

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE 21 ROOM ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX
THURSDAY 9th JANUARY 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: D Thomas –Chairman, J Marriage –Vice Chairman, D Charlesworth-Smith,
S Crump, B Horton, P Crawley, R Gibson.
5 members of the public

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Footpath 10 was reported as inaccessible due to the metal fencing used by the development which is not felt to be in the right place and there are overgrown nettles which are impossible to walk through.

The vehicles going on and off the Meadow development are leaving mud on the pavement and road, can the Developer be asked to make sure this is cleaned up? It was suggested that a meeting is set up with the Developer, representatives from the parish council and the residents who reported the problem.

Moles are reported to be back on the Rec. the mole man is aware and will be visiting next week.

The grass which was damaged by the lorry on Petch Corner was reported to Highways, it has been noticed that some efforts have been made to repair.

There is a large tyre mark across the grassed area at the start of Herbert Drive.

The road signs informing of the gasworks in the village have been removed.

Residents complained of large potholes in the graveled road area at the bottom of Globe Street, mostly caused by big lorries going into the new development, it is believed that this road is privately owned and therefore not the responsibility of Highways to repair the road surface. It was suggested that the residents could approach the developer to ask that the road is repaired.

The Right of Way from Fair Hill to Stoke Road past the farm needs shingle to fill in the muddy areas along here, it will be reported to Highways and the Public Rights of Way Officer to ask if they can make good.

1. To receive apologies for absence – S Burbridge, R Scott & Cllr. T Ryves
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 12th December 2019, Proposed by D Charlesworth-Smith, seconded B Horton - APPROVED
4. Matters arising from the last minutes - None
5. Reports
 - 5.1 Update - Open Spaces – No meeting in December – Brookville bin, since the bin has been removed rubbish has been reported as being dumped on the seat at the entrance to The Avenue, whether this is because the bin further up at the Old Post Office has been removed is thought to be unlikely. The parish council was asked if they wished the bin to be reinstated after it has been refurbished, this would have to be in the same place as before and to be able to do this volunteers would be required to empty the bin on a regular basis, if anyone wishes to volunteer please contact the Clerk.
 - 5.2 Update - Hall and General Purposes Working Party – No Meeting in January – The new door into the Parish Office has been installed, a counter is required in the office, funds already approved for a counter in the Old Social Club and these funds will be diverted to build this counter in the office.

The new chairs are due at the end of January, the Clerk will co-ordinate once a date is known. Filing cabinets are to be moved to the Spencer Room and the one which is in use will go into the store cupboard in the office.

6. Finance

6.1 Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation – no queries

6.2 Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List – no queries, R Gibson proposed approval of payments, P Crawley seconded - APPROVED

7. Planning

7.1 To receive planning decisions:

19/01261/FM Land West of 78 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk - The erection of 12 Dwellings Application Permitted 9 December 2019 Delegated Decision

7.2 To consider the following planning applications:

19/02176/FM Construction of animal barn & visitor centre including forming roadways and parking areas and bases and services for 6 holiday cabins and creation of two fishing ponds at Cherry Tree Farm Thornham Road Methwold Norfolk IP26 4PJ.

Methwold Parish Council discussed 19/02176/FM and voted to OBJECT to this application because the access road is not suitable for the volume of traffic, it is a single-track road, with very few passing places and does not permit two way use.

This application includes the addition of an animal barn and visitor centre which is likely to increase traffic, the site regularly advertises 'open days' for the general public to visit, increasing traffic on this road.

19/01139/F Installation of an underground gas pipeline and gas compound at Land approx. 2.4 kilometers S and W from Wellington Lodge Farm Northwold Norfolk - NO OBJECTONS

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

Footpath alignment – Petch House Development – it was brought to the parish council's attention by a resident who felt that the new fence at the front of the new development had been installed in the wrong position. On comparison with an old photograph it was found that the fence closely follows the original line of the old chalk wall. There was also a question over the entrance from the house closest to the original house and a footpath running from this house onto the road, this was showing on the plans. The metal fence on the right of the development has recently been lowered.

