be made aware of the cracking.

6. Accounts for June were approved for payment.

Expenditure

Payee	Net	VAT	Gross
Staff remuneration			719.30
IR - PAYE			269.63
CGM	119.73	23.95	143.68
Viridor	216.62	43.32	259.94
Initial Washrooms	31.47	6.29	37.76
Viking	72.15	14.43	86.58
Anglianwater			107.46
Anglianwater			15.05

Income

Post Office	£51.00
Doctors	£60.00
Other Hall lettings	£50.00

Councillors were presented with an up to date expenditure spreadsheet.

6.1 It was agreed by all to withdraw item 6.1.

6.2 It was agreed a mound should be added to the upper end of the zip wire at the Recreation Ground as in the drawing presented up to an estimated cost of £150.

7. Planning:

Applications for consideration

7.1 British Sugar Plc, Wisington Sugar Factory: Amendments to planning approval C/2/2001/2030 to include alterations to conveyors and pipe racks, mix tanks, ensilement/storage area layout, engineering works and piping associated with the anaerobic digestion lagoon, revision of digestate

3420/08/2012

handling and storage buildings/layout, waste water treatment plant layout, biogas handling structures and layout and an increase in the area to accommodate the construction compound

PP/C/2/2012/2003

Support

Notice of Decisions

7.2 Construction of a steel framed sheeted building to act as enclosure around the discharge point of the limex 70 conveyor at Wissington Sugar Factory, College Road, Wereham 12/00813/F

Permission granted

Notification received that the planning application for proposed storage buildings at the Workshops, Brandon Road, Methwold has been withdrawn.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Flyer regarding the Community Conservation Grant 2012-13. Information can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk

8.2 To report a problem with a public right of way: <https://online.norfolk.gov.uk/prowproblem/>

8.3 EDP "Pride in Norfolk" awards 2012 - information e-mailed to Councillors

9. Code of Conduct

It was agreed to accept the new Code of Conduct as adopted by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk.

10. Further Reports /items for the next agenda:

10.1 The Highway Engineer will be approached again regarding maintenance of the trod between Methwold and Methwold Hythe.

10.2 Some discussion took place regarding who is responsible for cutting the grass by the notice board in Methwold Hythe.

10.3 Five moles have been caught on the Rec.

10.4 Road markings have been re-painted in the High street but holes have not been filled in.

10.5 Quotes are being sought for pest control in the cemetery.

10.6 Youths have spray painted equipment at the Recreation Ground. However, having been identified, those responsible have cleaned the equipment. The parents of the children are to be thanked for their quick intervention.

10.7 Pot holes are still in need of repair in Ventura Close and along the Feltwell Road. It was also noted Petch Corner has again been flooded during heavy rain.

10.8 One of the metal frames over one of the windows at the Fenton Room needs to be secured.

It was necessary on two occasions to suspend Standing Order No. 1z to allow the meeting to continue past 9.30pm.

Resolution to exclude the public to consider the following:

1. Quotes received for decoration of the doctors surgery at St. George's Hall

Two quotes have been received for re-decoration of the doctor's surgery. It was agreed to accept the cheaper of the two quotes. However there may be an additional cost as following a leak the ceiling of the doctors room needs some repair. It was agreed that a further £150 should be allocated to allow for the repairs to the ceiling. A plumber has been contacted regarding repairing the leak and Mr. Marriage will liaise with the decorator regarding the additional work to the ceiling.

2. Street lighting maintenance contract

The firm used by the Parish Council to undertake street lighting maintenance has gone into liquidation. Three quotes have been received for future maintenance contracts. It was agreed to accept the lowest quote which also offered a three year fixed price contract.