

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE 21 ROOM ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX
THURSDAY 14th MARCH 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: D Thomas –Chairman, J Marriage –Vice Chairman, R Gibson, P Crawley,
D Charlesworth-Smith, T Thomas, S Stones, C West, K Plumridge, B Horton, K Plumridge,
S Burbridge.

3 members of the public

Cllr. M Storey

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Has there been any update on the situation with Footpath 9? There has been correspondence with the developer and the Planning Officer but no advance on the situation.

The metal fence panels which form the gate onto Storeys Meadow have been blown out onto the pavement by the wind and the fabric signs are acting like a sail, can the Developer be informed and asked to push them back and secure them?

The plan for Footpath 9 on Storeys Meadow show the kissing gate to be removed, this has already been taken up with the Developer who is investigating, we are awaiting a reply.

1. To receive and consider accepting apologies for absence – R Hood
2. Declaration of Interest - Councillors invited to declare any interest in any item on the agenda – R Gibson declared an interest in item 11
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2019 as a true record of the meeting – Proposed D Charlesworth-Smith, seconded C West – APPROVED B Horton abstained as not present at the last meeting.
4. Matters arising from past minutes: The partition door between St George's Hall and the Fenton Room, have we looked at any other options? The repair is thought to be the most economical solution, more substantial, heavy duty fixings will be used for the repair.
5. Reports:
Chairman's Report – No written Chairman's report, The Chairman updated the council on the BT internet upgrade, it has been found that the original system suggested by BT to enable internet throughout the Complex has been found not to be suitable but another BT option will be trialled. The 2 mobile phones for the Clerk and the Key Holder have arrived.
The Chairman and Vice Chair met with potential handymen, a list of jobs which they could be asked to undertake will be compiled and brought back to council for approval at a later date.
Parking on club drive, a meeting has been arranged with the Solicitor on 27 March.
Clerks Report – The Clerk explained the report is time-consuming, the council decided only items not on the agenda were required on the report.
- 5.1 Report from Hall & General Purposes Working Group meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2019 and to consider recommendations made regarding: – Village Fete request to waiver hire charge and Complex Hire Fees, the council discussed, D Charlesworth-Smith proposed the council waiver the hire fees for this village event, B Horton seconded - APPROVED
Proposed 5% annual increase for approval to be discussed in item 11
- 5.2 Report from Open Spaces Working Group meeting held on Thursday 28th February 2019 and to consider recommendations made regarding: – Notice for social media and Methwold Times to assist in tracing footpaths and bridleways on the parish. J Marriage and D Charlesworth-Smith will discuss this outside of the meeting.
The wall on the rec.; the Clerk has received advice from Norfolk Parish Training & Support Solicitor which has been sent to the Owner of the metal fencing, comments have been received and these have been sent back to the Solicitor for advice.
Posts on Fair Hill, Letter has been received from Lancaster Park Farm, this will be discussed at the next Open Spaces meeting.

Trees outside the Post Office – these have been trimmed but it is felt not enough has been removed, a comparison on the pruning will be done.

Registering footpaths in the Parish – C West has done some investigative work on the footpaths on the parish and we need residents who have used the footpaths over a period of 20 years to write to the Clerk so these can be checked against the Definitive Map and if not showing apply to register them. J Marriage proposed a notice is placed in the Methwold Times asking for information on Footpaths in the Parish, seconded by K Plumridge – APPROVED.

There was a comment on Facebook regarding damage to a pushchair when going through the K Barrier on the rec. The Chairman inspected the K Barrier shortly after this was posted and invited the person who made the post to meet him at the K Barrier to show how the damage was caused, there has been no response to date.

6. Finances

6.1 Accounts Update – The CIL money received has been transferred to the Savers Account, this will be used for a project in the future.

6.2 Approval of payments – Councillors received an up to date bank reconciliation and the income & invoice list, K Plumridge proposed approval of payments, S Burbridge seconded – APPROVED.

J Marriage asked for a pay rise for the Clerk to be considered – Item 11.

7. 7.1 To receive planning applications:

- 19/00329/FM Additional cabin accommodation with supporting facilities and parking at Agricultural Building At Duchy Farm Broad Drove Methwold Hythe Norfolk – Discussion by the council who voted to SUPPORT this application because it offers temporary accommodation to seasonal workers without impacting on the local area.
- C/2/2019/2001 Methwold Farm, Methwold IP26 4DU: Variation of Condition 2 (maximum tonnage of pig slurry and maize to be processed) and the variation or deletion of Condition 3 (no off-site importation of pig slurry and maize) of planning permission C/2/2017/2003 to allow the off-site importation and the on-site processing of no more than 69,000 tonnes of feedstocks (including straw, strawed muck, beet pulp and maize) per annum: Warren Energy Ltd – Parish council discussed, The original application did not have any offsite importation of feedstocks, which would mean all vehicles use the entrance on the B1112 leading to an increase in volume of traffic including HGV's.

