

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE FENTON ROOM ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX
THURSDAY 11th APRIL 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: D Thomas –Chairman, J Marriage –Vice Chairman, P Crawley, R Hood, D Charlesworth-Smith,
S Stones, K Plumridge, B Horton, S Burbridge
5 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

A member of the public thanked all the councillors and the Clerk for their service over the past 4 years, they know it has taken a lot of time to do all they do for the parish. The diagonal footpath 9 across Storey's Meadow is being moved legally and diverted to a follow footpath 10 to a new exit at the back of the development to join back to the recreation ground. The plans show the kissing gate at the bottom of the rec to be removed. - Only the area for the development has changed hands, the owner of the undeveloped land remains the same. It is unsure on what is happening with Footpath 10 but there is no access into the bottom area on the meadow to gain access for maintenance of the grass. Resident asked if the parish council could be gifted this piece of land?

The council have tried to ascertain who owns the fence line which runs between the development and the rec. but to date have not been successful.

1. To receive and consider accepting apologies for absence – R Gibson, T Thomas, C West
2. Declaration of Interest - Councillors invited to declare any interest in any item on the agenda K Plumridge declared an interest in item 11 and will abstain from discussion and voting.
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2019 as a true record of the meeting – Proposed S Burbridge, seconded D Charlesworth-Smith – APPROVED R Hood abstained as not present at the last meeting.
4. Matters arising from past minutes: None
5. Reports:
 - 5.1 Hall & General Purposes Working Group – no meeting in April – updates on **dividing doors**-we may need to go out to find an alternative, but if a new system for this is proposed it will come back to the council via the Hall group.
Job list (lower priority items) update at the next meeting, Handymen.
Kitchen floor vinyl repair – two quotes to item 11.
 - 5.2 Open Spaces Working Group – no meeting in March – updates on –
Posts on Fair Hill-The Clerk wrote to Lancaster Park Farm and have received a reply with a swept path diagram showing the possible track of vehicles using the entrance off Fair Hill. The parish council propose to take more professional advice but would like to install posts 450mm from the kerb line to try to prevent vehicles mounting the grass along Fair Hill Green and by Garden Cottage, both areas are owned by the parish council. The Owner of Lancaster Park Farm attended the meeting and explained that the reason vehicles are mounting the grass is because at some point kerbs have been installed by highways meaning vehicles have to pull onto the grass to prevent damage to tyres, it is impossible for the long vehicles to negotiate the raised kerb, tractors have front weights and implements overhang so will catch the posts.
Fence on the recreation ground-waiting for a reply from fence owner.
Parking on the old social club drive – Chairman has spoken to Solicitor, letter received from Land Registry on behalf of Owners requesting Prescriptive Rights, the parish council have until 2nd May to respond. S Burbridge proposed seeking advice from Solicitor K Plumridge seconded - APPROVED

Spraying for weeds, saplings in Cemetery – following the note in the Methwold Times one person has contacted the council and their wishes will be taken into consideration when graves are sprayed.

Central Avenue – weeds need spraying and new gravel laying – seeking advice

Trees outside the Post Office – have been pruned but not much removed, the Clerk has contacted the Contractor – waiting for comment

Footpaths-we have until 2026 to register all footpaths in the parish – notice to be sent to Methwold Times asking for public help to identify all footpaths, public right of way, bridlepaths.

Picnic Tables on the rec. – JM to meet with contractor to confirm site of the additional benches.

Humble Pit-someone has started to put hardcore into the gateway, this is parish council land and the parish council have not been consulted or permission requested to do this.

6. Finances

- 6.1 Accounts Update-Bank Rec. and Income and Invoice list was given to all councillors, this included the end of year figures for 2018/19.
- 6.2 Approval of payments – S Burbridge proposed to approve payments, D Charlesworth-Smith seconded - APPROVED
- 6.3 Financial update to Standing Orders for approval-Clerk to arrange a Finance meeting.
- 6.4 Appointment of Internal Auditor – Clerk has requested the same Internal Auditor is used again this year, he was very thorough, and cost is £75.00 – The parish council voted to approve this request.

