

Methwold Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 11th June 2026 at 7.30pm
21 Room, St George's Hall Complex, Methwold

Present:

Councillors: Cllr French (Chairman), Cllr Grassick (Vice Chairman), Cllr Riches, Cllr O'Ware,
Cllr Rogerson, Cllr Horton, Cllr Minkler
11 members of the public
Norfolk County Councillor S Prigg
Clerk

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Joe Thompson Operations Manager from Anglian Water and Charlotte Pursey Development & New Business Lead at Freebridge Community Housing.
2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Thomas, Cllr Senior, Cllr Horton and Borough Cllr Ryves.
3. Declarations of Interest (In accordance with S31 of the Localism Act 2011) and requests for dispensations – None.
4. Cllr Rogerson proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th May 2026 as a true record of the meeting, Cllr Grassick seconded the motion – Approved. Cllr Rodriguez abstained as not present at the May 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 Sue Prigg reported that due to the legal challenge there is no update on Local Government Reorganisation. A deep dive into Norfolk County Council finances is being undertaken as frontline services do not seem to be receiving funding. Highways – the gullies along Hythe Road are still blocked.

Cleanup Britain 4th July <https://reformparty.uk/news/reform-s-plan-to-clean-up-britain> – who may want to be involved?

Progress on Highways – separate meetings have been held with the head person at Norwich and Kings Lynn, Highways have to prioritise and currently most items reported by parish councils are not prioritised. It is understood that funding is tight and that SEND transport is coming out of the Highways budget. Cllr Prigg asked Highways to be better at communicating. People who live in the parish understand local issues better than Highways, and lists will continue to be sent to Highways once a month.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Prigg, the parish council appreciate all that she is doing to try and resolve the situation. Resident stated that it was on the news this morning that the government had given highways £1 billion for white lining, it is not known whether this has reached Highways.

Is Cllr Prigg aware of the situation with the Old Chapel hoarding, bus stop and street cleaning situation? Clerk will update Cllr Prigg.

Joe Thompson - Operations Manager Anglian Water gave an update on the wastewater situation in Eldens Lane Charlotte Pursey - Development & New Business Lead at Freebridge Community Housing it is expected that the planning application for the 13 dwellings to replace the 6 Airey houses in Herbert Drive will be verified by the Borough Council and sent out very soon.

Cllr Ryves was unable to attend but sent his apologies and a report - My apologies I will not be able to attend.

Appeal 17 Brook Lane Brookville any submissions need to be submitted by 1 July. If you are able to send me the PC view I will use this in my response. News from WNBC (As I think we are known as now!).

For what it is worth I support the view of Reform at County level to challenge the nonsense of Local Government Reform as unlikely to achieve any meaningful savings and merely to disrupt the work of our Borough Council, which is recognised nationally as one of the most improving councils in the country for its achievements over the last three years. For my sins I have been booted off planning and removed as Chair of Audit for daring to disagree with the leadership on the proposed sale of the beach huts at Heacham. The drive to do this was a consequence of the realisation that our Council will need to fund some £16m of the £30m+ cost of the Guildhall project, especially as the

Council will have the challenge of funding its housing companies to purchase the 220 + homes being built at " Florence Fields". That said I liked the King's Lynn Master Plan (but I do not see where the money will come from) and we should remember that KL does have some amazing attractions , including over 200 listed buildings, and it is this depth of appeal that should be exploited to allow KL to transition from being a retail centre to a destination in its own right. In that context the Guildhall project remains in my eyes an expensive unfunded distraction.

The other major project which is being prepared is the moving of the St James swimming pool to Lynnsport, the final form of which remains under lock and key. At one time this was a £50m project but wiser heads have prevailed and a more realistic £20/25m plan is likely. And yes, I was instrumental in querying the bloated scheme which was initially being proposed. As ever, most Borough schemes are Kings Lynn Centric and will focus on converting excess retail capacity in KL to residential. I note in the papers that the future of the straw to energy power plant at Thetford, which relies on heavy government subsidy, is under threat. As I recall, its continued operation was a key component of the Cranswick mega farm proposals, and its closure will threaten any similar mega farm proposals in West Norfolk. Pip pip from me, I will be there at the next pc meeting!

Is there a plan in place to spray the weeds around the complex – Yes but this is a Trust matter.

Clothes bin – what happens to the contents and do the items left in the bin have to be pristine and can it be textiles/fabric? Clerk to ask the company.

Thank you for the new railings around the cross, will the reflectors be put back? The Clerk will chase this.

7. Reports

Update and Report from the Open Spaces Working Party to consider the recommendations made at the Open Spaces Working Group on 28th May 2026 to include:

Another part of the wall has fallen at the churchyard, still waiting for the Architect to send an updated plan.

Thank you Cllr Grassick for strimming along the new hedge saplings and around the three new trees.

Chalk pit - the new sign will be installed very soon, thank you Cllr Grassick.

Stability Testing – headstones at the Cemetery – if the failed headstones have not been dealt with by August the headstones will be laid flat.

a. Cllr Rodriguez proposed that the Events Group are given permission to use recreation ground on 1st August to hold a 'picnic in the park', Cllr O'Ware seconded the motion – Approved.

b. Cllr Rogerson explained that the parish council are to expand their Biodiversity Plan, when ready to launch this will include a yearlong survey for the parish to complete to let the parish council know what flora and fauna is in the parish, once this information has been received it will enable the parish council to build a plan to support where required, for example this could be to install bat boxes or bird boxes. Suggestion that footpath maps are made available so people know where they can walk in the village.

c. Cllr Minkler presented photos and stats to support the purchase of an additional SAMs 2 unit.

