

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE 21 ROOM ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX
THURSDAY 14th JUNE 2018 at 7.30pm

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

4 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and welcomed back R Hood.

OPEN FORUM

Bus shelters-a resident has asked the parish council to consider installing bus shelters in the parish, Clerk to find out if bus shelters are included in the Parish Partnership Scheme.

The signs have gone up around the complex to identify the different rooms but people need to be able to see from the road, can there be a sign at the start of the drive showing where the rooms are? The chalk boards will be updated.

The finger post outside the Post Office is out of date, this will be taken to Open Spaces.

Potholes in Globe Street, these can be reported on www.fixmystreet.com The Cemetery is untidy-Open Spaces are to arrange a work day.

1. To receive and consider accepting apologies for absence – Cllr. Storey sent apologies, he had to attend a Borough Council meeting.
2. Declaration of Interest - Councillors invited to declare any interest in any item on the agenda. K Plumridge declared an interest in item 11 due to a family member submitting a quote.
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2018 as a true record of the meeting. Proposal to accept minutes S Burbridge seconded by B Horton All agreed R Hood abstained as not present at the last meeting.

4. Matters arising from past minutes-None

5. Reports:

5.1 Chairman's Report – Post Office Hire agreement almost ready. EPC has been completed and the application for feed in tariff will be completed.

5.2 Clerk's Report- No questions.

5.3 Open Spaces Working Party on 24th May 2018 and to consider recommendations made regarding: Cemetery – a grave in the new Cemetery has been marked out with weed killer, we think we have identified the Owner of the grave, Clerk/Chairman to send a letter as this does not comply with Cemetery Rules. Quotes for access gate/path widening to be dealt with in item 11.

Safety Mats on the Rec. the Contractor has started work this week, fencing will be left in place to allow the grass to seed.

Footpath onto Globe Street from the Rec. this is being investigated by Highways and the Footpath Officer, to date findings tie in with the parish councils previous investigations. Cllr Storey should have contacted the Clerk direct not a parish councilor regarding this issue. Parish council to investigate registering for ownership of this path?

New access gate onto rec. from House in Globe Street – to Open Spaces.

Cemetery skip – this costs £350+ each time it is emptied, there is a lot of green waste being out in the skip, could people be asked to put their green waste in the wired composting

area? Clerk to place a sign in Cemetery.

5.4 Hall & General Purposes Working Party on 7th June 2018 and to consider recommendations made regarding: Toilet block for Car Park to address lack of public toilets – being investigated. The complex needs spraying for weeds-Item 11

At present a lighting control unit is being borrowed from D Thomas to operate the stage lights in the 21 Room. Request permission to purchase a LCU for anyone hiring to use cost £59.00 + Delivery and VAT. B Horton proposed purchase of the LCU, D Charlesworth-Smith seconded - All agreed

Battery storage for PV panels – there is money remaining from the grant for the PV panels which could be used to purchase batteries to store the energy already being generated to be used at a later date. Discussion, council decided to go out for options and quotes for batteries. Unable to install any more PV panels on St George's Hall roof as this is too accessible.

The boundary fence at the back of the old social club is old rusty barbed wire and will need replacing, this is not appropriate for children playing on the grass area.

6. Finances

6.1 Accounts Update – Chairman went through the Income & Invoice list

6.2 Approval of payments - R Hood proposed approval of payments, R Gibson seconded – All Agreed.

7.

7.1 To receive planning applications:

18/00145/F Erection of dwelling Adjacent 23 Whiteplot Road Methwold Hythe Thetford Norfolk IP26 4QP-

There is great concern over another development in Methwold Hythe which is classified as a smaller village and Hamlet in the Core Strategy where it would be inappropriate to seek further development.

There have already been 8 houses approved since February 2016 and an appeal for another four large 4/5 bedroomed houses is ongoing.

This is an application for an additional 4 bedroomed house. The houses which have already been built are rentals and not affordable.

The parish council feels this is over development in a small hamlet.

The primary school is full in the Early Years classes, 15 children have been accepted this year with another 4 going to appeal.

There is no infrastructure to support this application, there are no shops in the parish only a part-time Post Office and a fish & chip shop, the Doctors are full and have no plans to expand.

There are already issues with the upkeep and standard of White Plot Road.

S Burbridge proposed OBJECTION due to over development, seconded by T Thomas
R Hood Abstained - All other Councillors approved.

18/00994/F Construction of 4 dwellings following demolition of single dwelling at Fair View 8 Globe Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk

Clarification is required as to whether these are 2 or 3 bedroomed dwellings? The Heritage Statement states 2 bedrooms but plans show 3 bedrooms, Clerk is to contact the Planning Officer to obtain clarification.

