

Methwold Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 9th July 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 Senior,
Cllr Rogerson, Cllr Minkler

5 members of the public

Norfolk County Councillor S Prigg

Charlotte Pursey – Development & New Business Lead at Freebridge Community Housing.

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 written up.
2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr O'Ware, Cllr Horton, Cllr Rodriguez 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 11th June 2026 as a true record of the meeting, Cllr Rogerson seconded the motion – Approved. Cllr Senior abstained as not present at the June 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 updated the meeting – the Cllr allowance for community projects is no longer available, this fund has been allocated to the fire department. The Highways Local Members Fund has been taken away and redistributed to the central highways pot, aimed at getting better value for money and fixing potholes.

Local Government Reform – Norfolk County Council have submitted a judicial review regarding the governments decision and challenge the lawfulness of the governments reorganisation process.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/67898/Local-government-reorganisation> currently Norfolk County Council are preparing for the Local Government Reorganisation to go ahead so not to be caught unprepared.

A meeting with the parish council and Cllr Prigg will be arranged to discuss the situation with the hoarding on a local dwelling.

Resident asked who is responsible for the weeds on footpaths and kerbs – this is highways, if overhanging from private property it is the householder, these can both be reported on www.fixmystreet.com with photos if available.

Last months report from Anglian Water was felt to be a waste of time, nothing has happened regarding the state of Eldens Lane, there isn't as much traffic, but the road is still in a state of disrepair and there has been no timetable for repairs, can Cllr Prigg pick this up?

Cllr Ryves sent a report - Most interesting was the report (24 June I think) of community assets receiving CIL funding which I posted on FB. For those who are interested, I have put my name down to be elected to the board of governors at the QEH. The impression I get is that our hospital is at risk of being downgraded to effectively be a cottage hospital, with A & E but most non routine duolocal work being transferred to Norwich. At borough level, there are by-elections to two seats where senior conservatives have resigned, and assuming Lord Binface doesn't stand these are likely to be picked up by reform (prop, David Bick of this parish). This would give reform 7 seats, making them the third largest grouping. But I think an axis reform/ conservatives/ labour is unlikely, so business as usual. My particular interest at the moment is in making sure that no silly ideas are proposed re the transfer of the St James swimming pool to Lynnsport, and secondly to scrutinise the level of fees for external consultants which the council seems addicted to.

On the finance front, the administration has achieved a remarkable turnaround through raising fees and cutting costs and will bequeath positive reserves to the new unitary fund. That said, difficulties in realising sales of council-built properties (Hunstanton and KL) means that the level of borrowing, before the Guildhall money pit is around £40m, from a positive balance of £15m or so 12 months ago. The council rejected a motion to replace the recognition of climate emergency with the external control this implies of expenditure on climate matters as the priority seems to be decarbonisation over local investment to make our communities more resilient...eg insulation, AC for the vulnerable. I genuinely think the idea of setting up our own strategy is a good way forward and is certainly not a denial of climate change, the evidence for which is apparent just outside tonight.

7. Reports

Update and Report from the Open Spaces Working Party to consider the recommendations made at the Open Spaces Working Group on 24th June 2026 to include:

- a) Churchyard wall drawings and specification for repairs have been received from the Diocese Architect for approval, if the parish council approve the drawings the next step is for the Architect to obtain quotes for the repair. Cllr Grassick proposed to approve the drawings and move to stage 3 – quotes, Cllr Riches seconded the motion – Approved.
- b) Cllr Grassick proposed to approve the Biodiversity Policy, Cllr Thomas seconded the motion – Approved.
- c) Cllr Thomas proposed approval to spend up to £20.00 for stickers to update email address on signs on recreation ground, Cllr Minkler seconded the motion – Approved.
- d) It was agreed that the parish council will make comments on this Restricted byway change – Hockwold river bridlepath – Approved.
- e) Cllr Minkler proposed that an additional SAMs2 sign to be approved, to be paid for with CIL funds allocated – SAMs2 cost = 3,745.00 + £749.00 VAT = £4,494.00, Cllr Thomas seconded the motion – Approved.

