

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN THE FENTON ROOM ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX  
THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: D Thomas –Chairman, J Marriage –Vice Chairman, D Charlesworth-Smith, S Crump,  
S Burbridge, R Gibson.  
Cllr. Ryves  
Cllr. Storey  
7 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Member of the public requested an update on progress with bus shelters in the parish, the parish council have investigated the cost to install and this is approx. £4,000 per shelter, several shelters would be required on both sides of the road which would be expensive and having bus shelters does not safeguard a bus route.

The Developer at Petch Corner has started to put down grass, what is happening with the corner opposite Petch House? The Clerk has written to ask for this grass to be reinstated and has been told that the email was passed onto the Site Manager, Clerk will chase for a reply.

It was reported that 4 artic lorries have been seen driving over the edge of Fair Hill Green, this is due to cars parking outside the row of cottages, the Development of the old cottage will see car parking behind this development, could Highways be asked to consider installing hatching outside the cottages with no parking restriction between 6am – 6pm leaving the road is clear during the day? This would change the status of the road, no one takes any notice of the hatching outside the primary school, without any Police or Highways Official to patrol the road it is unlikely to make any difference.

Why at the last meeting were the public asked to leave at the end of the meeting but a Developer remained? The Chairman explained that the Developer had simply asked to show the plans and artist's impression to the PC and invite questions prior to submission to the Borough which he did. That submission had since been made and they were on the agenda to be considered later in the evening.

Cllr. Ryves stated that the Old Chapel netting had been discussed again with the Enforcement Officer who is to arrange a visit to the site, previously Cllr.Storey and the Clerk had been down this route to no avail.

Cllr. Ryves would like to see areas in the village tidied up.

The pavements in the parish are in need of weeding, the Highway Rangers will be in the parish in October, they have been sent a list of items throughout the parish that need attention.

The Trod is looking overgrown and untidy again, earlier this year funds from Cllr. Storey's fund were given towards tidying the Trod and levelling it up, although this work was carried out it doesn't look like it now.

Footpath 10 was mown earlier in the season but needs doing again, Cllr. Storey will contact the Developer to ask him to move the metal fence over so as he can mow the path again.

1. To receive apologies for absence – B Horton, P Crawley
2. To receive declaration of items on the agenda and requests for dispensation - None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8th August 2019 – Proposed D Charlesworth-Smith, seconded S Burbridge - APPROVED
4. Matters arising from the last minutes – Co-option evening, 1 member of the public attended and 1 application has been received.
5. Reports
- 5.1 Update from the Open Spaces Working Party - no meeting held in August – Open Spaces Coordinator and the Clerk are working on a Grass and Grounds Maintenance spec which will be sent out in October

to contractors to ask them to quote, Log roll outside the post office needs replacing and will be costed, another water butt will be purchased for St George's Hall.

- 5.2 Update and Report from the Hall and General Purposes Working Party meeting held on 5th September 2019: Dividing doors update – the Hall Group proposed the colour for the new dividing doors as magnolia to be as close to the décor in the building. S Burbridge proposed that the doors should be magnolia, R Gibson seconded - APPROVED

6. Finance

- 6.1 Accounts Update – bank reconciliation was given to all councillors.
- 6.2 Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List given to councillors – J Marriage proposed approval to make payments, seconded by S Burbridge - APPROVED
- 6.3 Update from Finance meeting held on 12th September 2019 – External Auditors PKF Littlejohn have signed off this year's audit. The parish council have received the first payment from the solar panels. All councillors received a copy of the updated budget to the end of August, we are running to budget and on course for the year.

7. Planning

- 7.1 To receive planning decisions:  
19/00870/F Petch House 27 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PS - VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 17/01699/F: Construction of four dwellings and garages, renovation of existing dwelling (Petch House) and provision of garage, repositioning access and demolition of existing boundary wall

- 7.2 To consider the following planning applications:

**19/01261/FM The erection of 12 Dwellings Land West of 78 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk**

The site was identified by the Borough Council as a potential site for development and already has outline planning permission and the proposed development is in keeping with other dwellings in the village, therefore Methwold Parish Council voted 5 to SUPPORT the planning application, there was 1 objection.

