

Methwold Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 9th April 2026 at 7.30pm
21 Room, St George's Hall Complex, Methwold

Present:

Councillors: Cllr French (Chairman), Cllr Grassick (Vice Chairman), Cllr Riches, Cllr Thomas, Cllr O'Ware, Cllr Rogerson.

7 members of the public

Norfolk County Councillor M Storey

Clerk

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, lovely to see so many of you here joining in with democracy.
2. Apologies for absence from Cllr Rodriguez, Cllr Horton, Cllr Senior and Cllr Minkler were received and accepted.
3. Declarations of Interest (In accordance with S31 of the Localism Act 2011) and requests for dispensations – None.
4. Cllr Riches proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th March 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting, Cllr O'Ware seconded the motion – Approved
5. Matters arising from the Minutes not included on the agenda but for information only - None.
6. The Chairman gave a report from the Open Spaces Working Party on 26th March 2026.
 - 6.1 Chalk Way Management Company have installed a sign at the bottom of the pit requested to try and stop children accessing the pit. They have asked the parish council to erect a sign at the top of the chalk pit. Cllr Thomas proposed permission is granted for £100 to spend on a sign for the chalk pit, Cllr O'Ware seconded the motion – Approved, Clerk to order.
 - 6.2 There is a difference of opinion regarding the footpath across Storeys Meadow, even when cut it is not easy to walk here, the path in the middle is worn down, please can the owner cut the path again? Clerk to send an email.
 - 6.3 Thank you to Cllr Grassick and A Gibson for installing the first three new litter bins, the next four litter bins to be replaced will be on the recreation ground, the rolling programme to replace all parish council owned litter bins was approved last year, Clerk instructed to order the next four bins.
 - 6.4 A request has been received to hold a Community Litter Pick, this will be discussed at Open Spaces and bought back to council once details, date etc are known. The parish council would like to involve the community and will discuss with Methwold Community Group.
 - 6.5 All parish councillors will be undertaking a walk around each village in the parish, date to be confirmed, to Open Spaces.
 - 6.6 There was discussion regarding the items sent to Highways for attention, The Chairman has sent in an FOI request to find out details of the contracts between Norfolk Highways and their lining contractors and their pot hole contractors, to date they have replied to say they do not give out this information because it may be unfair to rival companies. The Chairman is pursuing this and there is the option to contact Terry Jermy MP if the highway issues are not rectified. Norfolk Highways are conducting an internal review into their decision to refuse to supply the chairman with this information. Following this, the chairman may escalate the issue to the Information Commissioner.
7. Open Forum for Public Participation

An opportunity to hear from members of the public, Borough, and County Councillor.

Cllr Ryves was unable to attend the meeting and sent in a report, as we are now in the pre-election period the Chairman was only able to read a short extract.

A litter pick was undertaken several years ago, could the Methwold Community Group be contacted.

Blackberry Lane – top of the lane the fence is broken and overgrown, as this is a public footpath the Footpaths Officer will be informed.

Church View Development – Developer planted saplings along the fence, it is very overgrown, who is responsible for the maintenance of this?

On the pavement on the High Street in front of the walled car parking area has been reported as being untidy, with mud, weeds and rubbish along the bottom of the wall and dog mess is being left on the pavement here.

Dog mess is reported as getting worse on the paths around the village, please be a responsible dog owner and pick up after your dog, there are plenty of dog waste bins in the village for you to use or take it home double bag it and put it in your bin. If anyone sees this happening and can identify the people who are not picking up after their dogs this can be reported to the Borough Council.

Would it be possible for the dates of the parish council meetings to be included in the Methwold Times? Clerk will ask for these to be included.

Annual Parish Meeting – your chance to come along and find out what’s happening in the parish – Monday 11th May at 7pm in the 21 Room, all welcome.

8. Finance:

8.1 Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation to 30th March 2026

Opening balance on Spreadsheet 1st April 2025	£ 4,962.24
Add Receipts	£ 184,697.85
Less Payments	£ 180,447.11
Balance on 30 th March 2026	£ 9212.98

Current Account total on 30 th March 2026	£ 9212.98
--	-----------

Tracker Account total on 30 th March 2026	£ 30,887.46
--	-------------

Saver Account (CIL & S 106) total on 30 th March 2026	£ 38,566.76
--	-------------

Emergency Reserve Fund 30 th March 2026	£ 17,919.02
--	-------------

Total	£ 96,586.22
-------	-------------

Interest included for this quarter £288.98

8.2 Approval of payments

VAT Refund £89828.64 has been received, the VAT £4407.22 for the new play equipment has been paid back into the Saver Account.

