

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER 2014

Present: Mr R Hood Chairman, Mr C Neville, Mr. P Ashman, Mrs M Wortley, Mr D Wortley, Mr C Williams, Mrs S. Stone, Mr D Masters.

PCSO

Mr M Storey

Mr M Peake

4 members of the public attended

Mr Hood - Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

OPEN FORUM: PCSO reported that PCSO Writer attended the meeting on the 4th December to discuss the speeding in Brookville, the Safety Camera is sited in Brookville regularly. Brookville was offered Community Speed Watch but this was refused.

Vandalism-PCSO Law reports that between May and November there were 7 reports of criminal damage 3 of these were arson and 4 others this makes the average 1 per month which is lower than many other villages.

27 Hythe Road Methwold - derelict property, the Council are involved and the building had been made secure but it has since been broken into and it is now not safe, PCSO reported that the building should be sold within the next 4-6 weeks. Observation from Parish Councillor - there have been 4 new notices put up at this address in past few days, PCSO to have a look at these to find out what they are.

PCSO Law is to meet with the David Farrow - Arson Reduction officer on 18.12.14, in Methwold there have been 5 fires in the last 5 years, 3 of these recently at 27 Hythe Road.

Police Direct has now changed to Police Connect, this is the weekly information service about incidents in the area. If already registered on Police Direct you will need to re-register with Police Connect, this can be done on the Norfolk Constabulary website, the Parish Clerk has some forms for those who prefer to apply by post.

A resident presented her plan to start a Youth Group to the Parish Council, the Parish Council have passed this onto the Hall and General Party Working Group for consideration prior to it coming back to the full Parish Council. Clerk to send a letter to the resident to update.

3 Residents from Chapel Lane attended the meeting, they are concerned about the development at The Chapel/Sunday School, the pavement and junction are congested with cars and Lorries and the Owner of the Chapel has erected bollards adjacent to the wall which runs along Chapel Lane, resident are having issues with delivery services refusing to drive up Chapel Lane and this has caused some residents additional costs because they have had to change suppliers. Emergency services probably would not be able to access Chapel Lane if they were called out.

Highways have informed the Parish Council that Chapel Lane is unadopted and therefore not under their remit.

It was reported that the variation of planning notice was put up on 20th October but no sign has been seen by residents. The gravestones which were in the ground were removed in 2013 and are still piled up on the site. The Parish Council were asked what they think about the bollards being erected in the centre of village conservation area and how can the Parish Council help the residents? The residents explained that they feel very alone in trying to resolve the problems they are experiencing as the Owner of The Chapel is not being very helpful.

The Chairman responded saying that the Parish Council are doing what they can to assist but their powers are limited. The Clerk received an email from a resident this was forwarded onto the Environment Planning and Enforcement Officers at KLBC and they have opened a case and will be investigating.

The Chairman has suggested that the resident all get together and take on a Solicitor to look at their rights of way regarding Chapel Lane.

Apologies: Mr J Marriage, Mr D Thomas, Mr C Stone, Mrs B Bluck Mrs B Horton

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

3. **The Minutes of the meeting held on 13.11.14 were agreed as a true record of the meeting**
Minutes approved, proposed by D Masters, seconded by P Ashman, all Councillors agreed.

4. Matters arising from past minutes:- none

5. Reports:

5.1 Chairman's Report: Brookville speeding - 3 residents from Brookville, Chairman, 3 Parish Councillors, Highways, Police, the Neighbourhood Officer Community Safety & Neighbourhood Nuisance and the Clerk met to discuss the speeding issue in Brookville. The 40mph speed limit is inside the village therefore vehicles coming from Stoke Ferry can legally travel at 60mph until they are past where the houses start. There is going to be a school for a small amount of children with special needs opening outside the 40mph limit. What can be done to slow the traffic down before it gets to Brookville? Highways have said they have to work to their strategy and believe that the 40mph signs are sited correctly but have agreed to check this. The speed limit can only be changed after a legal process has been followed.

Flashing signs would cost approx. £6000.

The Parish Council suggested putting white picket fencing gates at the side of the road on the outskirts of Brookville, Highways have said this could be done using 50/50 funding from the Parish Council and the Parish Partnership, approximate cost for each gate is £500. The Clerk has priced up the cost of material and this is approx. £250 the Clerk will pursue this option.

Moving the Post box was discussed because people are having to cross the road when it is busy to post letters but to move it to across the road could cause a problem for those who live on the other side.

Cemetery - A Councillor reported that the Cemetery was looking untidy because of the leaves that are laying on the ground, the Chairman reported that the Handyman will clear these when all the leaves have fallen of the trees.

Chairman has received a call from The Lynn News, this has prompted him to ask if there a policy or mandate that can be when contacted by the Press? This will be looked at with a view to putting something into Standing Orders, Chairman to write this and it will be discussed/agreed at the January meeting.

5.2 Clerk's Report: Clerk is to circulate a written report to all Councillors a few days before the full Parish Council meeting. This gives an update to all actions carried out by Clerk in the previous month.

BT is now set up to be paid by direct debit.

Anglian Water-more discussions on supply to Recreation ground, waiting for them to come out and look at old meter points as these can be used for water supply.

Reported to PCSO - Vandalism, suspicious car.

Sent notices to Methwold Times and to DT for publication on Parish Page - West Norfolk Community Transport Bus Times and 'Choose me not A&E campaign'

Arranged additional cut to Recreation ground - grass is too long for football match to take place.

