

Methwold Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 13th August 2026 at 7.30pm
21 Room, St George's Hall Complex, Methwold

Present:

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

6 members of the public

Clerk

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting which is being recorded for the purposes of the minutes, the recording will be deleted once the minutes have been drafted.
2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Thomas, Cllr Horton, Cllr Rodriguez, Norfolk County Councillor Prigg and Borough Cllr Ryves.
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 9th July 2026 as a true record of the meeting, Cllr Rogerson seconded the motion – Approved. Cllr O'Ware abstained as not present at the July meeting.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes not included on the agenda but for information only - None.
6. Open Forum for Public Participation

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

Norfolk County Councillor Prigg sent apologies and a report –

Details of the Crisis and Resilience Fund has been emailed to the Clerk – particularly focussing on families struggling to meet the costs of school uniforms.

I visited what I believe to be 1 High St to have a look at the scaffolding etc. I plan on contacting Borough Council about this. However, today (13/8) I noticed some sort of work was going on there. Fingers crossed the eyesore is now temporary, but I will still contact Borough Council to have a moan.

Trial of new pothole repair machine -

Norfolk County Council will trial an innovative pothole repair machine as part of ongoing work to improve road maintenance and keep Norfolk's highways in the best possible condition. The trial will take place during the first week of September on planned repairs in South Norfolk.

The machine and operator are being provided at no cost to the Council for this short trial. If this short trial is successful, a longer-term trial will be arranged.

Local Government Reorganisation – The council are still working towards the implementation of LGR despite the legal challenge. There is no more news so far.

Resident reported that after waiting for 4 years for work to start on the track at Eldens Lane the repair vehicle has knocked down a resident's wall, this has been reported to Anglian Water but there has been no response to date. The island at Cock Corner looks untidy, can this be tidied up?

Stoke Road – the hedge alongside the cycle/foot path has brambles growing over the path, not easy to negotiate if walking.

Chalk wall between Stoke Road and Fair Hill has been repaired but it's been done in brick.

Railings around the wooden cross on Crown Street, reflectors to be returned.

Party in the Park was enjoyed immensely, please can any future event be pedestrianised, possibly with a Police presence? This request will be passed to the Events Group. The Chairman thanked the Events Group on behalf of the parish council for organising Party in the Park.

There have been several reports of a teenager riding an electric bike with a pillion passenger around the parish, they have been seen on the B1112 near the entrance to Hubbles and in Methwold Hythe.

Also reports of a green battery operated buggy being driven by a young child with an adult passenger on the road and pavement.

Please can the parish council remind Highways about the Trod.

The pavement outside Bide-a-Wee and Gordon Fuller Close needs raising.

Can chicanes be installed in Brookville? A councillor explained that as this is a classified road chicanes are not an option, rumble strips were installed several years ago but had to be removed very shortly afterwards because every time a lorry or tractor and trailer went over them the noise caused many complaints.

The Borough Council and Norfolk County Council will only survey the road if 86% of traffic are speeding, currently the SAMs sign has shown that 85% of traffic travel up to 49mph.

7. Reports

Chairman gave an update and report from the Open Spaces Working Party, members considered the recommendations made at the Open Spaces Working Group on 23rd July 2026 to include:

7.1 Cllr Riches proposed to approve £130.00 payment for path to be cut to the new trees and an additional cut for the wildflower meadow, Cllr O'Ware seconded the motion – Approved.

7.2 Cllr Grassick proposed to approve £800.00 + VAT payment for work completed to hornbeams, Cllr Riches seconded the motion – Approved.

8. Finance

Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation

Opening balance on Spreadsheet 1st April 2026	£ 9,212.98
Add Receipts	£ 64,256.33
Less Payments	£ 47,475.16
Balance on 30 th July 2026	£ 25,994.15

Current Account total on 30 th July 2026	£ 25,994.15
Tracker Account total on 30 th July 2026	£ 36,975.47
Saver Account (CIL & S 106) total on 30 th July 2026	£ 39,874.95
Emergency Reserve Fund total on 30 th July 2026	£ 20,973.56
Total	£123,818.13

a) Cllr Minkler proposed to approve payments – Income & Invoice List Cllr Rogerson seconded the motion - Approved

b) Cllr Grassick proposed permission is given to increase computer services cover from Bronze to Gold Standard at a cost of £42.50 per month, Cllr Minkler seconded the motion - Approved

9. Planning

9.1 To receive planning decisions

26/00903/F HOUSEHOLDER: Construction of a domestic garage 33 Feltwell Road Methwold Hythe Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QJ Application Permitted 20 July 2026 Delegated Decision

26/00054/TPO Methwold 2/TPO/00205 - Two lime trees located out the front of the property that our client wants reduced. 24 Crown Street Methwold THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4NR

26/00956/PIP Permission in Principle: Demolition of derelict house and erection of 5 no. dwellings. 18 Main Road Brookville THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4RB Application Withdrawn 31 July 2026

Withdrawn Application

VARIATION OF CONDITION 3 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 2/77/1179/O - Erection of agricultural bungalow Swan Bungalow Stoke Road Brookville Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QZ Application Refused 4 August 2026

Delegated Decision

9.2 To receive planning applications

6/00006/PACU5 Change of use of 3 existing agricultural buildings and the land within their curtilage into Class B8 and Class E (Schedule 2, Part 3, Class R) Land at E574022 N294026 Brandon Road Methwold

9.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published - None

10. Items received for the agenda

a) SAMs data information – Cllr Minkler updated the meeting, SAMs unit was sited for the whole of July at the far end of Hythe Road facing towards Methwold Hythe, this is a 30mph zone, top speed was 70mph at 7.05am on a Saturday morning. AM peak figure 8am-9am 63% of traffic speeds PM peak 4pm-5pm 61% traffic speed, overall, 59% of traffic speeds all the time. Clearly an issue here. Between 400-425 cars pass the sign up to 250 cars each way. Worse days for speeding are Saturday and Sunday where it increases to 62% of vehicles over the limit. The 85th percentile = 38.8mph means 85% of traffic are driving up to or below 39mph, meaning 85% of traffic believe the road is a 40mph road. On NCC this comes under jurisdiction where they should now look at this, options are (a) SAMs sign – we already do this (b) ask police to monitor – they have been doing this and (c) ask NCC to survey the road with view to putting in traffic calming measure, we are still waiting for the 30mph roundels on the road, we were told July/August, this is being monitored and will be taken back to NCC. Highways have offered to come out for a meeting, this will be arranged for September. Police have informed Cllr Minkler that they cannot use the speed camera on this piece of road due to there not being 100m visibility.

- b) New Community Grant Scheme – details circulated to members – Councillor led Community Projects Fund which could see community groups or organisations benefit from a share of up to £500,000, more information can be obtained from the Clerk. Closing date is 2nd October 2026.
- c) St George's Hall Floor – The Chairman of the Trust updated the meeting, sadly, on further investigation it has been found that the floor has dry rot and needs specialised treatment, quotes are being obtained.
- d) Footpath 9a to Globe Street – resident has asked who is responsible for clearing the footpath, the Countryside Access Officer has been asked, and he has said that NCC are generally responsible for the surfaces of rights of way with landowners being responsible for encroachment from the sides. NCC has a limited budget and usually reserves its cutting programme for paths that would otherwise get completely overgrown. The parish council has the powers to maintain public rights of way but have not adopted any of the public right of ways around the parish and will not spend parishioners' money on jobs which NCC should be doing, we do not have the budget and would have to increase the Precept to be able to take on the upkeep of public rights of way.
- e) New Local Plan 2026-2044 - https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/homepage/417/next_local_plan_2026-2044
In September BCKLWN will be starting consultation on the next Local Plan for this area. The Government has made some changes to how it wants the BCKLWN to consult because it has added an extra dimension in the form of a 'Scoping Consultation'. This should ask people what they want to be in the Local Plan, and it should ask people how they want to be consulted. It will inform how we run the main consultations on the draft plan, and final plan. Participation in the consultation will be through an online survey, with paper copies for people who would prefer this. BCKLWN will be promoting it by email, social media and traditional media, and we will be holding some drop-in events as well. The consultation will run from 1-29 September.

11. Correspondence

Email received from resident asking about CIL Funding relating to Methwold – looking at feasibility of developing a community play area in Methwold for local children and families. There is already a recreation ground in the village, the new equipment has been funded with S106 funds from the Church View development.

Anonymous letter received regarding children playing in the road in Methwold Hythe, making a noise and leaving rubbish. There is nothing the parish council can do about this and suggest the author speak to the Neighbourhood Nuisance Team at the Borough Council for advice.

Temporary Traffic Orders

METHWOLD - Upcoming temporary closure of U21375 Thornham Road to facilitate parapet fence repair and vegetation clearance works (Norfolk County Council) (REF KLTRO86)

WEREHAM - Upcoming temporary closure of B1160 College Road to facilitate drainage clearance (Norfolk County Council) (REF KLTRO87)

12. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – 10th September 2026

The Biodiversity Survey will be live from 1st September 2026 for 1 year – details to be posted on Facebook and printed copies to be available from the Clerk.

People's Emergency Briefing – 8th September 2026 18.00hrs – 20.00hrs – free screening lasting about 50 minutes from leading scientists and latest evidence and why it matters for things like extreme weather, food security, health and cost of living. After the film there will be an open discussion about what it means for our community and what we can do locally.

<https://buytickets.at/worldfoodsystemsnetwork/2340652>

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:

Meeting ended at 8.35pm

Methwold Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.30pm in the 21 Room.

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