There was concern that the primary school is full and that there is only a part time Post Office in the parish.

The Heritage Statement states that these will be rental properties for small family lets and

aimed at accommodation which can be readily let to people in the Village at economically viable levels of affordability.

The property which is currently on the site is in poor condition and the proposed development is in keeping with the other buildings in the area.

R Hood proposed to SUPPORT the application J Marriage seconded – R Gibson Abstained - All other Councillors approved.

7.2 To receive planning decisions:

18/00459/RM 49C Main Road Brookville Norfolk IP26 4RB - Reserved Matters Application: Details of plot 3 Application Permitted 11 May 2018 Delegated Decision

18/00439/LDE Fen Cabin Severalls Road Methwold Hythe Norfolk IP26 4QU - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing residential garden was Lawful 18 May 2018 Delegated Decision.

7.3 To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was produced:

8. Items received for Agenda

WW1 Events in Methwold – Methwold Community Action Group are organizing events to mark WW1 to include a commemorative mug for each child attending the primary school, MCAG and the Church are contributing £250 towards the events and the parish council have been asked if they would like to contribute £250.00.

D Charlesworth-Smith proposed the parish council donate £250.00 towards the event, S Burbridge seconded P Crawley Abstained – All other Councillors approved.

Grass Cutting – Once again the grass cutting is leaving a lot to be desired! The grass owned by the parish council is cut every two weeks and is being monitored. The Contract for grass cutting is to be revisited and discussed in Open Spaces.

The other areas of the parish are cut by the CleanUp team for BCKLWN and NCC if you have any complaints or comments about the quality or how often they cut the grass please contact the Clerk or call CleanUp on 01553 728076 so this can be recorded, we have been told that last year the grass was cut 6 times that we paid for and we got 2 free cuts - 8 cuts in total, this year we have been allocated 6 cuts but they are only cutting around the edges of some of the green spaces, there is a map of the grass areas cut by CleanUp, if anyone would like to see this please contact the Clerk.

9. Correspondence – Please can we have a Union Flag flying in recognition of the 100 year anniversary of the First World War? – Clerk to cost - to Hall Meeting.

Norfolk Police – willing to come and talk about a Speedwatch scheme to residents. In the past there has not been any volunteers but if anyone is interested please contact the Clerk, it was agreed that a message is to be put on Facebook to try and reach more residents.

OPEN FORUM

Shorter footpath across Storeys Meadow has been cut but only part of the rest of the field, not the longer footpath to Globe Street. The brambles are overgrown and coming over the wall, these need cutting back.

Tree on Fair Hill – children from the primary school council will plant a Mountain Ash/Rowan on Fair Hill to mark the 400th Anniversary of the Market Charter being awarded to Methwold, date to be confirmed.

The signs which the primary school children have made to slow drivers down have been given to K Plumridge to progress.

Chairman asked for an extension to the meeting to complete business – All agreed

10. Any Further Reports - for information only

Tree on Fair Hill – a query has been raised by a resident of Fair Hill as to where the tree is planted, it is hoped this has been resolved. The branches of the copper beech tree have grown through the telephone wires.

Costs for a village sign for Brookville and Methwold Hythe have been received and will be passed to Open Spaces.

A resident has asked how they can complain about the state of a front garden of a housing association house, the Clerk can advise.

The bin in Brookville by the old Post Office is full

The request for a headstone in the Cemetery will be reviewed again mid-July, due to the weather the placing of headstone has been delayed.

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

Streetlight Maintenance – 3 quotes received – 3 year contract - Quote A £4188.36 + £85.00/£120 plus VAT Quote B £4171.11 plus VAT Quote C £3276.00 + VAT plus £50/55 per lamp to replace and £200 per lantern to replace.

J Marriage proposed to accept Quote B K Plumridge seconded All Agreed

Widening Access in Cemetery – 3 quotes received Quote A £ 7955.59 + VAT Quote B £ 3715 + VAT Quote C £2650.00

All those quoting received the same instructions/specifications

D Charlesworth-Smith proposed to accept quote C, R Gibson seconded K Plumridge

Abstained – All other councilors Agreed.

A quote has been obtained for spraying the weeds around the complex £55.00 + VAT, this was thought to be very reasonable, T Thomas proposed this quote was accepted, R Gibson seconded All Agreed.

Request to cost how much lines in St George's Hall Car Park would be to reinstate.

Meeting ended 9.55pm