7. Planning

- 7.1 To receive planning applications:
 - 15/02125/NMAM NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT TO PLANNING PERMISSION 15/02125/OM: Outline application with some matters reserved, Residential development Land South of 19 Herbert Drive Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PY-Unabke to see the change unable to comment
 - 19/00531/F Proposed electric sub-station for approved residential development Land W of 91 Hythe Road Methwold - SUPPORT
 - 19/00211/F Two storey side extension at 73 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PX - SUPPORT
- 7.2 To receive planning decisions:
- 7.3 To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was produced:
 - 19/00029/RM** Residential development of 44 dwellings t Land S of 1 to 44 Herbert Drive and W 59 Hythe Road Methwold – Cannot find any documents under this number on the planning portal.
 - 19/00639/F** Removal of existing lean to and construction of a new portal frame side extension to form 700 tonne box potato store and undercover access and undercover forklift access and empty potato box storage area at Rosedene Farm Severalls Road Methwold Hythe – B Horton proposed to support S Burbridge seconded - SUPPORT

8. Items received for Agenda

Trust Update-proposed Trustees have been identified, Solicitor is hoping to have the Trust finalised by the end of the year. The Charity Commission have to approve.

Archive of files-There is a live planning application to install a front door to the Parish Office, this will mean better access for the public and set opening hours. The office will need rearranging and contents of the filing cabinets and boxes need to be sorted, archived or destroyed. There are set guidelines as to what needs to be kept and we will follow this. D Charlesworth-Smith proposed that the clear up is permitted, S Burbridge seconded APPROVED. The History group will be asked to look over the documents to ensure nothing of historical value is destroyed.

9. Correspondence

Request for a key to be given to the person who runs the Spiritual Healing group K Plumridge proposed a key is assigned to the group, J Marriage seconded – APPROVED

Annual playground Inspection is required – Wicksteed can carry this out cost £45.00 – The parish council agreed to Wicksteed carrying out the inspection.

Request for the parish council to consider having a wildlife area in the Churchyard – to be discussed at Open Spaces.

OPEN FORUM

Anglian Water – can they be asked to inform the Clerk before roadworks start, the parish council wasn't informed of the recent work near The George until the day after work started.

Buntings Lane development of Petch House, a section of wall has been knocked down making an access onto Buntings Lane. Several residents have notified the Borough Council. The Enforcement Officer is investigating. This is not part of the original plan and is in the conservation area.

10. Any Further Reports - for information only

- The Avenue is overgrown, can the Clerk at Northwold be asked to get the landowner to cut them back please?
- SAMs2 sign – where is it? It is in the parish office until a new volunteer can be found to look after this.
- A black box has appeared on the post at the top of Hythe Road, what is this for?
- Community Speed Watch – the volunteers are out regularly, in one session they recorded vehicles exceeding the speed limit on 18 occasions in Methwold Hythe this information has been passed onto the Police. If anyone has any concerns or would like to volunteer, please contact D Charlesworth-Smith.
- The verges on Main Road Brookville look like weed killer has been used.
- Will there be a flag flying for St George's Day?
- Thank you to those who have served on the parish council and to those who have decided not to stand again. A special vote of thanks to those who help with Mini Methwold, K Plumridge and her willing team of helpers making a great success over the past year. All volunteers are invaluable thank you.
- For the new term we will have 9 parish councillors and will be going out for Co-option after the elections.
- Please can we ask the developer to reinstate the verge on Petch Corner now that the traffic lights have gone.
- The Peace Garden in the Churchyard has not been done yet. The Dioceses is very strict on what can be done and have not accepted the plans.
- When will the work on the Trod begin, Cllr. Storey donated £1600 towards this.
- There are a lot of marks on the road around the village, what are these?
- Access from St George's car park to old social club drive, options are to block off or open up so easier to negotiate, this needs to be investigated with costs to include extending the oil supply pipe, moving the oil tank so there is one tank serving both buildings and building a ramp or steps for access.

11. To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public

- Electrical report & Quote. Report has been completed, as previously agreed the same Electrician to carry out the work as did the report to enable consistency – cost estimated to be approx. £8500 for the Old Social Club and £2800 for St George's Hall, this will enable an electrical Certificate to be issued. R Hood proposed to accept the quote S Burbridge seconded - APPROVED
- Clerks Salary Increase – J Marriage proposed an increase to SCP 27 £13.15 per hour D Charlesworth-Smith seconded – APPROVED K Plumridge abstained.
- Assistant Clerk position – two candidates have been approached to ask if they would be interested to come for an interview, this will be progressed by the Clerk, Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- Flooring repairs in the Old Social Club – two quotes have been received one contained more detail. R Hood proposed to accept quote B D Charlesworth-Smith seconded - APPROVED

Meeting closed 9.35pm