

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE 21 ROOM ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX
THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: D Thomas –Chairman, J Marriage –Vice Chairman, R Gibson, R Hood, P Crawley, D Charlesworth-Smith, S Burbridge, T Thomas, S Stones, B Horton, K Plumridge, C West
3 members of the public

The Chair and welcomed all to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

A Contractors business sign has been fixed to the bollards on the island at Cock Corner, does this need planning permission?

1. To receive and consider accepting apologies for absence - None
2. Declaration of Interest - Councillors invited to declare any interest in any item on the agenda - None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2018 as a true record of the meeting – D Charlesworth-Smith proposed to accept the minutes, R Gibson seconded – APPROVED – C West Abstained as he was not at the last meeting.
4. Matters arising from past minutes – Has the Clerk received an update from Highways about the road surface on the B1112 Main Road Brookville? There has been a meeting with Highways and this was discussed, they are looking at what is the best option but have not made a decision yet.
Is there any update regarding the request for a pavement from the High Street to extend around the corner along to the end of the houses which have been built on the Main Road, children are having to walk along here to get to school. Clerk to follow up.
5. Reports:
 - 5.1 Chairman's Report – Thank you to the member of the public who helped the parish council volunteers tidy up the hedge at the back of the car park. It was suggested that this hedge is added to the cutting schedule when the Cemetery hedge is cut annually, this will be discussed in Open Spaces next year.
Chairman reported that the light at the rear of the Fenton Room above the kitchen door has been changed and is now working, the brickwork here needs attention – Spec required.
 - 5.2 Clerk's Report – Community Speedwatch update – all those who have applied to volunteer have passed the checks and the Community Speedwatch Team will visit to assess the sites to be used in the New Year.
The direction sign for St George's Hall will be discussed in the January Open Spaces meeting.
The zip wire on the recreation ground has been repaired.
 - 5.3 Report from the Hall & General Purposes Working Group update of meeting held the meeting held on 11.12.2018 – The fire door from the 21 Room into the kitchen needs to have a glass panel so anyone coming through the door can see if anyone is the other side, the fire door which is taken off will fit on the kitchen in St George's and a fire door is required for the boiler room in St George's Hall. The contractor who fitted the doors recently has been asked to quote for this work, to be discussed at the end of the meeting.
 - 5.4 Report from the Open Spaces Working Group update of meeting held the meeting held on 22.11.2018 – J Marriage requested permission to spend up to £120 to purchase oak to repair bench in cemetery, R Hood seconded, APPROVED .

Highways suggested that we apply for 50/50 Parish Partnership Scheme to install NO WAITING signs at either end of the wig wags outside the primary school, the Clerk has spoken to the PPS and this requires a Traffic Restriction Order and is not covered by the PPS, the Clerk will investigate what the requirements are for a Traffic Regulation Order.

The parish council received a layout of the landscaping at the development in Crown Street, there were no comments except the need to verify the legal ownership of the fence along the edge of the recreation ground. Clerk to contact new owner to ask them to check their Deeds.

Picnic benches on the recreation ground decision to be made where to site them.

The hedge between the old and new Cemetery will be thinned out early spring, volunteers will be required to help. A group will be put together to look at all footpaths and bridleways around the parish, a map of all paths is required. Highways have been consulted regarding installing posts along the edge of the grass on Fair Hill to prevent large vehicles running on here – Clerk to obtain quotes for this work. A footpath is required around the fence outside Mini Methwold, Clerk to obtain quotes for this, temporary solar lights have been purchased to try and light the way to the back door of the building.

The Chairman was asked if there are any minutes available for the HR meeting which was held on the 5th November, the Clerk does not attend these meetings.

6. Finances

6.1 Accounts Update – all councillors were given a copy of the finances.

6.2 Approval of payments – There was a late addition to the payments list, it was explained that the invoice from the Solicitor who is handling the legal side of the Trust fund had only just been found in the spam folder. J Marriage asked for permission to add this invoice to the payments list, B Horton proposed approval to make the payments including the payment to the Solicitor, D Charlesworth-Smith seconded - APPROVED

7. 7.1 To receive planning applications:

18/02078/F Agricultural Storage Building at Formerly RAF Methwold Brandon Road Methwold Norfolk IP26 4RL – the council discussed this application, S Burbridge proposed to SUPPORT, R Gibson seconded, AGREED

18/01689/RM Reserved Matters Application for 6 dwellings at 1 Scotts Lane Brookville Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RD – The council discussed the revised matters application, J Marriage proposed that all original comments and objections remain, there are concerns regarding access especially for emergency vehicles and all services e.g refuse collection. Seconded by S Burbridge – All voted to OBJECT

18/01938/S257 Application for Public Footpath to be stopped up and that in substitution an alternative highway be created over the land at Crown Street, Methwold at Land W of Crown Street N of Hall Farm Bungalow Hall Farm Drive Methwold Norfolk IP26 4PN

Proposal to stop part of footpath 9, starting from the kissing gate on Hall Farm Drive using footpath 10 straight across the meadow the proposed footpath then turning right to join up with the last part of footpath 9 at the corner to the kissing gate at the bottom of the recreation ground.

There was concern that neither footpath 9 or 10 have been satisfactorily maintained for many years despite the Landowner being asked to cut it.

There is no vehicular access shown on the map onto the land where footpath 9 & 10 are situated once the new development is built, how will vehicles get onto the footpaths to keep them cut and passible all year round? There is concern as there has been history of poor upkeep of the footpaths in the past

7.2 To receive planning decisions:

18/01732/F The Yews 10 Buntings Lane Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PR - Construction of two dwellings Application Permitted 15 November 2018 Committee Decision

18/00217/TREECA Cloughs Farm 7 Hythe Road Methwold Norfolk IP26 4PP - T1 & T2 Apple Trees - To be thinned and pruned to reduce height and width within a conservation area Tree Application - No objection 20 November 2018

18/01680/F 8 The Avenue Brookville Thetford Norfolk Single storey rear extension to dwelling – Application Permitted 6 December 2018 Delegated Decision.

7.3 To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was produced:
None

8. Items received for Agenda

Cemetery- request approval to use area reserved for children for all cremated remains – There is currently only one grave in this area, the Clerk has been asked if this area can be used for internment as an alternative, R Hood proposed to allow internment in this area, seconded by T Thomas APPROVED, The Clerk will inform the Funeral Directors.

A representative from the parish council was recently asked to attend a meeting at Downham Market Police Station by Inspector Cant – D Charleswirth-Smith gave a report to the council, the Clerk will circulate the report to all councillors.

J Marriage gave an update on the New Trust which is to be established in the event that the old social club is sold, this will be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the name suggested for this Trust is Methwold Community Charity. R Hood proposed to accept this name for the new Trust, K Plumridge seconded – APPROVED B Horton abstained. The Trust will have 7 Trustees, 1 from the parish council, 1 from the Parochial Church Council, and the remaining from the parish, it was suggested that MCAG and the Big Community Project are approached to fill these seats, they would be a Trustee for 3 years and could serve for no more than 3 consecutive terms.

In the event that the social club has to be sold, all money which has been spent on this building by the parish council will be refunded from the sale of the building and the remaining funds would be placed into the Trust for the parish, a new bank account will be set up using any residue from the old social club to open the account and will remain dormant in the event it is required in the future.

9. Correspondence – None

OPEN FORUM

Where the two keep left signs have been installed on Cock Corner to stop people turning the wrong side of the island on to the High Street from the B1112, should these be no entry signs instead? A sign has appeared on the island at Cock Corner, this is a business sign, does it need planning permission? When the development on Storeys Meadow happens the current owner will have an excuse for not cutting the footpaths if he is unable to access them. Thank you to all the hardworking councillors for all they do.

10. Any Further Reports - for information only

An A4 sign for Fincham Chorus has been removed from the internal noticeboard, why? These are not public noticeboards but are to advertise events happening in the Complex.

Thank you to everyone who came to support Methwold PTFA at the recent Christmas Fair. Thank you to the Theatre Club and all those who have helped over the past years and to those who help behind the scenes.

Well done and thank you to K Plumridge and the Mini Methwold volunteers who organised the fantastic 1st birthday party and work so hard all year.

The noticeboard in Methwold Hythe continues to have notices removed and the perspex on the door is now broken, P Crawley will repair this. The streetlight in Old Feltwell Road has been repaired. The parish council's Christmas tree to be put up in the church, volunteer required to do this.

Community Speedwatch – still require volunteers from Methwold and Methwold Hythe to enable this scheme to run properly if interested in volunteering please contact the Clerk.

MCAG to be asked about setting up a contact group for the elderly in the community. The zip wire on the rec. has been repaired, a new tyre is required in time, the road pins which held up the tape have disappeared, 1 was found in the grass.

11. To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public – J Marriage gave an update from the meeting on the 22nd November 2018 with the Cleaner. J Marriage proposed that the parish council purchase the cleaning products required and that the hourly rate is increased to £13.00 p/h, this rate will be reviewed in March 2020. R Gibson seconded APPROVED D Thomas and T Thomas abstained.
The kitchen fire door in the 21 Room requires a glass panel to allow hirers to see anyone coming through the door, this is considered to be a Health & Safety issue and needs to be resolved quickly. The current kitchen door can be fitted to the kitchen in St Georges and a new fire door is required in the boiler room in St George's.
The Clerk has obtained a quote from the original supplier of the fire doors, this quote was discussed. J Marriage proposed a maximum of £1000 is approved to purchase all 3 doors and to fit them, R Hood seconded APPROVED.
The council have been asked to send the Clerk a list of all items which need to be addressed as soon as possible, the Clerk will collate them ready for discussion in the New Year.

Meeting closed 21.55