

Methwold Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council
Thursday 13th July 2023 at 7.30pm
21 Room St George's Hall Complex Methwold

Present: – Cllr. French – Chairman, Cllr. O'Ware, Cllr. Grassick, Cllr. Beukes, Cllr. Scott, Cllr. Riches, Cllr. D Younge, Cllr. B Horton, Cllr. Scott

15 members of the public

1. Welcome by the Chairman, reminder that it is polite to let the council know if you are recording the meeting.
2. It was resolved to accept apologies from Cllr Rodriguez, Cllr Thomas and Cllr R Scott. Cllr Liddle sent apologies will be late attending meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest (In accordance with S31 of the Localism Act 2011) and requests for dispensations – Cllr. French stated that he had an interest in Item in Planning but already has a dispensation in place.
4. It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th June 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by Cllr French, 6 councillors approved and 3 abstained as not present at Junes meeting.

Cllr Liddle arrived and gave apologies

5. Matters arising from the Minutes not included on the agenda but for information only - None

The Chairman stated that the order will be changed and Open Forum will follow.

11. Open Forum for Public Participation

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

Chairman gave an update

Legacy given to PCC, Churchwarden confirmed the Annie Wortley Waters legacy has been distributed as instructed in her will.

Last meeting - Finance the parish council referred to appointing a councillor as an Internal Auditor – we already have an Independent Internal Auditor, what is going to happen is a councillor will go through the figures with the RFO as a second set of eyes.

Speedwatch – reported as going well, May – statistics show Brookville team are top of the list for sessions, recording speeds etc. Highest speed recorded 79mph. Speedwatch reported their monitoring does not seem to be putting drivers off speeding, but they will continue to monitor.

SAMs2 sign – S Liddle apologised for not sending the Brookville data yet, this will be done. Sign is currently outside the primary school and is due to come down, stats from this and Brookville session will be downloaded. The sign will be going back up at the school in the opposite direction to record the traffic from the other way before the end of the term and for the first 2 weeks of the summer holidays, it can then go back to Brookville.

Old Feltwell Road will be closed 27-28 July for kerb and drainage works. Chairman stated there is a difficulty with Streetworks as the order is invalid, Old Feltwell Road does not have a junction with High Street, they state they are providing a diversion, but this is impossible as there is only one road in and out, chasing to correct.

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Cranswick Objection Group – is there an update on the meeting held with the Feltwell Chairman – not met yet, will be in the next few weeks, Cranswick group have a lot of information.

SAMs2 - what proportion of cars and lorries are over the speed limit? Lorries reported to be driving at speed limit but can cause drag because of their size. Suggestion that the speed limit through Brookville should be 30mph.

Report that defibrillator was despatched and used again last week.

Has the parish council thought about fencing in the childrens play area at the recreation ground? A man walking dogs through this area was seen allowing dog to do their business, they did pick it up but a lot of other village areas are picket fenced in, on to Open Spaces.

Cemetery – glass reported. Walkway to Cemetery broken bottle and glass on footpath.

How much is the parish council going to be giving the Trust? This is parish council business and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Speedwatch near The Avenue, there is another bench hidden in the overgrown grass, no one can use this. This area of grass is thought to be Borough Council responsibility and they will be asked to cut the grass here.

Thank you for update on audit question, urge that the parish council ensures it is above reproach and there is no question of conflict of interest.

Last meeting the Chair tabled a suggestion to set up some committees/groups. Chairman responded - policies and procedures group have not yet met but the three volunteers will get together soon. This will be a long process to check all policies and make sure they are up to date and fit for purpose.

Charitable Trust – resident stated that given that this a wholly owned, operated and governance by the parish council, when will the council report to the parishioners on the governance, oversight and finances of that charity given that it is still obliged to do so as if it was the parish council because it is solely owned by the parish council? Chairman responded - This is work in progress which we know we have to do, and we are actively working on it, the Trust was set up in October 2021 and was registered by the Charity Commission in June 2022. Charitable Trusts are required to publish their accounts annually.