The parish council are concerned that there have been several planning applications approved for a substantial number of houses to be built which will bring additional residents to the parish, we currently lack the infrastructure required to ensure we can service this increase in population.

**FUL/2019/0035 Warren Energy Ltd, Breckland Farm, Brandon Road, Methwold, Norfolk, IP26 4RJ: Retrospective application to retain bund, post and wire fence, and use of existing hardstanding/track for use as access/egress to the hangar building of the permitted Anaerobic Digestion Plant (planning permission ref: C/2/2017/2003) :**

**Warren Energy Ltd** - Methwold Parish Council have discussed this application and have NO COMMENT to make.

**FUL/2019/0034 Warren Energy Ltd, Breckland Farm, Brandon Road, Methwold, Norfolk, IP26 4RJ: Retrospective application to vary Conditions 1 (approved plans), 2 (maximum tonnage of feedstock) and the variation or deletion of Condition 3 (feedstock source) of planning permission ref. C/2/2017/2003 to allow the offsite importation and onsite processing of 49,000 tonnes of diversified feedstock:**

Methwold Parish Council have discussed this application and are very concerned, the original application was to use feedstocks from the airfield, to change this to allow feedstocks to be bought onto site will mean a significant increase in vehicle movements using heavy lorries and large tractors and trailers on all roads leading to the site mainly the B1112 Brandon Road and C41 Cranwich Road.

Methwold Parish Council voted to OBJECT to this application with 1 abstention.

- 7.3 To consider any planning decisions and applications received after the agenda was produced.  
**19/01566/F Land between 5 and 11 White plot Road Methwold Hythe Norfolk – Construction of one dwelling.** Methwold Parish Council OBJECT due to the accuracy of the drawing, the existing septic tank/cesspit is believed to be in a different place to that shown on the drawing.

8. Items received for the Agenda – None.

9. Correspondence which has not already been circulated - The Clerk has received an email to say that two ladies have been seen exercising their dogs on the Rec. The recreation ground is covered by a Public Spaces Protection Order and dogs are prohibited by order of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council.

#### OPEN FORUM

Can Cllr. Ryves share the findings of the survey regarding a village shop? Cllr. Ryves responded 'too early to give out findings'.

Any update on the posts on Fair Hill, when will they be installed?

UK Power Networks have contacted the council regarding moving a streetlight opposite Garden House. Why are we paying a total of £1200 per year to control moles? Can this be done on an as and when basis? There are visibly fewer moles now than at the time of setting up the contract, the fact that we have a regular service is why we don't have a mole problem, especially in the Cemetery where if not controlled they would undermine the graves leading to collapse. This is good value for money and significantly cheaper than other contractors.

10. Any Further Reports and items for the next agenda - for information only  
Weeds along the pavements –these can be reported on [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)  
SAMS2 sign – Cllr. Crawley has taken over the installation of the sign and it is hoped that it will be sited soon, once he has received training on how to do this.  
A broken headstone was reported to the Clerk, on further inspection this has been broken for some time and is not causing any hazard.  
Speed limit signs in Brookville and Methwold Hythe have faded can these be reported to Highways?  
When will the wildflower meadow have its annual cut? Clerk to follow up.  
Pot holes at the entrance to The Avenue, these have been reported once already but will be reported again.  
What progress if any is there on restoring the cross on Cross Hill? The number plate details have been given to the Police. A witness has to talk to the police for the council to be able to pursue the drivers insurance. The cross can be repaired at a cost, the Clerk is waiting for quotes, if an insurance claim is to be made the excess is £250 and the premium is likely to increase.
- Cllr. Ryves – there has been a poll on Facebook regarding CCTV, there was a positive consistent reaction by those residents who responded, he had hoped the parish council would take this up.
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: Quotes for repair to the cross on Cross Hill, Clerk waiting for quotes, carry over to the next meeting.

Meeting closed 9.20pm