

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN THE 21 ROOM ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX  
THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: D Thomas – Chairman, R Gibson, C West, P Crawley, D Charlesworth-Smith,  
T Thomas, S Stones, B Horton, J Marriage, K Plumridge.

2 members of the public

Cllr M Storey

The Chair and welcomed all to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Cllr. Storey gave an update-The humps along the Main Road Brookville-Highways are to visit to assess the humps and have said they will do something to where the repair to the surface has left the repair too proud. Methwold Hythe potholes are to be repaired very soon. Trod – Methwold Hythe to Methwold – this is programmed in to be done before this winter, hedges need to be cut back by landowners. Mud and mess being left on the road by farm traffic in Methwold Hythe Cllr. Storey is to take this up on behalf of the parish council. Cllr. Storey was asked to remind Highways that they had agreed to install yellow zigzags on both sides of the road outside the primary school, it was agreed this would be done by May 2018.

1. To receive and consider accepting apologies for absence – S Burbridge, R Hood (email received before meeting but not read)
2. Declaration of Interest - Councillors invited to declare any interest in any item on the agenda – K Plumridge declared an interest item 5.4 MPTFA letter regarding Complex hire for their Christmas Fair.
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2018 as a true record of the meeting – C West proposed to accept the minutes, seconded by D Charlesworth-Smith – APPROVED – K Plumridge, J Marriage and B Horton abstained because they did not attend the last meeting.
4. Matters arising from past minutes – None
5. Reports:
  - 5.1 Chairman's Report – the Chair apologised for not circulating the report before the meeting.
  - 5.2 Clerk's Report – The audit has been signed off by the External Auditors, The Clerk was asked how long it would be before training for Community Speedwatch could start, the completed forms will be sent to the Organiser to start the process but we were hoping to have had some volunteers from Methwold and Methwold Hythe to volunteer for Community Speedwatch to be able to have the system operating more frequently throughout the parish.
  - 5.3 Open Spaces Working Group update of meeting held on 27.09.2018 and to consider recommendations made regarding: Picnic benches - we have two benches in storage but these now need to be moved, various options were discussed these could be installed on the Rec. the benches which are already in place have been used a lot this summer so this would give people more places to sit, picnic etc. they need to be sited in the sunshine not shade. J Marriage proposed to keep the benches and install them on the Rec. once the price for installation is being known. R Gibson seconded – APPROVED  
Trees outside the Post Office are in need of attention – Clerk to obtain a quote to tidy them up and cut them back

5.4 Hall & General Purposes Working Group update of meeting held on 04.10.2018 and to consider recommendations made regarding: A letter has been received from the Chair of the Methwold Primary School PTFA asking the council to consider a request for a reduction to the hire fee for the Christmas Fair and Craft Fair, the council discussed this community event, J Marriage proposed £75.00 charge for the event, B Horton seconded – APPROVED K Plumridge abstained.

Lighting in St George's Complex – the lamps in the Fenton Room need to be replaced the ECO Report suggested replacing with LED lamps – require 12 lamp approx. cost £140 + VAT D Thomas requests permission to purchase 12 LED Lamps T Thomas seconded - APPROVED

PV Panel meter is not giving a reading, the Clerk has contacted the installer to repair. Mini Methwold have been accepted for the 'Bag for Life' blue token scheme in Downham Market, any money received from this scheme will be used for the garden project at Mini Methwold, please support our cause. The Chairman congratulated the Mini Methwold team.

## 6. Finances

6.1 Accounts Update – We have lost Lazy Days group has closed the club and will no longer meet in the Fenton Room. The Parish Council had worked with the group organisers to try and help them continue but this was not possible, the organisers are very disappointed to have to close the club. We would encourage any group to come and see the facilities we have to offer in the Complex and to talk to the Clerk or Hall Coordinator to discuss requirements.

6.2 Approval of payments – The Chairman went through the list of payments. K Plumridge proposed approval of payments, J Marriage seconded – APPROVED

## 7. 7.1 To receive planning applications:

18/01689/RM Reserved Matters Application for 6 dwellings at 1 Scotts Lane Brookville Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RD- discussion - D Charlesworth-Smith proposed to object due to width of road, lack of space for turning area for services and other residents C West seconded – All voted - OBJECT

18/01732/F Construction of two dwellings at The Yews 10 Buntings Lane Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PR – discussion - K Plumridge proposed to support, J Marriage seconded - SUPPORT – All voted with 1 abstention P Crawley

18/01730/F Retention of caravan for temporary residential use at Cherry Tree Farm Thornham Road Methwold Norfolk IP26 4PJ – discussion B Horton proposed to support, T Thomas seconded – SUPPORT – All voted with 1 abstention K Plumridge

18/01791/F Retention of access track at Cherry Tree Farm Thornham Road Methold Hythe IP26 4PJ – discussion – J Marriage proposed no observation, seconded B Horton All Voted - NO OBSERVATION

18/01729/CU Change of Use of land from agricultural to leisure (D2) at Cherry Tree Farm Thornham Road Methwold Norfolk IP26 4PJ – discussion P Crawley proposed to support application, S Stones seconded – All voted to SUPPORT

18/01538/F Extension and modernisation to dwelling and standing of static caravan while work is ongoing at Wills Holly 38 Globe Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk – discussion J Marriage proposed to support application D Charlesworth-Smith seconded – All voted to SUPPORT

7.2 To receive planning decisions: These were read out

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

## 8. Items received for Agenda – None

9. Correspondence – Letter read out from Developer of Storeys Meadow, a meeting to be arranged to discuss footpaths.

## OPEN FORUM

Does the council have a way to manage all the requests for reductions to hire fees, there was concern others will request reductions and where does this stop? The Chairman explained that the parish council has a Policy in place which is used to make decisions in this situation. K Plumridge explained what Methwold Primary school PTFA do and the projects they raise money for.

Any Further Reports - for information only

A list of all public footpaths and by ways around the parish should be checked against the definitive map, we have until 2026 to register all footpaths etc, should the parish council consider setting up a group to look at this, are there any other paths that people would like looking at, contact the Clerk if you have any suggestions.

November 11<sup>th</sup> WW1 event, would the council consider not charging for the use of the Complex for this day of events and Carols around the tree? These will be taken to the Hall Meeting in November for discussion.

The road sweeper has been seen in Ventura Close and did a good job, the Operator was seen getting out and sweeping with a broom.

There have been some near misses where traffic coming along the B1112 from the Brandon direction turning onto High Street have almost hit pedestrians, when the developer of the two houses at the old car sales site installs the footpath outside could he continue with the footpath to bring it around the corner to join up to the path on the High Street, can the Clerk ask Highways if these can be linked?

There needs to be a light outside the 21 room on the drive, can one be installed, there is a casement but no fitting, this will be discussed in Halls group.

The Avenue/Mill Drove/Green Lane Brookville is overgrown, it has been reported that if a car uses any of these restricted byways pedestrians have to get into the undergrowth to get out the way, can we ask the land owner to cut the brambles back and ask Northwold Clerk to request land owners from the Northwold end to do the same?

Can we thank those who have come forward to volunteer for the Community Speed Watch, it is amazing that those who were complaining about the speeding traffic have not come forward to volunteer.

11. To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public –

Establishment of Trust re: Old Social Club-part of the conditions of the handover of the old social club was the setting up of a Trust so that in the future if the Parish Council have to sell the building, the money generated less any costs incurred to the parish council could be put into a trust for the benefit of the community.

J Marriage has been trying to set this Trust up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation but has come across some problems. J Marriage requested permission to use Mr N Hancox, a Solicitor the Parish Council have used in the past to set up the Trust, and agreement to be able to spend up to £2k to do this. R Gibson seconded – APPROVED. The Chairman thanked J Marriage for all his hard work.

Quotes for Electrical work, Toilet refurbishment – Clerk not received these yet put over to November meeting

Meeting closed 21.41