The Charity Commission website states that - This is a newly registered charity - accounts and annual return not required yet.

The charity has 10 months from the end of its first financial year to update its information. The Charitable Trust year end is June.

Some months ago, I made a request for local bonfire laws, Chairman replied – this email has been responded to, bonfires laws would be the remit of the Borough Council, an update will be given at the next meeting.

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

Cllr. Ryves suggested the resident approach the CSNN team at the Borough, copy in Cllr. Ryves and he will follow this up.

Cllr. Ryves stated that there has been a change of administration, he is involved in Local Plan Group, it was the first meeting of new council this evening. He hopes that the corporate business plan will be available soon.

Resident asked – the planned buildings behind complex, what is the progress on this? We don't have the amenities? Chairman replied that this planning application has gone to appeal. Cllr. Ryves has posted the link to the appeal website on Facebook, people are encouraged to make comment to the planning appeal.

6. Reports

6.1 Update and Report from the Open Spaces Working Party to consider the recommendations made at the Open Spaces Working Group on 22nd June 2023, to include:

Trees for meadow, it is the wrong time of year to plant trees so this will be done later in year.

Meeting with Highways, school traffic calming, we are waiting for an expert to decide if a survey is possible, this will cost approx. £5k to do.

SAMs2 data – will be available soon

UKPowernetworks – streetlight Brook Lane – see planning

Bench Methwold Hythe – has arrived and waiting for installation

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Churchyard wall – needs to have the greenery cleared to be able to properly survey the wall – waiting for quotes.

40-50 headstones will need to be moved for repair. This will require a faculty from the PCC.

S.P.A.B will be consulted.

Structural Engineer will be required to undertake a full survey.

Grass has now been cut around the village.

Play Inspection Training course to be held for volunteers to be trained to undertake the weekly inspections.

Cemetery – vegetation to be cleared up.

Bench at rear of cemetery is broken - rather than replace can this be renovated?

K-gate – adjustable – going to see if this can be adjusted to allow wider access for pushchairs. Previous councillor stated possibly already on widest setting, there is also an electricity cable between the gate and the wall.

6.2 Installation of bench Methwold Hythe – offer received to install the new bench in the Hythe for free, if permission given by council. Cllr. O'Ware proposed to accept offer to install bench at no cost, Cllr. Horton seconded - APPROVED

6.3 Agreement to allocate £250.00 for the purchase of bin liner or replacement dog waste bin on Cock Corner, the Borough Council have advised that the metal liner is damaged, may be old and an obsolete design. Cllr Riches proposed to allocate £250 for either a new liner or new bin. Cllr. Horton seconded - APPROVED

7. Finance

7.1 Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation

7.2 For Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List

Cllr Scott proposed to approve payments, Cllr Beukes seconded – APPROVED

8. Planning

8.1 To receive planning decisions

23/00544/F Brandon Road Methwold THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4RH - Garage extension and loft conversion forming 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom Application Refused 2 June 2023 Delegated Decision

23/00596/F 11 Old Feltwell Road Methwold THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4PW - VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF PLANNING CONSENT 21/02111/F - Swimming pool cover and associated rooms, enlargement of the pool in length, application has been approved for a smaller version - 14/01193/F Application Permitted

19 June 2023 Delegated Decision

Appeal Ref: APP/V2635/W/22/3308762 15 Feltwell Road, Methwold Hythe, Norfolk IP26 4QJ – Dismissed 30th June 2023

8.2 To receive planning applications

23/00987/F VARIATION OF CONDITION 9 OF PLANNING APPLICATION 22/00577/F Brook Glen 1 Brook Lane Brookville Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RQ - Construction of one bungalow and garage, including improvements to visibility splay at Brook Lane/Stoke Road junction.