Sams2 stats for 2 weeks in May 2026

Methwold Hythe - Top speed 70mph, 50% are over the speed limit (588 per day) average speeder 36mph.

Methwold – Hythe Road – Top speed 65mph 55% over limit (800 per day) average speed 37mph.

Brookville – 1 week – Top speed 85mph at 16.15 on 8th June 23% over speed limit (480 per day) average speed 46mph. This is a reduction from a year ago, possibly because of the roundels on the road?

Methwold is unique, it is one of the largest parishes by land area, there are three separate villages, separated by 40mph and 60mph roads.

Due to restrictions on sign placement one SAMs 2 sign takes 20 weeks (roughly 4.5 months) to return to a location using a 2-week cycle.

This means that we have zero deterrent to speeding on any one location for 4.5 months.

Cllr Minkler proposed a second SAMs 2 sign is purchased cost approx. £3500 + VAT

The additional sign could be funded using 50/50 Parish Partnership funding, the application cut-off date is around 9th December, with a decision in March 2027. There is CIL funding already allocated for Traffic management and speed reduction which could be used to fund the additional sign.

An additional CIL payment of £1198.14 has been received, this will be allocated to a project.

8. Finance

Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation

Opening balance on Spreadsheet 1st April 2026 £ 9,212.98

Add Receipts £ 61,125.30

Less Payments £ 23,691.65

Balance on May 29th 2026 £ 46,646.63

Current Account total on May 29th 2026	£ 46,646.63
Tracker Account total on May 29th 2026	£ 39,764.90
Saver Account (CIL & S 106) total May 29th 2026	£ 30,887.46
Emergency Reserve Fund May 29th 2026	£ 17,919.02
Total	£ 135,218.01

- a. Cllr O'Ware proposed to approve payments, Cllr Rogerson seconded the motion – Approved.
 - b. Cllr Rogerson proposed to approve the Internal Auditor's report, Cllr Minkler seconded the motion – Approved.
 - c. Cllr Grassick proposed to approve 2025-26 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement – Approved – signed by Chairman and Clerk.
 - d. Cllr Grassick proposed to approve 2025-26 Section 2 Accounting Statement, Cllr O'Ware seconded the motion – Approved - signed by Chairman. RFO signed document before the meeting.
 - e. Cllr Minkler proposed to approve the Annual CIL Report 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, Cllr Grassick seconded the motion – Approved.
- Cllr French proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk/RFO, Cllr Grassick seconded the motion - approved

9. Planning

9.1 To receive planning decisions

26/00013/TPO 2/TPO/00465: T1 Oak - Reduce back to previous pruning points - 2-2.5m. T2 Lime - Re-Pollard back to previous pruning points, The reason they would like the work done is a combination of Light, and mess/leaves. 1 Gordon Fuller Close Brookville THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4RP

TPO Decision Consent 12 May 2026 Delegated Decision

26/00583/LDE Certificate of Lawfulness: Occupation of in breach of occupancy condition 3 of planning permission 2/77/1179/0 Swan Bungalow Stoke Road Brookville Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QZ

Was Lawful 20 May 2026 Delegated Decision

9.2 To receive planning applications

26/00690/F HOUSEHOLDER: To demolish existing conservatory and replace with an extension full width of the existing house and convert garage into a living space. 18 Ventura Close Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QQ – NO OBSERVATIONS

9.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published

26/00903/F Construction of a domestic garage at 33 Feltwell Road Methwold Hythe Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QJ – NO OBSERVATIONS.

Planning Appeal 6009843 25/01581/O 17 Brook Lane Brookville Thetford Norfolk Outline Application for construction of self-build dwelling and approval of access

Planning Appeal 6009844 25/01585/O 17 Brook Lane Brookville Thetford Norfolk Outline Application for construction of self-build dwelling and approval of access

10. Items received for the agenda

- a. SAMs data information – covered in item 7
- b. Biodiversity – Survey – covered in item 7

11. Correspondence

Letter from Methwold Hall Complex Charitable Trust – ceiling in Peggy's Room – next meeting

Tree Officer - Holm Oak/Evergreen oak Cock Corner – reported as yellowing – on inspection the colouring is due to the tree producing fresh new foliage, on Holm Oaks the juvenile leaves are naturally quite different in colour and appearance when compared to mature foliage, appearing lighter yellow/green and softer in texture. As the leaves mature, they will become darker and resemble the older foliage.

PTSN switch off – by January 2027, the UK's old copper phone network will be switched off, area by area. For older or vulnerable residents, particularly those with telecoms alarms or no mobile phone, people need to be prepared – www.phonely.co.uk/uk-digital-landline-switchover or call freephone 0800 112 5000.

New signs have been installed 39-49 High Street.

Email received asking why there are small red survey triangles with pins in the middle marked on the High Street, what are they for, does the parish council know of any construction or maintenance surveys which are planned or have taken place.

Parish Update sessions will be held on 16th June and 22nd June, to cover the National Scheme of Delegation and The Local Plan – places are still available for councillors to join online, let the Clerk know if you wish to join.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – Feltwell (KLTR16) Notice – C872 Southery Road from junction with 2P 148 Ploughmans Drove for 320 meters northwestwards in the parish of Feltwell. Closure is for BT.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – WTRO 6835b – B1160 College Road from C36 Broad Drove for 1250 meters northwards 19th June to 7th July Phase 1 Main dressing between 19.00 and 16.00 19th to 23rd June, Phase 2 Lining and studs between 22.00 and 05.00 from 3rd July to 7th July.

Notification from the Parish Partnership Scheme – the 20 mph flashing signs are due to be installed outside the primary school next week.

12. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – July 9th 2026 – None.

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 at 9.30pm

Methwold Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th July 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