

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
THURSDAY 9th JANUARY 2013

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

1 member of the public
Mr Hood welcomed all to the meeting

OPEN FORUM

- There is a pot hole in the road at Cock Corner on the junction of C41 and the B1106
 - Water is collecting at Ventura Close, Hythe Road Action Clerk to inform Highway Rangers
1. **Apologies:** None
 2. **Declarations of Interest made:** Mr Stone, Church wall, backs on to his house
 - 2.1 Dispensations: none
 3. **The Minutes of the meeting held on 12.12.13 were agreed as a true record of the meeting**
Minutes approved, proposed by Mr Ashman, seconded by Mr Marriage, all Councillors agreed.
 4. **Reports:**
 - 4.1 **Chairman's Report:**
 - The insurance is due for renewal at a cost of £2,219.92 for a three year deal; have received a letter from Aon asking if they could quote, after a discussion it was agreed to get a quote from Aon, if they did not beat Came and Company to opt for a three year deal, if the quote is less than the three year deal to opt for the cheapest quote, all Councillors agreed. Action Clerk to obtain quote
 - 4.2 **Clerk's Report:**
 - Letters had been sent out for kitchen quotes
 - Letters still to be sent, Highways and fire exit doors.
 - 4.3 **To receive an update from the Open Spaces working Party and agree any action.** Mr Stone reported:
 - No meeting was held in December
 - Thanked Mr Ashman for re-setting the concrete block in the playground.
 - A meeting date to be set to discuss the Handyman position
Action: Mr Hood, Mr Ashman, Mr Marriage, Mr Stone and the clerk to set a date
 - Would need an K Frame rather than a A Frame barrier for the entrance to the recreation ground, which would cost approximately £1,000 plus installation.
 - The footpath repairs would not meet the criteria for the Parish Partnership fund as the footpath would need to adjoin the carriageway.
 - 4.4 **Report from the Hall and General Party Working Group to include recommendations made at the meeting on 6.01.2014.** Mr Marriage reported:
 - The Hall Working Party did not meet in January they are due to meet on the 6th February.
 - The roof over the boiler room had needed to be repaired, had sought agreement with Mr Hood; eight tiles were lost, which were replaced.
 - There had been a leak in St George's Hall, a tile was missing; contractor had viewed and needs to use a cherry picker to repair the work. Mr Marriage is concerned that a rotten roof baton was found; there may be more which could lead to unknown costs. The tile is back in place. It was noted that if there is more wind tiles may displace again.
 - 4.5 **Report from the Finance Committee to include recommendations made at the meeting on 09.01.2014 to include approval of the 2014/15 budget and precept:** Mr Hood reported:
 - The Clerk had done a lot of work on the accounts
 - Mindful that a lot of money has been spent this year, which includes money spent on decorating, inside and outside and the chafer bugs treatment.

- Will still be receiving a grant from West Norfolk Borough Council, albeit reduced from last year.
- Councillors had an in depth discussion on the figures at the Finance meeting, the majority of Councillors thought a 15% per cent increase was needed, some individuals thought a 10% increase.
- Trying to get grants for the church wall, a contribution from the PCC and a definitive answer as to whose responsibility it is.
- A comment was made that if it were not for the church wall would not need much of an increase, it is not just about the Church wall, there is a problem with the roof, costs are unknown, but if there are more rotten batons, the cost could be considerable, money is needed for contingencies. Tree maintenance is important as it is a safety issue.
- The precept may be capped, the grant is decreasing, Parish Council has a lot of responsibilities, recommend between 10 % and 15% is a reasonable figure.

Mr Ashman proposed the precept be set at £34,558.31, Mr Marriage seconded, Mr Stone abstained, all other Councillors agreed. An article is to be put in the newsletter clarifying the figures.

5. Accounts to be considered for approval of payment: January 2014

Payee	Net	Protection Plus	VAT	Income Tax	Gross
Phil Ashman	30.00				30.00
K & M lighting Services(January 2014)	102.35		20.47		122.82
Staff remuneration	859.84			112.40	972.24
Staff Mileage	20.25				20.25
Eon Streetlighting	73.36		3.67		77.03
Anglian Water (Cemetery)3/10/2013-30/12/2013	16.57				16.57
Anglian Water (St George's Hall)3/10/2013-30/12/2013	53.00				53.00
Viking (ink cartridges)	46.98	1.48	9.69		58.15
Mrs Maguire stamps 12x 1st 12x 2nd	13.20				13.20
Sub Total	1215.55	1.48	33.83	112.40	1363.26
Direct Debit Rentokil (initial Washroom Solutions) 27/12/2013	34.63		6.93		41.56
TOTAL	1250.18	1.48	40.76	112.40	1404.82

INCOME				
Hall Hire (Multiple Bookings)				
Lazy Days	£126.00			
Sub Total	£126.00			
Standing Orders Hall Hire				
Doctors (January 2014)	£60.00			
Direct Credits Hall Hire				
Post Office (30 December 2013)	£51.00			
Sub Total	£111.00			
Hall Hire (one off booking)				
Stevenson	£27.00			
Vowles	£13.50			
AHDB	£36.75			
Sub Total	£77.25	TOTAL INCOME HALL		£314.25
Recreation Hire				
Methwold Football Club	£44.00			

Sub Total	£44.00	TOTAL INCOME REC		£44.00
Friends of Playground	£50.00			

The Clerk went through the payments, the invoices and cheques were checked by Mrs Horton.

Action: The Clerk to try ESPO for cartridges, let Mr Williams know how many are used so he can get a price.

To stop Protection Plus on Viking as it is not needed.

Payments approved, proposed by Mrs Horton, seconded by Ms Wortley, all Councillors agreed.

5.1 Accounts update: none

5.2 To consider the letter from Age UK and agree any action: The council have given to them in the past; three residents were known to have been helped by Age UK. It was noted that the Council would rather help local organisations and that a donation policy is needed. It was proposed by Mr Masters that a donation is not given, seconded by Mr Ashman, all Councillors agreed.

6 To give an update on the Cemetery and agree any action:

- Mr Williams is still looking into the headstone query
- The track to the car park is very muddy, car lost traction.
- The location for dumping soil was raised. The soil is at the rear of the shed it does not obstruct the right of way. Action: Mr Williams to liaise with Open Spaces on the placing of the soil.
- Mr Stone queried why the Cemetery was on the full Council agenda as it is on the monthly Open Spaces agenda.

7. **To Receive Planning Decisions:** Replacement dwelling at Lime Kiln Farm 23 Whiteplot Road Methwold Hythe, refusal of planning permission. Removal of telephone kiosk - final notification High Hedges at Lancaster Park Methwold-appeal dismissed

7.1 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was produced: High Fen Thorndon Road, Methwold, addressed to Northwold but Northwold Councillors have said it is not in their Parish; no objections, support. Action: Clerk to query why it was not sent to Methwold

12/01824/F at 5a Main Road Methwold for "Raised eaves loft conversion to existing bungalow, hence forming 'chalet' bungalow, pitched roof to existing flat roofed detached double garage. It was noted that virtually everything has been knocked down and it does not look like an extension.

Action: Clerk to write to planning

7 **To Receive an update and agree action on the Lightsource Community Benefit payment:** Waiting for documents from Lightsource.

8

9 Correspondence

Article on snow (frequently asked questions) and dog fouling to be summarised: put in Methwold Times. Planning training sessions to be held at South Lynn Community Centre, Kings Lynn; Mr Marriage and Mr Ashman to attend 10th February 6-8pm, Clerk to attend 11th February 9am-12pm.

Funding event 31st January at Downham Market, Mr Stone to attend

Email received suggesting Councillor surgeries should be held, an in depth discussion took place,

Action: Clerk to reply to email, Councillors are considering the request and query why resident has not attended Parish Council meetings, where questions can be asked

10. Any Further Reports/for information only:

P.A Three moles caught on the recreation ground and two in the Cemetery. The road to Brandon, the edge is breaking down Action: Clerk to put on Highway Rangers list

B.B. Latest on the fire alarm, clarified that Mr Marriage will follow up.

S.S A resident has sent thanks for getting the lights repaired at Herbert Drive

M.W Concern over the amount of times the Doctors visit the village, parishioners are asking when the Doctors will be reintroducing Thursday surgeries. Action: Clerk to speak to Practice Manager

B.H Age Concern sent a temperature gauge to put in her sitting room, which was not asked for.

Meeting closed 8.50pm.