Sightlines – visibility splay – the fence has been moved back, Highways have stated that with the fence moved back the pole can remain in place – NO OBSERVATIONS

23/00433/F Side and rear extension to provide 2 additional bedrooms and 1 ensuite bathroom at The Squirrels 1 Mundford Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk – SUPPORT

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

9. Items received for the agenda - None

10. Correspondence

TRO Severalls Road for Anglian Water work

TRO Old Feltwell Road – incorrect

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Consultation of de-amalgamation of Icen Academy into separate primary & secondary academies, Clerk has a copy of the letter if anyone wishes to see this.

Road traffic - housing development, ' Big K 's and ' True Hill Poultry Plant ' all have access to the B1112, will significantly add to the traffic levels through our community
Installation of vehicle counters, both south and north on the B1112 within the parish to gauge current traffic levels.

Child safety – speed limits outside the school, why is it not a 20mph with the road reduced to 30mph?
There have been far too many ' near misses '.

Moleman increased activity on rec and cemetery – due to rain there has been more active but he is working on it.

Orange Fencing around wall – metal poles have been removed?

Emails from resident - Parking issues along Old Feltwell Road – there are no parking controls along here at all and this is not the parish council's responsibility.

12. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – August 10th 2023

Observation regarding an article in the Methwold Times from Brookville Defib – very nice comments about the parish council, parish council needs to work with the community to learn from it and inspire it, best results found by participation so that views can be heard, for 8 years I attended meetings here with 3 others and people only ever turned up if something affected them personally. Hard to see how this participation will work if people don't turn up but pleased to see residents are coming in numbers.

When I attended as a resident, I certainly had my views listened to and acted upon although when asked remit of the Borough Council very often very little was done. The parish council work hard, I don't; think there was any criticism from us residents, hopefully with a change at the Borough Council things will improve.

Ventura Close, observation – a number of vehicles on one day came up as if trying to get through to Trent VC, is it possible to have a sign put at the entrance of Ventura Close - no through road, ask Highways.

7.3 To agree Methwold Hall Complex Charitable Trust Support Statement – The statement was circulated to council earlier this week, there were no comments from councillors. The Chairman read the statement out. *'Methwold Parish Council pledges to continue their support of the Methwold Hall Complex now while the new operators of the complex the Methwold Hall Complex Charitable Trust'.*

The Chairman read out the Legal References which allow the parish council to support the village halls.

Conference facilities - Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities - Local Government Act 1972, s.144

Community centres - Power to provide and equip community buildings - Local Government Act 1972, s.133 and Power to provide buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives (-Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1976 s.19

Public buildings and village hall - Power to acquire and provide buildings for public meetings and assemblies - Local Government Act 1972, s.133

Legal framework within which the parish council have a duty to support the complex.

Do the parish council want to adopt this statement?

Cllr. Horton proposed to adopt the statement Cllr. O'Ware seconded – APPROVED

7.4 To approve request from MHCCT for support towards running costs. A letter has been received from the Trust asking for £12,000 support for the current year, this will be reviewed by the Trust regularly.

Do the council wish to give the Trust this level of support?

The parish council have always paid for the running of the halls, it is felt that the parish council should continue the support, it is the right thing to do for the community.

Would the parish council give the level of support they are asking for?

Will the council support the Trust with £12,000 for this operating year, initially with £6000 which will be reviewed quarterly by the parish council, it is hoped that eventually the complex will become self-funding at some point in the future.

Resident questioned why the council must pay to use rooms? Funding is there to run the complex not to allow the parish council free use of the facilities. The parish council and Trust have to be run separately. Cllr Younge proposed supporting the Trust with £12,000, Cllr. Horton seconded – APPROVED
Proposed initially £6000 will be made available with reviews quarterly – Cllr. O’Ware proposed, Cllr. Liddle seconded - APPROVED

13. 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:

13.1 Increase in hours agreed for staff member to undertake more duties, contract to be updated – 6 month trial with review after three months, proposed by Cllr. Riches, seconded by Cllr Younge – APPROVED

Meeting ended at 9.00pm