It is believed that the farm track has already been fenced off to prevent vehicles using Lodge Road. The parish council voted to OBJECT to this application. S Stones abstained.

7.2 To receive planning decisions:

7.3 To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was produced:

- 19/00260/F New Dwelling and detached garage at 14 Stoke Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PE Methwold, there is concern that this development may set a precedent to build houses in back gardens and feel it is out of keeping with the area, the council voted to OBJECT to the planning application.
- 19/00211/F Two Storey Side Extension at 73 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PX Methwold, the parish council were unable to see what amendments have been made to the most recent application and voted again to SUPPORT.

There is a planning application for a Crematorium on the outskirts Weeting – The parish council have not been asked to comment by Breckland Borough Council but have been asked by several residents of Weeting to bring this to the attention of Methwold parish. Access to the site is via Peppers Hill, it is thought that there would be an increase in traffic on the B1112.

The parish council felt there is a need for a crematorium however they felt this is not the right site.

Details can be seen on the Weeting Facebook page and if anyone feels strongly please visit

www.planning.breckland.gov.uk application number is 3PL/2019/0189/F

Cllr. Storey was asked if he would support the parish council in any comments that are made, Cllr.

Storey stated he was unable to make comment because he may be on the planning board.

8. Items received for Agenda

CPRE – have contacted the parish council asking for support regarding the Local Plan Review for King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council, the CPRE want the Borough Council to develop the existing approved allocations rather than allowing any new sites to be built. S Burbridge proposed the

parish council sign the pledge and support the CPRE, K Plumridge seconded – APPROVED.

9. Correspondence

Bus shelters – letter received asking the council to reconsider their position on bus stops, the parish council have asked the bus companies to provide numbers of users for the busses, the numbers are very low, the cost for each shelter is approx. £4k and it is thought that a minimum of 6 shelters would be required in Methwold.

OPEN FORUM

Raffle prizes are required for the Village Fete on Monday 27th May, if anyone has anything, they would like to donate please contact Mrs O'Ware.

10. Any Further Reports - for information only

- Traffic lights at Petch Corner – can these be moved? The Clerk has already asked, and it is not possible.
- Community Speedwatch Team- can the Clerk ask if there are bigger permanent signs available? The CSW team has been out at different times and so far has caught 30 people speeding, would anyone else like to join the team, its an hour of your time each week, the more people we have on the team the more times we can run the scheme.
- The details of the Key Holders phone number were not correct on a letter sent out recently, this has been rectified.
- Dog mess – particularly bad in The Avenue, an item^s has been sent to the Methwold Times.
- Do we give a donation to the Methwold Times – no the parish council pay an annual invoice for articles in the Methwold Times.
- There has been a car parked in The Avenue for some time, unsure if this has been abandoned.
- Broken pavements have been reported to Highways has there been any update on when these will be repaired, they are a trip hazard.
- Floor in 21 Room will be repaired soon, please can a key be available?
- R Gibson stood down from HR Group as she feels it is a conflict of interest, her husband is employed as the Key Holder.
- Thank you to Methwold in Bloom the daffodils loom amazing.
- Parking outside the school – the Principal has contacted the Clerk regarding the speed limit outside the school, the Clerk has supplied the contact details for Highways.

11. To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public – R Gibson offered to leave the room but this was not considered necessary, Key Holder - out of hours rate.

- The Key Holder sometimes has to be available to lock up after midnight, a rate out of hours was discussed. K Plumridge proposed time and a half for unsociable hours - midnight to 8.00am, S Burbridge seconded this proposal – APPROVED R Gibson abstained.
- Councillors expressed a wish to review the Clerks salary and it was agreed to agenda this for the next meeting.
- Complex hire fees – a 5% increase was proposed however; the Complex has managed to bring in enough revenue to cover running costs this year. S Burbridge proposed that regular hirers and parish residents hire fees remain as they are for this year and new hires and outside hirers rates increase by 5% with a review in 6 months. B Horton seconded - APPROVED

The running costs of the Complex are monitored regularly and if any changes are noted this will be brought to the council and rates reviewed.

Meeting closed 9.35pm