

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD
THURSDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.00pm
ST GEORGE'S HALL METHWOLD

Parish Councillors present: J Marriage – Chairman, R Gibson – Vice Chair, D Scott, R Scott, L Burge,
B Horton, D Charlesworth-Smith, P Crawley
Also in attendance: R Buckle (Parish Clerk)
5 members of the public
Cllr Ryves

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all for attending the meeting, especially the three candidates who have put themselves forward for Co-option.

1. Co-Option – I Cotterell, S Turner and P Andre were unanimously co-opted as a parish councillors.
2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and new councillors took their seats on the parish council.
3. The parish council to receive and resolve to agree apologies for absence - None
4. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations.
None
5. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on:
10th June 2021 D Scott proposed to approve, R Gibson seconded – approved - PC Abstained
8th July 2021 P Crawley proposed to approve, D Charlesworth-Smith seconded - Approved
12th August 2021 D Scott proposed to approve, R Gibson seconded - Approved
6. Matters arising from the June 2021 minutes- Charitable Trust – The understanding is that responsibility of Sole Trustee on parish councillors is as a body, there is no responsibility on individuals.
7. Reports
Update and report from the virtual meeting of Open Spaces at the meeting held on the 26th August 2021
Workday at the Complex – dates either to be 11th or 18th September, council to let Clerk know what date they are available, Clerk to post message on Facebook - Methwold Parish Council Information page to ask for volunteers.
Approval to purchase wood to repair bench on recreation ground – R Gibson proposed £100 is allocated to make repairs to the benches on the recreation ground. P Crawley seconded - APPROVED
Approval for request from residents to purchase and site notice on Lower Green to try and prevent vehicles from turning, the parish council were unsure how this would be enforced. R Gibson proposed to allow the signs, J Marriage seconded - APPROVED
- 7.1 Items brought forwards for approval from July 8th 2021 meeting.
Request for exhumation – the parish council discussed, there were no objections on condition that if there is any damage when the exhumation of the ashes takes place the family and Funeral Director will be held responsible.
The high priority work identified in the Tree Survey has been carried out.
Cllr Ryves left the meeting.
- 7.2 Update and report from the virtual meeting of Hall and General Purposes Working Party and to consider recommendations made at the meeting held on 5th August 2021 –
Charitable Trust – update – waiting for final draft documents to be sent to be able to circulate to members.
Car Park – request to purchase strip of land to provide access to the field behind the car park, the Developer has been asked to provide a detailed plan and map, until this is available the parish council cannot hold a public meeting to find out what the residents reaction is to this proposal.

Approval to purchase new water boiler for kitchen in St George's Hall cost £130 -J Marriage proposed to purchase new boiler, R Gibson seconded – APPROVED

Methwold Community Action Group has asked the parish council to consider waiver the hire fees for 4 meetings a year, usually the meetings are held in Peggy's Room but if unavailable they will move to another room. MCAG are able to do things in the community which the parish council are unable to carry out. This request complies with the Donations Policy. J Marriage proposed MCAG are allowed to hold 4 community meetings per year with no hire fees, B Horton seconded – APPROVED

8. Finance

Accounts Update – all councillors received a bank reconciliation the Income & Invoice list for August 2021, no questions.

R Gibson proposed approval of payments, D Scott seconded - APPROVED

9. Planning

9.1 To receive planning decisions

21/00469/LB The Grand Barn Hall Farm Drive Methwold KINGS LYNN Norfolk IP26 4PN - RETROSPECTIVE LISTED BUILDINGS APPLICATION. Revision to two external glazed screens to south elevation, and one glazed screen to north elevation. Re-positioning of one rooflight to south elevation Application Permitted 9 August 2021 Delegated Decision

9.2 To receive planning applications

21/01530/F Erection of a new single dwelling at Whitegates, Methwold Road, Methwold Hythe, Thetford, Norfolk – SUPPORT – subject to access being onto the road and not onto the track

21/ /01560/F Retrospective application for pond on non-residential amenity land at 1 Warren Cottage Brandon Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RL - NO OBSERVATIONS

9.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published - None

9.4 Planning application - public comments? – Carried over to next month.

10. Items received for the agenda

a. Documents have not been received from the Solicitor for members to read therefore approval and signing of Charitable Trust Application to register as a charity was not completed.

b. Approval and signing of the Declaration of Trust - see above.