The Local Plan review 2016-2036 is a list and mapping of all the sites submitted to the Borough Council for consideration in the next phase of the Local Plan review, this can be viewed on the Borough Council website at www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20216/local_plan_review_2016_-_2036

8. Items received for the Agenda

Update from recent seminar, to be covered in item 11

9. Correspondence which has not already been circulated - None

OPEN FORUM

Resident asked -has Cllr. Ryves given any update on the Old Chapel? At a recent meeting Cllr. Ryves stated that he would like to make the village tidier, can anything be done about the wheelie bins which are stored outside the flats on the High Street, it was thought that a compound is available on the site for the bins to be stored but this isn't being used. A van was reported to have been parked on the social club drive outside the fire doors to the main hall, preventing users of Mini Methwold being able to access the social club car park, there are already signs on the doors to say they are a fire exit. another car was reported as parked in the top car park whilst attending an event

elsewhere, please can there be some signage to clarify which car park to use when at an event in the Complex?

Can there be a PIR light in the car park outside Mini Methwold – to Hall meeting

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

It has been rumored that the industrial unit on Buntings Lane has been sold to a plastics recycling company-Agenda item for February.

Hedge outside Crown House is overgrown, this was discussed some time ago and was expected to be removed but this has not happened.

Work has started on replacing the railings and the cross on Cross Hill, the Contractor is hoping to be able to reinstate this during the February half term week when it is thought that traffic will be less.

The guttering outside the Fenton Room is still leaking and has caused a damp patch in the room, can the fascia be repaired? On investigation it was found that the fascia needs to be replaced so the brackets can be fixed in place, Clerk to obtain quotes. This leak has caused the outside electricity box which houses the plug sockets to be filled with water, the electric supply to this box has been turned off. When the electrical work is carried out in St George's Hall a replacement external socket box will be included.

Trees outside a house at the top of Brook Lane have dropped leaves onto the footpath, weeds are growing through the pavement and the surface is breaking up, its sludgy and slippery when wet, this is a hazard, Clerk to report to Highways.

Can the data from the SAMs2 sign be shared with the Speedwatch team, Clerk to arrange this.

Reports of plastic being burnt in Brookville – please report to Environmental Health

The last new detached house built on the Brandon Road – are the shrubs and trees within the curtilage of the property? It is understood that this is correct, but the plans will be checked to confirm.

Light outside the Old Social club is out – this has been reported and Contractor asked to quote to replace.

Faded 40mph sign in Brookville and 30mph sign in Methwold Hythe, both have been reported to Highways.

The development in Scotts Lane was originally supposed to have 2 social houses on the site, the Section 106 has been checked and there was an agreement of £72k to be paid to BCKLWN to cover this commitment, at present developments between 6-9 houses do have to contribute to social housing, however, they don't have to provide houses and can make the contribution direct to Central Fund which means no money will come back to the Parish.

The parking/access situation has been legally agreed with 20 High Street, the initial enquiry was for 20 & 22 High Street to have a legal agreement for both properties, however this has not yet been completed for 22. We can go back to the Solicitor to get this agreement in place but there will be a cost, do the parish council want to proceed? To date there have been no issues. Agenda item for February 2020.

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: Operation London Bridge – protocol for the death of a senior royal – a working group will be set up to put together a protocol for this event and will update parish council once protocol is known.

Parish Council was updated on the meeting held before Christmas with Cllr. Ryves, where CCTV in the Parish, a shop and Neighbourhood Plan was discussed, it was agreed by the Parish Council to hold a public meeting where speakers would be invited to present on these items, and to enable the public to air their views. Clerk to arrange this meeting, possible date Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm if speakers are available to attend.

Once confirmation is received from speakers the meeting will be advertised on Face Book and on the parish council website <https://www.methwoldpc.info/>

Before Christmas an HR meeting was held to try and find a solution to the building being cold for hirers. It was agreed that during the winter months the heating will be kept at an ambient temperature of 15 degrees when no one is in the building and before a hire the Key

Holder will boost the heat if required. Heating oil will be monitored, and this will be reviewed after the winter, there are notices by each thermostat asking hirers to turn the heat down to 15 degrees after use.

Meeting closed at 10.15pm