8. Finance

Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation

Opening balance on Spreadsheet 1st April 2026	£ 9,212.98
Add Receipts	£ 63,798.33
Less Payments	£ 33,098.14
Balance on 29th June 2026	£ 39,913.17

Current Account total on 29 th June 2026	£ 39,913.17
Tracker Account total on 29 th June 2026	£ 39,874.95
Saver Account (CIL & S 106) total 29 th June 2026	£ 30,975.47
Emergency Reserve Fund 29 th June 2026	£ 17,973.56
Total	£ 128,737.15

Interest for Quarter = £252.60

- a. Cllr Thomas proposed to approve payments, Cllr Rogerson seconded the motion – Approved.

9. Planning

9.1 To receive planning decisions

26/00690/F 18 Ventura Close Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QQ

HOUSEHOLDER: To demolish existing conservatory and replace with an extension full width of the existing house and convert garage into a living space. Application Permitted 30 June 2026 Delegated Decision

9.2 To receive planning applications

26/00943/FM Demolition of 6no. existing Airey dwellings and erection of 13no. affordable dwellings with associated external works 19-29 Herbert Drive Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PY – OBJECT due to insufficient infrastructure.

10. Items received for the agenda

a. SAMs data information

SAM2 Speed Summary Report – Hythe Road, Methwold (Morning Commute Data)

A review of the traffic data collected on the morning of **Thursday, 9th July 2026**, highlights a severe and systemic speeding issue during the morning peak hours, far exceeding the **30 MPH speed limit**:

- **Extreme Peak Speeds:** Between **07:00 and 08:00 AM**, a staggering **100% of all recorded vehicles (15 out of 15) were speeding**, with the average speed sitting at **42.5 MPH** and a peak maximum speed reaching **60 MPH**—double the legal limit.
 - **Early Morning High Speeds:** The problem begins early; between **05:00 and 06:00 AM**, **60% of drivers were speeding**, maintaining a high average speed of **41.7 MPH**.
 - **Volume and Sustained Risk:** As traffic volume peaked during the main rush hour between **08:00 and 09:00 AM** (44 vehicles), compliance remained low, with an average recorded speed of **37.9 MPH** and a maximum speed of **55 MPH**. This data demonstrates that the current 30 MPH speed limit is being routinely ignored during commuting hours, presenting a significant road safety risk to the parish, particularly between 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM.
- b. Cllr Minkler proposed to approve payment of repairs to the ceilings and roof in the old social club as requested by MHCCT in June 2026, maintenance of the fabric of the buildings remain the responsibility of the parish council, Cllr Grassick seconded the motion- Approved.

11. Correspondence The new 20mph flashing lights outside the primary school have been reported as flashing at random times, supplier have confirmed they should flash 8am-9.15am, 12-12.45pm, 2.40pm-4.00pm, they have operatives in the village on Friday and will check the timers.

B1112 – Whittington – patching to take place on 21st July, road will be temporarily closed on this day.

Textile bin in St George's Car Park – everything placed in the bin is reused, clothing – shoes, handbags, belts, accessories are sold on to be re worn, or items are used as housing insulation, car seat fillings or wiper cloths for the car industry. Items need to be clean. The bin can take bedding, linen, curtains, but no duvets, pillows, loose fabric or uniforms.

Reflectors on the metal railings around the wooden cross, the supplier has been reminded that these need to be replaced.

For councillors – local catch-up group – let the Clerk know if interested in attending.

Email regarding free roaming cats and the impact on wildlife in the area.

A water leak Main Road Brookville has been reported to Anglian Water.

12. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – August 13th 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 8.35pm

Methwold Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th August 2026 at 7.30pm in the 21 Room.

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