11. Correspondence - The Planning Consultant for Proposed Extension to Existing Pig & Poultry Facilities, south of Methwold has asked to meet with the parish council to discuss the proposal, due to transparency regulations the parish council have requested they make a presentation at the start of the October parish council meeting where members of the public are able to attend and hear what is proposed.

12. Open Forum for Public Participation

An opportunity to hear from members of the public, Borough and County Councillors

Observations made by resident – Has there been any progress on the bus stop markings outside The Old Chapel, can the Borough and County Councillors please do something and stop treating Methwold as if it doesn't exist?

At a previous meeting Cllr Ryves was asked if there could be a Compulsory Purchase Order for the Old Chapel, has Cllr Ryves investigated this with the Borough Council? Cllr Ryves was not present at this stage of the meeting to be able to respond.

Is there going to be another meeting arranged to discuss the Footpaths? The Clerk can try to arrange this. Footpath 10 has been cut at and is still difficult to negotiate, Footpath 9 is closed at present due to the development but the dog leg part which remains open is reported as totally impassable.

The grass cutting in the parish has improved.

New noticeboard is required on the recreation ground – to Open Spaces.

Tree Cutting – large bough has been reported as hanging over The Pound – this will be investigated but thought it was left when the tree work was being undertaken due to accessing safely.

The bush which is growing on the grass triangle outside Brumble Barn is overhanging the footpath and needs to be cut back, this will be done.

Weeds growing along the footpath on Stoke Road, thought to be the responsibility of Highways to remove these.

13. Christmas decorations – it would be nice to be able to decorate both halls for the month of December, we already have some volunteers to do this but need to raise funds to purchase new decorations.

Car boot sales – these are not as well attended as hoped and need more support, there will be a Craft Fair on October 31st – proceeds are going towards the facilities on the recreation ground.

June 2022 Queens Platinum Jubilee – would the parish think about putting on a Sunday Lunch or something to celebrate?

Methwold Community Action Group meeting is to be held on 13th September in the church to discuss plans for Christmas.

The grass verge where the post box and dog bin are sited in Brookville is overgrown, it is understood that this used to be cut by Highways but due to cutbacks they are only cutting a 1 metre strip on verges.

14. 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:

a. Appointment of Architect to draw up the plans for the toilets on the recreation Ground – Three Architects were asked to quote, one was too busy, one declined, and one quote was received. if an arboriculture survey is required there could be an additional £500 R Gibson proposed to accept the quote of £800, R Scott seconded – APPROVED

b. Window Cleaning St George's Hall Complex – Quote received for cleaning of windows inside and out, Quote A £180 for both buildings = £180 Quote B St George's Hall inside and out £240 D Scott proposed to accept Quote A P Andre seconded – APPROVED, Clerk will contact contractor to arrange a schedule of cleaning every other month throughout the year.

c. Electrical supply to streetlights – all councillors received the proposal - current rates are increasing in September 2021, current supplier has offered a 3 year contract for the electricity supply. Clerk approached three other suppliers but none were willing to quote due this being an unmetered supply and using less than 10000 kWh per year. D Charlesworth-Smith proposed to accept the 3 year contract with current supplier, R Gibson seconded – APPROVED

MCAG proposed to pay £5000 to secure the sessions in Mini Methwold and the party room for the next 10 years for Little Bunnies toddler group and the local childminders group, the group discussed the proposal D Charlesworth-Smith proposed to accept, D Scott seconded – APPROVED R Gibson and L Burge ABSTAINED.

Several groups pre-pay their hire fees at the start of the year, during lockdown the parish council honoured these paid fees and have allowed the groups to carry them over, proposal is that the groups have to use the sessions which were carried over by 31st December 2021 – AGREED Clerk to inform all groups of the cut off date.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm