

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD
THURSDAY 13th AUGUST at 11.00am

Parish Councillors present: J Marriage – Chairman, R Gibson – Vice Chair, S Crump, P Crawley, S Burbridge, D Charlesworth-Smith, C West, J Margetts, D Scott

Also in attendance: R Buckle (Parish Clerk) Cllr A Ryves
5 members of the public
2 representative from EF Plastics

The Chairman welcomed all to the virtual meeting and thanked all for joining onscreen and on the telephone, including the candidate who has put themselves forward for co-option to become a parish councillor.

Currently we are experiencing problems with the parish council email, if you wish to contact the Clerk please email infomethwoldpc@gmail.com or call 07340162732

OPEN FORUM

Open Forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public- Representatives from EF Plastics attended the meeting, having sent an email to update the parish council prior to the meeting to update on the work they have carried out on the potholes in Buntings Lane, the potholes have been filled and a notice sent to all their contract haulage companies informing them of the 10mph speed limit along the lane. New 10mph signs will be erected along Buntings Lane. EF Plastics have plans to maintain the lane every 3 months. There were no questions. The Chairman thanked EF Plastics for attending the meeting and for the work they have done to the potholes, hopefully this will reduce the noise.

Footpath 10 – the Owner of the meadow has not been able to gain access through the development site to be able to mow Footpath 10, he is trying to contact the Developer to rectify this. Resident asked if the Owner could use weed killer to clear the Footpath? The Development on the Meadow seems to have stopped, does anyone know why?

There are molehills on the grass at Cock Corner, this is Norfolk County Council's responsibility and will be reported by the Clerk.

Resident stated that in today's newspaper there is an article by John Slater on Neighbourhood Plans which vindicates the parish council's decision not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan.

Resident attended the meeting to make the Parish Council aware of the issues regarding the mobile home which has been sited behind The Green Man in Methwold Hythe, there have been at least 17 complaints made to the Borough Council and it is with the Enforcement Officer, Cllr Ryves was asked to follow this up. The resident asked Cllr. Ryves what is the timescale for a complaint to be dealt with as it is believed the site was visited several weeks ago. Why was this complaint not on the agenda at the recent planning meeting? What constitutes planning permission?

There is to be a charity set up in Methwold Hythe to look after the defibrillator, the Trustees intend to write to The Green Man to ask for the remaining funds raised for the defibrillator and it's upkeep to be deposited in the new account, the resident will keep the parish council informed as to progress.

The Chairman informed the meeting that a reply had been received from the Enforcement Officer regarding the mobile home sited in a back garden on Stoke Road, the email states '*caravan is lawfully sited provided the occupants are still renovating the house. I called last year, and this was the case then. I understand that it is still the case now although progress does appear slow.*

It would be a judgement call by the council to say "enough is enough" if this situation went on ad infinitum but at the moment there still appears to be work going on and therefore the van is lawful'.

Cllr. Ryves is to look at planning and hopes to publish guidelines so residents know what is permissible. The hedges around the Cemetery need to be cut, the Clerk has already asked the Contractor to bring forwards the schedule to allow this to happen sooner.

1 Co-Option procedure

1.1 Leanne Burge was unanimously co-opted as a parish councillor, Declaration of Acceptance of Office was emailed, signed and shown to the meeting.

2 To receive apologies for absence – D Thomas, B Horton and R Scott.

3 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations - None

4 To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on July 9th 2020 Proposed by S Burbridge, seconded by C West APPROVED L Burge abstained because she was not present at this meeting.

5 Matters arising from the last minutes- None

6 Reports

5.1 Update and report from the virtual meeting of Open Spaces and to consider recommendations made at the meeting held on 23rd July 2020. The group agreed to change the skip in the Cemetery to a Dumpster, this should prove cheaper. Those using the Cemetery are asked to use the wired area for any green waste and only put general waste from the Cemetery in this bin. The current skip was having a lot of waste which was not from the Cemetery dumped in it. The new dumpster is lockable if the problem persists. J Marriage proposed to exchange skip for dumpster, R Gibson seconded APPROVED, signs will be required asking people to separate the waste before dumping waste in the appropriate bin.

Litter bins around the village, the Borough Council have said that they empty the bins in the Cemetery, recreation ground and on Cock Corner, to the best of the parish council's knowledge the parish council empty the bins in the Cemetery and the ones on the recreation ground.

Proposal to parish council that the 2 bins in the Cemetery are removed and any rubbish is put in the dumpster, the bin outside the post office will be changed for a dome topped bin and the bin on Fair Hill will be replaced. J Marriage proposed 2 bins from Cemetery to replace the one outside the post office and on Fair Hill, C West seconded – APPROVED

Parish councillor reported the bin on the green in White Road is propped against the tree and the tree is dead, this is a cause for concern, can the bin be moved? Chairman will investigate.

COVID-19 Recreation Ground – the Borough Council have offered to print signage for the rec. on board. J Marriage proposed the Clerk to use £40 of emergency funding to purchase these signs, reports have been made that someone is removing the signs on the recreation ground, whoever is responsible for removing the signs PLEASE STOP IT!

5.2 Update and report from the virtual meeting of Hall and General Purposes Working Party and to consider recommendations made at the meeting held on 6th August – The group discussed a phased re-opening of just St George's Hall and the Fenton Room to regular hirers, a questionnaire has been sent to these groups to find out if and when they want to return. Most of these have been returned and the results were discussed. Zumba may use outside space to get their classes going again, due to social distancing they need a substantial area to be able to operate. They will be offered the recreation ground as a trial to see if this works for them.

It was felt that the phased opening would be the best way forwards and R Gibson proposed £200 is approved to purchase and install the sanitisers and equipment required to start this process.

S Burbridge seconded – APPROVED

It was agreed that Mini Methwold will be treated separately as this needs more consideration due to the amount of equipment in the room, the requirements will continue to be monitored.

6. Finance
 - 6.1 Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation- circulated before meeting
 - 6.2 Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List – circulated to all parish councillors prior to the meeting, S Burbridge proposed approval, D Charlesworth-Smith seconded - APPROVED
7. Planning
 - 7.1 To receive planning decisions - NONE
 - 7.2 To receive planning applications

20/01063/F Conversion of existing barn into two residential dwellings Laurel Farm 36A Globe Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PQ – Members of the Planning Committee have inspected the plans and site and feel that this would improve the area and have no concerns regarding the conversion, S Burbridge proposed the parish council support the plans, S Crump seconded – SUPPORT
 - 7.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published - NONE
8. Correspondence – circulated to the parish councillors as received, letter received from Batchcroft Trust with details of the new Clerk.

Open Forum

Can anything be done about the bins from the Drill Hall being left out when it is not bin day? The parish council have no control over this, the Borough Council will be asked for a copy of the rules regarding bins.

On the B1112 towards Weeting the road has been resurfaced but Highways have not repaired the worse stretch of road where the majority of potholes are.

Footpath 10 has not been cut and the metal fencing is not sited correctly, can there be a meeting arranged with the Developer, members of the public and parish council to try and resolve this?

Has anyone seen the planning application for a new fire tower at the Fire Station?

No street cleaning has been done in Methwold Hythe for some time, are they still on a 12 week schedule? Last time the streetsweeper was in Methwold it is thought they only went as far as the far end of Methwold and not into Methwold Hythe.

The matting under the play equipment, tables and benches all needs cleaning, last time this was done by a very kind resident.

Is there any update on The Old Chapel? It is unsightly, the screens have been changed and the fencing moved out, enough is enough, why is this not progressing? Cllr. Ryves stated as there is building work, they are justified in having the screens in place. The parish council have done their best, working with the Borough Councillor, can this now be passed to the Planning Inspectorate or a similar body? Cllr Ryves will follow this up.

Restricted Byway The Avenue and Mill Drove, vehicles continue to use this as a cut through, the Public Rights of Way Officer has been asked if bigger signs explaining this is a Restricted Byway can be put up, he has been out and walked Mill Drove and doesn't think there is much vehicle movement here, the small signs that he has put up are adequate in his opinion, can this be changed to a No Through Road? Clerk to brief Cllr. Ryves on signage.

9. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda (Thursday 10th September 2020)

Has the Clerk asked Northwold Clerk if the Farmers can cut Mill Drove, this is Highways responsibility. Footpath Hall Farm Drive only runs as far as where Footpath 9 crosses over, beyond is private.

Rubble has been dumped on the lane near the solar park, can the land owner be informed, does anyone know who this is?

Has the Clerk received notification of the name change to the property in Brookville? The Clerk checked with the Borough Council after the last meeting and there had been no application made for a name change at this time. It is a legal requirement for changes to a property's name to be made to the Borough Council so that the appropriate authorities are made aware, the name and the number of the house should be on all property signs.

There are weeds in the Memorial Garden in the Church Yard, The Clerk will let the Contractors know this.

Glass bin at St George's Hall is being used and has recently been emptied, a claim can be made to the Borough Council once the quarterly receipt is received from the waste company.

Saturday 15th August 2020 is the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day, at 11.10am there will be a reading in the Church Yard and the bells will be rung 75 times.

The SAMs2 sign has been moved.

The parish council applied for a grant from the Borough Council at the start of lockdown for loss of earnings because the Complex was closed, originally we were informed that as a precepting authority we did not qualify but the rules have since been changed, therefore we have reapplied for this grant. Scotts Lane - Rubbish - the entrance has been widened but it is thought that a small fence is to be erected up the middle of the lane which will prevent the rubbish lorry from going up the lane to collect the rubbish, can the small transit which already visits the lane to collect one persons rubbish be asked to collect the remaining houses rubbish?

The Chairman proposed a resolution to extend the meeting to conclude business – agreed.

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: Staff – parish council discussed the outcome of the recent HR Group meeting.

COVID-19 Cleaning – the Cleaner has confirmed he is willing to carry out whatever is required once the Complex starts to re-open, a zoom meeting will be arranged with the Cleaner to discuss and agree how much time he will need to deep clean after hires.

The purchase of a fogging machine was discussed for Mini Methwold to assist with cleaning once opened, this can be purchased from Mini Methwold funds and a second fogging machine to be purchased for St George's Hall and Fenton Room, P Crawley proposed, S Crump seconded – APPROVED
Virtual meetings are approved by the Government until at least May 2021, the Clerk has been advised by Norfolk Parish Training that public meetings would be difficult to manage because there is no control over how many people can attend a meeting, therefore social distancing cannot be adhered to. The parish council discussed and have decided that virtual meetings will continue.

It was decided that as there are now 13 parish councillors the working groups and committees will be revisited at the next meeting, councillors were asked to consider which groups they wish to join.

Meeting closed at 13.30pm