The annual cost to empty the 10 dog waste bins weekly is £2277.60 + VAT, or fortnightly £1138.80 + VAT. Cllr Riches proposed that the bins are emptied weekly, Cllr Grassick seconded the motion – Approved.

Cllr Grassick proposed that all invoices are approved for payment, Cllr O’Ware seconded the motion – Approved.

9. Planning

9.1 To receive planning decisions

26/00105/F: Proposed first floor side extension, single storey front infill extension, single storey rear extension to form ancillary annexe accommodation, and alterations. 1 Chisholm Cottages Brandon Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RJ Application Permitted 6 March 2026 Delegated Decision
26/00334/DM Prior Notification for demolition of: Agricultural store building and agricultural workshop building. Rosedene Farm Severalls Road Methwold Hythe Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QYPrior Approval Not Required 20 March 2026 Delegated Decision

9.2 To receive planning applications - None

9.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published.

The Clerk has written to the Developer to ask when the fence along the side of the recreation ground will be installed, there has been no response, this has been escalated to the Enforcement Officer at the Borough Council.

Reported after the last meeting 48 Hythe Road – reported as garage being used as residential accommodation, Enforcement have investigated and found no fault.

The Avenue – query over development which has been screened from the road, Clerk asked to investigate.

10. Items received for the agenda:

Ramblers Association – will the parish council be undertaking a Parish Footpath Audit to Open Spaces for discussion.

11. Correspondence.

Trees outside the post office will now be cut back in the autumn.

Anglian Water will be attending the 11th June meeting to update on the Eldens Lane situation.

Request received to help identify a parcel of land on Thornham Road.

BCKLWN – New Local Plan Call for Sites – consultation extended to 1st May 2026

Swaffham Flexibus and Swaffham 10 Town Service - Norfolk County Council are asking for your views on the future of Swaffham Flexibus and Swaffham 10 Town Service.

<https://www.travelnorfolk.co.uk/swaffham-flexibus/>

<https://www.central-connect.co.uk/flexibus>

Local Government Reorganisation – confirmation - there will be three unitary authorities

[https://www.west-](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20006/council_and_democracy/1187/local_government_reorganisation_-_three_new_councils_for_norfolk)

[norfolk.gov.uk/info/20006/council_and_democracy/1187/local_government_reorganisation - three new councils for norfolk](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20006/council_and_democracy/1187/local_government_reorganisation_-_three_new_councils_for_norfolk)

Memorial Stability Test – could a list be put up in the Cemetery? The noticeboard has no doors due to vandalism in the past.

Earlsfield Lane – report received that the site is unfinished, has it been sold? Also vermin and waste accumulation on site, the Clerk contacted the Borough Council who suggested the Community Safety Team csnn@west-norfolk.gov.uk

12. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – 14th May 2026.

There seems to be more dog mess being left on the paths around the parish, reported that signs asking people to pick up are being taken down. Chairman will put a post in the Methwold Times and reminded dog owners that there is a £1000 fine if caught not picking up after their dog.

Norfolk Family Hub are attending the Mini Methwold Stay & Play sessions once a month, at least three Thursdays and one Monday to give help and advice, dates will be on the Mini Methwold Facebook page.

Cllr Storey arrived and apologised for lateness, he was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman, which was due to attending another parish council meeting.

Local Government Reorganisation - When the happens the planning system will change roundabout October, currently there are 15 members, this will be reduced to 8-11 officers, who will make 99% of decisions, the planning committee will make 1% of the decisions, the current 'call in' process will stop. Parish Council consultation will continue. This is a backwards step, wrong to take away identity away, the people who know are the ones who live in it. Planning Officers will have to sit an exam.

There will be no Borough Council or County Councillors, in 2027 elections will be held to decide unitary councillors. In 2027/28 Norfolk and Suffolk will elect a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk.

Thank you to the parish council and the public of Methwold for my time representing the parish for Norfolk County Council, all the best in the future.

13. To pass a resolution (under the Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960 to exclude members of the public and press for the following confidential items: None.

Meeting ended 8.45pm

Methwold Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, the next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the 21 Room.

Parish Clerk: clerk@methwold-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 07340 162 732

Website: www.methwold-pc.gov.uk

St George's Hall Complex High Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk