

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD
THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER at 7.00pm

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

Also in attendance: R Buckle (Parish Clerk)

Cllr A Ryves

Cllr M Storey

3 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed all to the virtual meeting and thanked all for joining onscreen and on the telephone.

The parish council email is working again, if you wish to contact the Clerk please email methwoldpc@outlook.com or call 07340162732 website www.methwoldpc.info

OPEN FORUM

Chair requested permission that the public be allowed to comment during item 9 correspondence received from the Public Rights of Way Officer regarding footpaths.

Resident attending meeting asked for the parish council when making their decision to take into account the Health & Safety issues for planning application 20/01467/F proposed retrospective siting of temporary caravan (for use in conjunction with building works) at The Green Man 1 White Plot Road Methwold Hythe.

Resident stated that :-

- The sited caravan has been installed close to an underground bulk LPG storage tank this contravenes health & safety regulations, the main building is fueled by this underground LPG storage tank.
- Gas bottles for the caravan are not stored according to regulations, both are believed to be a public safety issue.
- An application has been made to Historical England for this building to be given Listed Building status.
- Vulnerable use Assessment – existing building is two storey with a part loft conversion.
- The caravan was sited on April 12th not 9th June 2020

The Chairman reminded council that the planning application will be dealt with in item 7.

The Owner of the meadow was asked if footpaths crossing the meadow could be sprayed to kill the weeds?

The Owner replied that using chemicals in a public place can be contentious and believes that cutting the footpaths regularly is a better option but will review this next summer.

1. The parish council to receive and resolve to agree apologies for absence –

The Chairman informed the parish council that having not attended any parish council meetings for the past 6 months a councillor has been disqualified under LGA 1972 Section 85, this was confirmed by the Borough Council and Monitoring Officer before the councillor was informed. The Chairman reminded the parish council that apologies need to be sent to the Clerk before the meeting, this will be circulated to the council before the meeting and acceptance of the reason for apology will be voted on at the meeting. B Horton sent apologies for nonattendance and this was approved by the parish council

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

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 10th 2020 – S Burbridge proposed to approve the minutes, D Scott seconded - APPROVED

4. Matters arising from the last minutes None

5. Reports

5.1 Update on any Open Spaces matters – no meeting in September – Church Yard wall – part of the church yard wall has collapsed, the Conservation Officer will be asked to confirm that previous proposals made by the parish council are still acceptable, once this has been received quotes will be obtained. The wild flower meadow has been cut this week, JM and SC will discuss the re-seeding.

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 1st October 2020 – Update on -The re-opening of St George's Hall – We are expecting another update on the COVID-19 rules from CAN and ACRE, St George's Hall has the required COVID-19 rules and precautions in place and Zumba re-started this week, and Badminton group starts this evening.

Fire door in the Fenton Room – The COVID-19 Risk Assessment for St George's Hall and the Fenton Room has been completed, to enable the dividing doors so that both rooms can be used a fire exit door will be required in the Fenton Room, Quotes are required, there are already plans approved to change the windows in this part fo the Complex but the planning application will need to be amended to change a window into a door, the charge from the Borough Council to make the non material amendment is £234 – S Burbridge proposed the £234 is approved to allow the plans to be amended and re-submitted, R Gibson seconded - APPROVED

Approval of funds for the Handyman to complete the outstanding list of work in the Complex – S Burbridge proposed the Handyman clean gutters and downpipes for whole Complex asap, P Crawley seconded – APPROVED. Handyman will be asked to put timings to the list of jobs and this will go to the next hall meeting for prioritisation. Quotes are required for replacing the old gutters and facias
PAT Testing of equipment for Complex, this needs to be completed and Clerk to check that hirers bringing in equipment need to comply with this and that the PC are not liable?

6. Finance – Bank rec and Income & Invoice list were circulated to the parish council before the meeting, there were no questions.

6.1 Approval of payments list – S Burbridge proposed to approve payments, D Charlesworth-Smith seconded - APPROVED

7. Planning

7.1 To receive planning decisions - None

7.2 To receive planning applications

20/01494/F Continued use of land for dog breeding business along with continued stationing of a mobile home at Poppylot Bungalow Southery Road Feltwell Thetford Norfolk IP26 4EP – The parish council discussed this application and voted to **SUPPORT** because this is an established business and know of no reason not to support.

20/01467/F Proposed retrospective siting of temporary caravan (for use in conjunction with building works) at The Green Man 1 Whiteplot Road Methwold Hythe Norfolk IP26 4QP - The siting of this mobile home was bought to the attention of the previous Chairman and Clerk by residents of Methwold Hythe in May 2020, the Clerk advised residents that this should be referred to the Borough Council's Planning Department. Now that Methwold Parish Council have received the retrospective planning application

20/01467/F Proposed retrospective siting of temporary caravan (for use in conjunction with building works) The Green Man Methwold Hythe Norfolk IP26 4QP the council have discussed and have voted unanimously to **OBJECT** to this application for the following reasons:-

The Parish Council have concerns regarding Health & Safety due to the proximity of a large LPG gas bulk storage tank which is installed underground in the rear garden and the close siting of the mobile home. No planning application has been received by Methwold Parish Council for any proposed building works to The Green Man Methwold Hythe.

It was asked if the parish council would be contacting the Borough Council about the other mobile homes in the parish?

The Chairman reminded the meeting that if anyone wishes to raise issues of other mobile homes within the parish they contact the Clerk who will raise a query with the planners, or anyone can go onto the Borough Council website and raise a query themselves the address is

www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20000/planning_and_development

7.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published -

It is proposed to extend the existing Liquid Sugar loading building by 6m. The new 6m extension will replicate the existing loading bay colour, shape, materials and elevation at British Sugar PLC Wissington Sugar Factory College Road Wissington Wereham KINGS LYNN - **NO OBSERVATIONS**

8. Items received for agenda - None

9. Correspondence

An email has been received from a resident regarding a statement made in the September meeting by a resident which was reported in last month's minutes, the email also questions why there is no affordable housing being built in the parish.

The parish council can only make comment on planning applications they receive and have no control over the types of housing developers want to build. An example of this are the new builds in Scotts Lane, there was supposed to be 2 affordable housing allocations on this site but when looked into it is believed that the Developer had been able to pay the Borough Council a sum of money to overcome the obligation to provide these homes, how many times does this happen? Link provided to the most up to date Core Strategy policy – Housing Policy:CS09 page 34 – http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/downloads/download/68/core_strategy_document

Footpaths and Public Rights of Way in the parish (not already shown on the Definitive Map) have to be registered before 2026 – working group to be established and public participation is required to highlight the existence of all Footpaths and Public Rights of Way within the Parish – an email has been received from the Public Rights of Way Officer informing the parish council that the kissing gates need to be removed from the Footpaths in the parish. Concerns were raised at the meeting that the kissing gates are a safety feature and do prevent children running straight out onto roads, the gates have been in place for many years and have not caused problems until now. Who is going to remove the kissing gates, there is likely to be a cost associated with this.

The footpaths in the parish need to be clearly signed. The public were given permission to respond, the kissing gates are old fashioned and the village should fight to keep them, it is part of Methwold's history. If removed this will take away the right of the Landowner to graze his land if he wants to. There is no justification for this the gates have been there over 65 years and are historical. Even if the kissing gate was removed on the meadow the footpath is not suitable for disabled access unless someone is going to install a proper surface. Nice to see with all that's going on in the world so much detail has been given to this subject.

The email also mentions the no dog signs on the recreation ground, this area has a Public Spaces Protection Order issued by the Borough Council and dogs are prohibited on the recreation ground.

The parish council were recently approached by a Development Company to enquire whether they would sell a strip of land to enable access to a potential development site. The Chairman advised that the site had been reviewed in the Borough Council Preferred Options Appendix 5 https://west-norfolk.objective.co.uk/portal/preferred_options_2013?tab=files

The Clerk has responded to say this has to be an agenda item and discussed at a full parish council meeting to comply with transparency, to date the parish council await a response.

Open Forum

Another mobile home has appeared in a garden in the village, this will be investigated but it is thought this might have been removed. Are the parish council going to follow up on all the mobile homes that are sited in the parish?

When will the bin at the Post Office be uncovered so it can be used?

When raining the surface water runs down Chapel Lane onto Crown Street, gutters and drains are blocked, this can be reported on www.fixmystreet.com

Cllr Ryves will try to find out when the streetcleaner and gully sucker is due to visit the parish.

It was reported that fly tipping cannot be reported on the Borough Council website why is this? Is the churchyard wall insured?

Bins are reported as being left outside the Drill Hall Flats on the pavement.

Links to the Borough Council website to report -

Bonfires

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20129/nuisances/182/bonfire_and_smoke

Fly Tipping

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/news/article/751/report_fly-tipping_online

Bins

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20140/what_goes_in_each_bin/276/black_bin

The island in the road at Cock Corner is untidy, can the Highway Rangers clear this? There have been more incidents of drivers coming the wrong side of the island from the B1112 onto the High Street, these incidents need to be reported to the Police/Highways.

It was understood that Highways were going to reinstate the bus stop outside the Chapel, recently a bus was unable to stop in the designated area because of parked cars and stopped in the gateway to St George's Car Park instead. Cllr Ryves to follow this up with Highways.

10. Further items and reports

There is concern over the facilities that are listed in the Site Allocation and Development Plan for Methwold.

There is a fridge that has been left outside a property in The Avenue.

The parish council now have two vacancies for Co-option, notices are on the noticeboard and website, please contact the Clerk if you would be interested in joining the parish council.

The signs for the Restricted Byway – The Avenue are very small

Canisters thought to be associated with anti-social behaviour have been reported on the recreation ground, these have been cleared up.

The play equipment on the recreation ground is going green in places and needs cleaning

Climate change email received from NALC – can we petition the Borough Council to ban bonfires in

Methwold during the daytime, the Borough Council rules regarding bonfires can be found in the link above.

Meeting closed at 21.00pm