

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD
THURSDAY 11th JUNE 2020 at 2.30pm

Present: J Marriage – Chairman, R Gibson – Vice Chair, R Scott, S Crump, P Crawley, B Horton,
S Burbridge, D Charlesworth-Smith.

2 members of the public

Cllr M Storey

Cllr A Ryves

The Vice Chairman welcomed all to the virtual meeting and thanked all for joining onscreen and on the telephone.

OPEN FORUM

The Clerk requested a second Open Forum is added after item 9 so that those attending can make any comments on items discussed at the meeting. This was agreed.

The grass has been cut round the village, but it looks awful, especially Cock Corner and the grass opposite. It is thought that the area had a flail cut because there were still daffodils in this area, the parish council agreed it does look a mess. This area is the responsibility of the Borough Council, the Clerk will follow this up.

Cllr. Ryves was asked how far has legal got with The Old Chapel? Cllr. Ryves is talking to the Enforcement Officer and waiting for replies from Highways. It was felt that this was taking a long time to resolve. There is a list of Enforcement issues which the Chairman will email to Cllr. Ryves.

Footpaths 9 & 10 need to be cut, Cllr. Storey will discuss with the Developer.

Wheelie bins at the Old Drill Hall are being left at the entrance to the car park, were reported as being left out in full view, could these be stored out of sight? It is believed they are on private land, enquiries will be made.

Buntings Lane Wall – this as been rebuilt but not finished, the coping stones have not been replaced. It is believed there was an enforcement notice placed on the wall, the Chairman and Cllr. Ryves are to discuss this.

Was there supposed to be a 2nd water butt at St George's Hall? Yes, technically this is a Methwold in Bloom issue, but the water butt has been purchased and is work in progress.

Trees at the church are overhanging the pavement and recreation ground path, the Clerk will speak to the grounds maintenance contractor.

Please can Cllr. Ryves cut back the trees which overhang his garden wall over the pavement and remove the weeds here? Cllr. Ryves reported that he is pro-wilding but will ask his wife to look at them.

Cllr. Ryves enquired whether a permanent structure could be installed at the entrance to Scotts Lane for bins, this is a private lane and it is believed to have been requested by residents but there has been no solution which appeals to all. It was raised as part of the planning process but not taken on board by the planners. Cllr. Ryves will discuss with Highways and the Borough Council.

- 1 To receive apologies for absence – D Thomas
- 2 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations – S Crump declared an interest in item 5.1.
- 3 To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 14th May 2020 – S Burbridge proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2020, P Crawley seconded - APPROVED

- 4 Matters arising from the last minutes – None
- 5 Reports
- 5.1 Update – Virtual meeting of Open Spaces – Request for approval to spend £40 on plants for outside the post office. R Gibson proposed to approve S Burbridge seconded – APPROVED
The dog bin in Methwold Hythe has been removed for the time being, this will be reinstated, the Clerk has not received any complaints that the bin has gone.
- 5.2 Update – Virtual meeting of Hall and General Purposes Working Party – Bank Payment Card Machine – other suppliers of card machines have been investigated, there is no rush to get this signed up until we have a date for the Complex to re-open.
Hearing Loop – request for this to be added to the Handyman’s list to fit this, S Burbridge proposed, R Gibson seconded – APPROVED, the Clerk will arrange for this to be completed by the end of June.
6. Finance
- 6.1 Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation
- 6.2 Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List – D Charlesworth-Smith proposed to approve payments, S Burbridge seconded - APPROVED
- 6.3 To approve the updated Financial Regulations – this was first circulated to the council in March, S Burbridge proposed to approve, R Gibson seconded - APPROVED
- 6.4 To approve the updated Financial Reserves Policy – this has been updated checking allocated funds vs the Budget for 2020/21 and is due to the lockdown and the effect this will have on income. P Crawley proposed to accept the updated FRP, S Crump seconded – APPROVED.
A support grant for village halls has been applied for but was rejected on the grounds that we are a precepting authority. The Borough Council will be asked for further clarification.
7. Planning
- 7.1 To receive planning decisions - 20/00524/F 56 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PU
- Two storey rear extension to dwelling Application Permitted 27 May 2020
- 7.2 To receive planning applications - None
- 7.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published - None
- 7.4 19/00302/UNAUTU – Appeal - APP/V2635/C/20/3247965 Alleged Unauthorised Use of Land On The North East Side of Brandon Road – For information only no comment.
8. Correspondence – The parish council have received a request from a local business for financial help. Legally the parish council are unable to provide financial support private business but have passed on details of grants which can be applied for and the contact details of the Business Development Officer at the Borough Council.
Dog mess has been reported in the underpass from the recreation ground onto Globe Street, it is unknown who is responsible for this area, notices have been put up reminding people to clean up after their dogs.
9. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda (Thursday 9th July 2020) –
The Avenue there are 2 wasp nests in the ivy in the hedge, can anything be done about this?
Request for temporary spray paint cans to mark dog mess.
Can we use the data collected from the SAMs2 sign to identify peak times for speeding traffic and share this info with Community Speedwatch? SAMs2 sign will be operational when able, Brookville will be the first place to be installed.
There is an overgrown tree on the small road from White Road to the High Street, who is responsible for this? Can be reported on www.fixmystreet.com and the Highway rangers will be informed for their next visit.

Have the parish council been approached by either schools in the parish to be used to get the children back to school?

The Restricted Byways – Mill Road to The Avenue, traffic is still using this route as a shortcut, this is a Police matter and should be reported on 101 with details of vehicle, date and times.

OPEN FORUM

The road sweeper was in the village recently but the quality of the road sweeping in the village is very poor.

The house on Stoke Road which had the planning appeal turned down still has a mobile home in the back garden, the house looks empty.

Resident reported that there is a headstone in the Cemetery which has colour on it, the parish council are now aware of this, there was no approval given for this coloured design and it is being addressed.

It has been reported that the dog fouling notices are still in place.

Cllr. Ryves asked if LGA 1972 Section 137 could be used to assist the request for financial help?

10. 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:
The parish council were updated on the virtual meeting that was held with Community Action Norfolk.
Employees hours during the lockdown were discussed.
Parish Council website and computer requirements – there are approved funds remaining from setting up the new website for computer related tasks, it is felt that we need to improve communications and these issues need to be resolved, the Clerk will speak to the computer person to resolve these.

Meeting closed at 16.10 pm