Discussed dog fouling with PCSO & KLBC Cleanup re: Man allowing dog to foul along Old Feltwell Road and not clearing up, will need evidence or written statements and the Man's name and address then the Police can issue a fixed penalty fine.

Fire Alarm Services - Engineer has been out and serviced the alarms, 2 new batteries were required.

Brickwork at front of St Georges Hall - discussed possible start date with Contractor this will be in the New Year.

Chapel Lane bollards - contacted the Planning Officer and Environment Officer, forwarded email received from resident in Chapel Lane, KLBC have opened a case to investigate the bollards, Informed resident that KLBC Environment Officer has opened a case to investigate.

Clerk joined Police Connect, an email is received weekly informing of any incidents locally, this is circulated to all Councillors with email facility.

Black Fiat Panda parking in the Cemetery car park, the driver has been seen going through the hedge and into the Academy, Clerk has spoken with the Academy who think this belongs to a student and have asked them not to park there they will talk to students and ask them not to park there.

Reported potholes at Cock Corner and in Brookville to Highways.

Reported streetlight out in White Road and another one in Ventura/Trent VC Close

Attended New Clerks Training Day

5.3 Report from Open Spaces Working Party with recommendations made at the meeting on 27th November 2014. Recreation Ground-repair to bin and bench after these were vandalised, Clerk to contact Contractor to ask for quote to set in concrete.

Playground mats - The Fire Brigade had been asked to clean the mats previously but have not been able to.

The mats may need to be replaced Mr Marriage has contacted the Supplier and he will update at the next meeting. As a safety precaution for this winter sand has been put down to give some grip until the problem can be resolved.

Railings around the cross - Mr Stone has offered to paint this if the Parish Council purchase the paint, this will be done in Spring 2015.

Cemetery skip-The skip in the Cemetery is provided to dispose of green waste and other non hazardous waste from the Cemetery, the Parish Council have been asked by the Company that supplies the skip to sign a 'Duty of Care' document saying that they are responsible for any items placed into the Cemetery skip, this means that if anyone dumps hazardous waste in the skip the Parish Council are liable and will have to pay for the disposal of this waste, this could be very expensive. For anyone who is thinking of putting items into the skip instead of going to the Council rubbish tips where it can be handled properly PLEASE DO NOT USE THE CEMETERY SKIP TO DISPOSE OF YOUR RUBBISH. Notice to be put up in Cemetery to remind people of this. Form has been signed by Chairman on behalf of Parish Council.

The Old Felthwell Road Sign has been pulled off, the posts are rotten, Clerk to contact Highways.

Seats for Fair Hill-Chair asked Clerk not to place the order for the seats until a decision as to the placement of each seat has been agreed and all deposits have been secured with a written agreement to pay the remainder of the cost or the full cost of the seat has been paid. The cost of each seat is £365 Discuss at next Open Spaces meeting.

Cemetery Rules-as instructed the Clerk has sent letters and Cemetery regulations to two grave owners regarding vases and ornaments. A Councillor has photographs of several graves which are not complying with Cemetery rules. Another Councillor explained that after a recent burial the family has erected wire netting around a grave, this is to stop rabbits from disturbing the soft bare soil where the headstone has been removed for the inscription to be added and destroying the flowers which are on the grave. The Parish Council agreed that the rules have to be interpreted with compassion and have agreed that the wire netting on this grave can remain for the next 4-5 weeks.

Funeral Directors are supposed to show families a copy of the Cemetery Rules and have to sign Cemetery regulations Form 1A Section C to say they have done this. Clerk to write to all Funeral Directors to remind them of this. Cemetery Rules to be discussed at next Open Spaces meeting.

Next Meeting is Thursday 22nd January 2015 at 19.30

5.4 Report from the Hall and General Party Working Group to include recommendations made at the meeting on 4th December. Kitchen Quotes-Mr Ashman declared an interest but it was decided there was no need for him to leave the meeting because no names or figures are to be discussed. A small group met to go through each quote to ensure they all quoted for the same specification and to choose the ones that are going to be put forward with the application for the kitchen funding, no quote was accepted from any one contractor.

Carpet in lobby, stairs and landing-the carpet has become a safety issue and needs to be replaced as soon as possible. There is no Spec. The Clerk is to ask Carpet Suppliers to measure and quote for heavy duty carpet and fitting. Proposed D Wortley seconded D masters and P Ashman.

Brickwork-St George's Hall the Contractor hope to start this in January, this is depending on the weather.
Next meeting is Thursday 15th January 2015 at 7.30pm

6. Finance -

6.1 Accounts Update - Income and Invoice list approved by all.

6.2 Approval of payments - Income & Invoice list approved by all.

7. To receive planning decisions - None

7.1 To consider any planning applications - None

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

14/01738/O Proposed residential development for one dwelling and associated parking areas at Land South East of 11 White Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PA - Councillors commented that this looks tight on the site but visually should not affect others. Council agreed to support application.

8 Correspondence-J Marriage has agreed to take on Vice Chair until May 2015.

Finance Committee - To be added to next full Parish Council Agenda.

Alcohol Licence - D Thomas has circulated additional text to all Councillors regarding Alcohol on the premises, proposal for this to be added to booking forms. To be added to next full Parish Council Agenda.

Chairman has asked for this to be discussed at next Open Spaces meeting as it may be relevant to any future Recreation Ground bookings.

CPRE- Clerk has received a questionnaire 'Light Pollution Ten Years On' all Councillors will receive a copy for completion which the Clerk will collate and complete.

Meeting closed 9.05 pm
