

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
THURSDAY 11th JULY 2013

Agreed D. Masters to take the minutes

Present: Mr. R Hood-Chairman, Mr. P Ashman, Mr. D Wortley, Mrs B Bluck, Mrs B. Horton, Mr. C Neville –Vice-Chairman Mr. C Williams, Mr. J Marriage, Mrs M Wortley, Mr. C Stone, Mr. D Masters, Mrs S. Stones, Mr. D Thomas

Mr. M Storey Borough Councillor
No public present

OPEN FORUM

PCSO Claire Law reported the following:

The summer holidays are approaching. She will be visiting Methwold Primary School to talk about “stranger danger”. On the alert for anti social behaviour, there will be an increased presence but please inform of any issues on the 101 number.

There was a bogus caller claiming to be from Anglian Water, remember to always ask for I.D.

S. Stone has heard rumours of dog napping in the Feltwell area, PCSO unaware of any problem in Methwold but will investigate further.

1. **Apologies** Councillor M. Peak

2. **Declarations of Interest made:** None

3. **The Minutes of the meeting held on 13.6.13 were agreed as a true record of the meeting**
J. Marriage commented that the Clerks contract needs to be discussed.

4. **Reports:**

4.1 Chairman's Report

- Mr. Hood has made visits to the Cemetery
- Helped with the repair of hall chairs
- It has been a quiet month

4.2 Clerk's Report:

Was read in the Clerks absence:

- Has not sent out the quotes for fencing as ran out of time
- All village bookings are up to date as of 5.7.13
- Internal Auditor reported that everything is good, no issues with the accounts that were presented.
- Will complete a financial report for the finance meeting on the 31st July.
- Stamped addressed envelopes are attached with the cheques for invoices, if they can be sent out, the invoice and the cheque need to be put in the envelope.

4.3 Report from the Open Spaces Working Group:

- The policy on the cemetery to be circulated and raised at next meeting
- Recommend that policy be for 2'6 as norm with 3' headstones max.
- Flower stands, variety of types, prefer to have flower container in headstone area. Accept that family may wish to have flower containers in other areas. Acceptable while graves are maintained but reserve right to re position to headstone area when graves are not being maintained.
- A discussion took place around essential issues
- The cemetery rules to be taken to next Parish council meeting for approval.
- A question was raised as to whether or not the Cemetery is consecrated ground, it is not clear.

Mr. C. Williams reported on work undertaken in the cemetery:

- At a recent funeral Mr. Williams spoke with Mr. Bowers and his hearse driver
- The hearse was measured, the length and wheelbase were about 70 cm longer than my Volvo
- Mr. Bowers and the hearse driver are both happy with the turning area as it is.
- The hearse did a three point turn easily
- The extra room being created will ensure that there is sufficient room for the larger hearses.
- The ground needs leveling slightly and a short gravel track laid
- Mr. Bowers confirmed that the only problem on the Avenue approach was the small twigs which protruded from the bottom of the trees
- The twigs have been cut back and also the ivy to prevent growth but a permanent solution will be required
- A few headstones have fallen onto their faces, is there a way to get them turned face up as they are quite old and unlikely to have close relatives alive?
- War Memorial grant application has been sent off, name change relatives have been approached for a donation and Times contacted re objections to name being changed
- Oliver Lovelock the wrong name was born George Alva Lovelock in Kingston upon Thames around 1907 from memory
- The mystery of Martin Obenauer has been solved
- The trim is completed on the entry track hedge, the hedge on the other side of the cemetery does not protrude onto the adjacent path and can be left for a while

Recreation ground as report, Mrs Griffin to head up Friends of the Recreation Group
Point 4 & 5 as written in the open spaces minutes

Assets to hall and Working Group

Church walls, funding is being sought

4.4 Report from the Hall and General Party Working Group:

- No recommendations
- Report as written
- Clarified that the £3,000 grant towards storage has been approved
- Problems concerning the repair/maintenance of church wall discussed
- Hall and working Group and Finance committee need to consider priorities
- Open spaces group to seek funding for the wall

4.4 Report from the Finance Committee

The Finance committee had produced objective, it was agreed that the Finance committee could proceed with the document and report back on progress.

5. To consider the War Memorial-name change/update

The grant application has been submitted.

Consultation on name change through Methwold times; to Open Spaces group

5.1 To consider the procurement policy

The proposed policy circulated and read out amendment to raise amount from £50 to £100. The Proposal was accepted. Policy approved by Councillors, 1 abstained.

6. Internal Auditor report

No Internal Auditor report to consider, reported in Clerks report.

6.1 accounts to be considered for July 2013

Payee	Net	Inland Revenue	VAT	Gross	Mileage
Phil Ashman	30.00			30.00	
Collier Turf Care	1590.00		318.00	1908.00	
Stannard Services	190.00			190.00	
A1 Engraving Ltd	55.00		11.00	66.00	
EON (streetlighting June)	133.55		25.64	159.19	
Staff Remuneration including expenses	1125.26	15.60		1140.86	
Glasdon (dog bin)	92.95		18.59	111.54	
Total	3216.76	15.60	373.23	3605.59	0

Direct Debit advice

Initial Washrooms

39.61

Income	
M Bennett	5.25
P. J. Elliott Branch Joinery	360.00
Hall Hire- Long Term	
Lazy Days April & May 13	84.00
Scamps Nov/Dec 12/Jan/Feb 13	130.00
Amateur Dramatics (May 2013)	125.75
Methwold Bowls Club (April & May 13)	84.00
Hall Hire (one off booking)	
V. Curston	10.50
C M Jamieson	21.00
T Fairburn	21.00
J. Martin	21.00
L G & K H Curr	80.00
BKLWN	45.00
Weatherley & Burge	21.00
EVENT	
Football Club	107.20
BBQ	121.55
Total income	1,237.25

Accounts accepted for payment all councillors agreed.

7. Planning:

To receive planning decisions: two received, permission granted

7.1 Applications for consideration:

Replacement of a single storey brick garage with tiled roof at 14 Lancaster Close Methwold
Thetford Norfolk IP26 4NZ-support

7.2 To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was produced:

Construction of dwelling, retaining front wall, replace barn, 32 Hythe Road, support

8. Correspondence

Letter re Right of Way passing under Flint House- write to A. Wallace and notify people who wrote the letter.

Waste reduction office, CS to report to OS

Light source email

Fields in Trust-Clerk to complete and return, copy to go to deeds.

9. Further Reports:

Clerks contract, comments, include admin duties for Cemetery

Contract approved unanimously

C. Stone: CGM hedge cutting quotes not received yet, two individuals have approached offering to quote.

Agreed to wait a further month, draw up specification for the job, C. S. to pass to Clerk for tendering.

J. Marriage: Modification of heating systems, still no reply from second contractor

Councillors agreed, 1 abstained, that subject to no further quotes being received to go with the 1 quote received.

P.A: Resident M.H. wishes to continue with cutting grass but would like the overhanging foilage cut back.

P. Ashman: To liaise with SS to include path in specification fro cemetery hedge

2 moles in cemetery, 1 at the recreation Ground

C. Neville: 131 Hythe Road, light out, plot between 58 and 60 Hythe Road overgrown, needs cutting.

CGM shrub at Bramble barn needs replacing.

C. Williams: Several fallen headstones face down, can we lay them on their back, refer to Open Spaces. It was confirmed that a German POW was exhumed from the cemetery and was reburied at Cannoch Chase Memorial site. Parish Records amended to reflect this.

Street light No. 36 near Far Hill, light on and No 14 light on Ventura Close footpath out: the Clerk to report.

Meeting Closed