

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE 21 ROOM ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX
THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: D Thomas –Chairman, J Marriage –Vice Chairman, D Charlesworth-Smith, S Crump, B Horton
Cllr. Ryves
4 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Resident asked if there is a Preservation Order on the trees at the top of the Meadow on the new development on Crown Street, the new footings look to be very close to the trees, the parish council believe there is a Preservation Order. Are the developers going to re-instate the tree which is missing?

Mini Methwold/party room – the doorstep is not working properly, this will be investigated. Cllr. Ryves was asked if there is there any update on the Old Chapel, the property was re-clad approx. 6 weeks ago, Highways are investigating and Cllr. Ryves will continue to follow this up. The Bus Stop markings are due to be reinstated but not until the spring. Cllr. Ryves and the parish council were asked if there is a time limit as to how long the screening and fencing can remain in place, was there any planning permission or license required? Bollards have been installed along Chapel Lane, this is proving difficult for any deliveries and unknown if the emergency services would be able to access houses along the Lane, because this is a private lane only those living along Chapel Lane can do anything about the bollards. Cllr. Ryves is going to try and identify the Owners of the houses along Chapel Lane.

Cllr. Ryves explained that there is to be a new initiative from Norfolk County Council to try and encourage residents to plant 1 million trees over the next 5 years, NCC will want to involve the parish. It was agreed this is a good idea especially for trees to be planted on the new developments but who is going to maintain them in the future?

1. To receive apologies for absence – received and accepted from R Scott, S Burbridge, P Crawley & Cllr. Storey.
2. To receive declaration of items on the agenda and to consider requests for dispensations
- None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2019 –
D Charlesworth-Smith proposed to accept the Minutes, J Marriage seconded,
APPROVED, R Gibson abstained due to not attending the November meeting.
4. Matters arising from the last minutes
5. Reports
- 5.1 Update - Open Spaces – The bin in Brookville has been emptied and removed, it was full of bottles, Open Spaces will consider re-locating the bin in the future but for now it is in The Pound. A licence will be required from Highways to re-locate the bin.

5.2 Update and Report from the Hall and General Purposes Working Party to consider the recommendations made at meeting held on 5th December 2019 – It was suggested that the Complex needs to have Christmas decorations so that the Complex is festive for hires over the Christmas period, new decorations would have to be purchased and volunteers would be required to put them up and take down again. Could we approach local companies to see if any have decorations they could donate?

It has been reported that a few residents are using St George's Hall car park and the grass at the back of the old social club to exercise their dogs, this is unacceptable, the area is private and children use these areas, B Horton proposed signs are purchased for these areas, J Marriage seconded – APPROVED.

The Christmas tree has been put up outside the post office but the socket for the lights was full of water and cannot be used. D Thomas proposed a new set of lights are purchased, approximate cost is £20.00 B Horton seconded – APPROVED

The signal for the Internet is the old club is weak, the parish council would like to purchase another booster approx. cost is £80.00 to extend the range. B Horton proposed the purchase of the additional unit, D Charlesworth-Smith seconded - APPROVED

6. Finance

6.1 Accounts Update – All Councillors were given a copy of the Bank Reconciliation

6.2 Approval of payments – All Councillors received a copy of the Income & Invoice List – B Horton proposed approval of payments, seconded by D Charlesworth-Smith - APPROVED

6.3 Update from Finance Meeting held on 12th December 2019 to include the following and any other recommendations to full council arising from this meeting. A Finance Committee meeting was held before the main meeting where members recommended the approval of the following-

6.3 i - Approval of updated Financial Reserves Policy – R Gibson proposed, S Crump seconded - APPROVED

6.3 ii - Approval of updated Budget for 2019/20 – D Charlesworth-Smith proposed, S Crump seconded - APPROVED

6.3 iii - Approval of Budget for 2020/21 – B Horton proposed, J Marriage seconded - APPROVED

6.3 iv – Approval of Precept for 2020/21 – an increase of 5% to the Precept was recommended, this will mean for a Band D house an increase of approximately 45p per month. This is the last year that the Council Tax Support Grant is being allocated, 2020/21 the amount we will receive is £377. R Gibson proposed to accept a 5% increase to the Precept, S Crump seconded - APPROVED

7. Planning

7.1 To receive planning decisions:

19/01605/F 2 Warren Cottage Brandon Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RL - Use of premises for part residential and part dog day care and home boarding business and retention of multi-purpose outbuilding including room for dog grooming. INCLUDING ROOM FOR DOG GROOMING. Application Permitted 14 November 2019 Delegated Decision

17/00211/NMA_1 Parcela 49B Main Road Brookville Norfolk IP26 4RB - NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT TO APPLICATION 17/00211/RM: Reserved Matters Application, construction of three dwellings - reserved matters for plot 2 Application Permitted 12 November 2019

Delegated Decision

19/01566/F Land Between 5 And 11 Whiteplot Road Methwold Hythe Norfolk Construction of one dwelling Application Permitted 29 November 2019 Delegated Decision

7.2 To consider the following planning applications:

19/01966/F Construction of building as hostel accommodation for seasonal works, following removal of existing mobile home accommodation Holme Brink Farm 22 Thornham Road Methwold Norfolk IP26 4PH – The deadline for this application has passed, no comment was submitted.

