

Methwold Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 10th September 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, Cllr Thomas.

Councillor Prigg

Borough Cllr Ryves

5 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 Horton and Cllr Rodriguez.
Cllr O'Ware proposed members agree to allow an extended leave of absence for Cllr Rodriguez to recover after her recent traffic accident, Cllr Riches seconded the motion – Approved.
3. Declarations of Interest (In accordance with S31 of the Localism Act 2011) and requests for dispensations – None.
4. Cllr O'Ware proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th August 2026 as a true record of the meeting, Cllr Rogerson seconded the motion – Approved. Cllr Thomas abstained as not present at the August 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 – encourage all who qualify to have the 'flu vaccination which is being rolled out in October.
Local Government Reorganisation – 2 days before the judicial review it was confirmed by the government that LGR will not now happen in Norfolk. There may be some confusion around this, the Borough Council have put out a message to say the plans are paused, Cllr Prigg confirmed LGR is not going ahead where Norfolk is concerned. There will be the usual Borough, District and Parish council elections next year, to include a mayoral election.
NCC are seeking compensation from the government for the spent so far for the money spent so far on the judicial review, hoping this will be approx. £1.5 million.
Also, a £6.3million contract had been signed between the February full council meeting and the election, for contractors to help with LGR, this has been cancelled. NCC and BCKLWN would have been capable to carry out this work themselves without signing this contract, it is understood this is outside the boundary of what can be signed without full council consent.
Met with the Chairman and Clerk yesterday to discuss the Highways issues which are outstanding, email stated these should be completed by end of September, if nothing happens Cllr Prigg will follow up.
Chairman stated hazard line has been painted down the middle of the road, gulleys haven't been cleared yet.
There was an accident on the crossroads of White Plot Road, Old Severalls road yesterday, the white lines at this junction are barely visible but there is a give way sign here. Cllr Prigg has photos of the junction and accident.
Cllr Ryves – great concern about the future of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn, discussions taking place by 3 hospitals – reorganisation of three Norfolk hospitals, possibility of downgrading the QEH ICU, Maternity and A&E services, and having specialisation hospitals, this maybe scaremongering but the NHS has to save money. Cllr Ryves stated he had seen quotes stating there will always be A&E provision for West Norfolk, very different to saying a full A&E service.
Cllr Ryves urged everyone to become a member of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust, as a member of the Trust you can show support for the management and you will receive updates and attend meetings.
<https://www.gehkl.nhs.uk/Document/gov%20papers/2021.07.08%20FTMembership%20Form%20A4> External.pdf
If the services at the QEH are reduced this may bring the full rebuild of the QEH into question.

The Local Plan 2026-2044 there has been a call for sites, the interactive map is available to view and make comment online, there are a dozen sites that have been put forward in Methwold and Brookville.

There will be elections at the Borough Council next year, I don't live in the Borough but I have business interests in the Borough and would like to remain as the Borough Councillor and stand again, I would appreciate feedback on this.

The Borough Council is doing well, allocated reserves have risen to £11.5 million from £4 million, the current administration has been successful in managing the finances. There is a £500,000 fund for Community Projects, if any organisations within the parish would like more info the Clerk has this information.

Cllr Prigg added that she was at a meeting where it was discussed that the QEH would be downgraded to an outpatient's unit, there is more finance to improve services.

A councillor stated that downgrading of the QEH has been happening since 1998, everything eroded and working towards this precise change.

Resident asked if there is any update on the chapel please, Cllr Prigg has all the details and will be taking this up with the relevant council departments. Chairman stated that the meeting yesterday was a very constructive meeting and Cllr Prigg will endeavour to move this on.

Does anyone know when the Borough Council will start collecting batteries and small electrical items – Cllr Ryves to find out.

Bench in Brookville at the bottom of The Avenue is in a very poor state, also the flower tub – also in a poor state. Benches and tub to Open Spaces.

When the car park at St George's Hall is closed it is difficult to get to the post box, can the gap be widened to allow access – to Open Spaces.

An observation was made by a resident - when waking past the Old Chapel the covering is disintegrating and the dust is in the air, is this an environmental issue/pollution, what are the coverings made of, is it healthy for pedestrians to walk through this, the covering needs to be removed or replaced, now with Cllr Prigg.

The flower tub is the responsibility of Methwold in Bloom who are all volunteers, the broken tub will be removed and a replacement installed or something different in it's place.

Parking outside the Old Chapel, post box on the footpath, hoarding all been passed to Cllr Prigg.

7. Reports

Update and Report from the Open Spaces Working Party to consider the recommendations made at the Open Spaces Working Group on 27th August 2026 to include:

7.1 Parish Partnership Scheme 2027/28 closing date for applications is 1st December 2026 – to Open Spaces

7.2 Cars are parking on the grass areas on Fair Hill and Lower Green, these areas belong to the parish council and are not to be parked on, it degrades the grass and breaks the edges down, and the grass cannot be cut. There are also 2 abandoned cars parked on Lower Green, the Clerk was instructed to report these to the Borough Council.

A policy for car parking on parish owned green areas – Fair Hill, Lower Green etc has been circulated to all members – Cllr Senior proposed adoption of the car parking on parish land policy is approved, Cllr Thomas seconded the motion – Approved. A letter will be generated for cars parked on parish land explaining the position.

7.3 Hornbeams – the trees were trimmed this year, but they are still very large, the arboriculturist at BCKLWN has emailed to say that in his professional opinion they are the wrong species in the wrong location and should be removed and replaced with more suitable trees in 2027. Suggested that 2 big flower tubs might be a better choice.

Cllr Riches proposed that the two trees are removed and replaced with something more appropriate for the area, Cllr Grassick seconded this motion – Approved.

8. Finance

Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation

Opening balance on Spreadsheet 1st April 2026	£ 9,212.98
Add Receipts	£ 67,354.15
Less Payments	£ 54,052.64
Balance on 28 th August 2026	£ 22,514.49

Current Account total on 28 th August 2026	£ 22,514.49
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Tracker Account total on 28 th August 2026	£ 36,975.47
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Saver Account (CIL & S 106) total on 28 th August 2026	£ 39,874.95
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Emergency Reserve Fund total on 28th August 2026

£ 20,973.56

Total

£120,338.47

a) Cllr Senior proposed to approve payments on the Income & Invoice List, Cllr Minkler seconded the motion - Approved

9. Planning

9.1 To receive planning decisions

25/01928/AG AGRICULTURAL PRIOR NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE 2 PART 6: A balanced cut and fill earth moving operation to create a winter storage irrigation reservoir Land At E566987 N297500

College Road Wissington Wereham Norfolk AG Prior Approval Approved 12 August 2026 Delegated Decision

26/01311/AG PRIOR NOTIFICATION: Proposed agricultural building to create a workshop Rosedene Farm

Severalls Road Methwold Hythe Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QY AG Prior Notification - NOT REQD

1 September 2026 Delegated Decision

9.2 To receive planning applications

26/01245/F Proposed part two storey / part first floor side extension, single storey rear extension to form ancillary annexe accommodation, and alterations 1 Chisholm Cottages Brandon Road Methwold Thetford

Norfolk IP26 4RJ – SUPPORT

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

9.3a Local Plan Consultation is open - 1st September – 29th September 2026

Consultation on the next Local Plan for this area has started. The Government have added 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.

BCKLWN have been putting together some ideas for the scoping consultation. Participation in the consultation will be through an online survey, with paper copies for people who would prefer this. BCKLWN are promoting it by email, social media and traditional media, and will be holding some drop-in events as well.

You can find more information about the Next Local Plan on the following page: https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20079/planning_policy_and_local_plan/1207/local_plan_2021-2040_adopted_march_2025

10. Items received for the agenda

a) SAMs data information – the sign has been in Brookville facing Whittington for 2 weeks, an average of 1800 vehicles daily pass the sign. Peak times for traffic are 7am to 8am and 3pm to 4pm. 85% are travelling at 44.7mph, this is quite good, 32% are over the limit and 46mph is the average, this has increased since a similar time last year when only 22% were over the limit. Highest speed 80mph.

The second SAMs sign is due for delivery soon, propose 8 sites throughout the parish – Brookville – 4 sites, Cock Corner - 1 site, Methwold Hythe 1 site, End of Hythe Road Methwold and the Academy which also should have the new slow signs on the road, hoping to rotate the signs every 2 weeks so there will be lots more stats.

b) Chairman read out a letter from the Chairman of MHCCT regarding payment for the dry rot repairs to St George's Hall, the parish council have previously agreed that they are responsible for the fabric of the building and the parish council are willing to honour their commitment to the Trust and pay for any work required to maintain the asset.

St George's Hall is closed until the dry rot treatment has been carried out. The Trust have obtained quotes and discussed these in detail and chosen a contractor.

Cllr Rogerson proposed that the parish council honour the commitment to fund the treatment, Cllr Minkler seconded the motion – Approved.

11. Correspondence

The Chairman read out a letter from MHCCT Chairman regarding the Electrical Installation Compliance Certificates for both sites – work is required to obtain the certificates, the reports and quotes have been circulated to all members – agenda item for approval at the October meeting.

Cameras that have appeared on the Old Chapel – Cllr Prigg to follow up

Grays Fun Fair – request to set up on QEII recreation ground in Methwold in October for 2 weeks, to open at the weekends – Cllr Riches proposed that the parish council give permission, Cllr O'Ware seconded the motion -

permission agreed by the parish council. Bench to be moved and a reminder will be sent to ask them not to run over the concrete base.

Email from resident – who finances the Methwold Times?

Cycle/pathway Brook Lane to Icen Academy – overgrown – resident given www.fixmystreet and has emailed to say they have reported and sent photographs.

Tree Fair Hill overgrown can it be reduced by 50% height and width – this has been added to the Tree Survey for 2027

Concerns regarding parking on the village greens – damage, Visual amenity and setting a precedent

TTRO KLTRO126 – B1112 Brandon Road 300m south junction C41 Mundford Road for cats eyes replacement works – 17th to 18th September 2026.

TTRO KLTRO125 – B1112 Brandon Road 303m south junction C41 Mundford Road for cats eyes replacement works – 17th to 18th September 2026.

12. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – 8th October 2026

CCTV Cameras – pointing down the street, anyone can ask the Data Controller for images, concerns camera pointing down the street covers anyone going in and out of the hall car park. Also, the site has signs up saying construction site, they must register with the ICO as a Data Controller, have they done this? Cllr Prigg to follow up.

Glass bottles dumped on the recreation ground, please put them in the bin or glass bank.

A planning meeting will be arranged to inform residents of the new Local Plan 2026-2044 – 16th September 6pm 21 Room, Methwold Hall Complex.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and wished them a safe onward journey.

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: 9pm

Methwold Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th October 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