19/02051/F Construction of front and rear extensions Woodbine 3 Lancaster Close Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4NZ – This application was discussed, J Marriage proposed to support this application, D Charlesworth-Smith seconded – SUPPORT

18/01938/S257 Order to stop up the public footpath running from A to B and create an alternative footpath over the land at Crown Street Methwold running from C to B as shown on the map. The kissing gate at the corner of the Rec. will be affected, Clerk to contact the Borough Council to ask what is their intention for the kissing gate that this change affects?

7.3 To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was produced. - None

8. Items received for the Agenda - None

9. Correspondence which has not already been circulated

Clerk asked if the councillors have all seen the cancellations to the bus services which was circulated to all?

Email has been received from the primary school regarding parking outside the school, the potential danger this causes to the children and obstructions caused, Clerk suggested a meeting is arranged with the primary school, Icen Academy, Highways, the Police, Road Safety Officer, Cllr. Ryves, Cllr. Storey and representatives from the parish council to discuss and try to find a solution. Clerk to arrange for early 2020.

OPEN FORUM

The grass opposite Petch House has been cut up badly by a tanker who got stuck trying to turn right and sinking into the grass after making a gas delivery, Clerk to contact the Company to ask them to rectify the damage.

The parish council were asked when the new chairs and tables will be delivered and how much they cost, the new chairs and round tables for the Complex are expected to be delivered by the end of January 2020, the cost for the 250 new chairs and 20 tables with trolleys is £17,015, all will be purchased all at once because a significant price increase is expected in the new year, an inventory of the old furniture is being compiled and we will endeavor to sell these to recoup some funds. Some tables will be retained for hirers who do not want round tables.

Resident thanked all the parish councillors for all the hard work they do and the changes they have made to the parish.

Cllr. Ryves explained that it may be possible to persuade the Borough Council that the busses are an infrastructure item, could the CIL money be used for the bus service?

10. Any Further Reports and items for the next agenda - for information only

Observation, someone is allowing their dog to foul near The Avenue opposite the dog waste bin, please pick up after your dog.

The Avenue, the surface of the track at the top is slippery, it needs gravel, the Footpaths Officer has visited and suggested the residents form a group to maintain the surface as others in the area have done.

Speedwatch continues to record speeding motorists in the parish.

Sad to report that former parish councillor Jean Oliver passed away 3 weeks ago.

The Contractor who is repairing the cross and railings came to meet the Chairman and Vice Chair to discuss the work to repair, process and timescale. The insurance Company have agreed to pay for the repair minus £250 excess.

Highway Rangers are due t visit in January, Councillors were reminded to let the Clerk know of any items which require their attention, please remember that they can only carry out work which they are allowed to do, list has been circulated.

Please can the Clerk thank Northwold Clerk for arranging for Mill Drove to be cut? Pavement along Stoke Road, the brambles are growing out over the path again. It is believed that the factory on Buntings Lane has been sold and may become a commercial business again, traffic may increase.

The Chairman wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Chairman requested permission to extend the meeting to conclude business -
APPROVED

11. 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:
Quotes – Grounds Maintenance & Grass Cutting – Due to the amount of grass cutting and & grounds maintenance required around the parish which includes the grass areas owned by the parish council, Church Yard, Recreation Ground, Cemetery and Complex, it was previously agreed by the parish council that the new contract would be for all outside maintenance to be included with the grass cutting so that a proper plan is made for the year to keep on top of the work required, there may still be occasions when quotes are required for one off works but these will be dealt with in the usual quotes process.
7 contractors were asked to submit quotes for the grass cutting and & grounds maintenance, 1 declined to quote, 3 didn't reply and 3 quotes have been received. Quotes were for a 3 year contract.
This year a total of £6635.37 has been spent on the grounds maintenance and grass cutting, Quote A £3095 – this was considered to be underpriced and there was concern that work would not be to a satisfactory standard. Quote B - £6360 was considered too expensive.
Quote C - £5396.80 considered to be best value for money, J Marriage proposed Quote C D Charlesworth-Smith seconded APPROVED.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm