

Methwold Parish Council

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7.30pm
21 Room St George's Hall Complex Methwold

Present: – Cllr. R Scott – Chairman, Cllr. Liddle, Cllr. Horton, Cllr. French, Cllr. Rodwell, Cllr. Thomas,
Cllr. Beukes, Cllr. Rodriguez.
Cllr. Ryves
Cllr Storey
42 members of the public

1. The current Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Election of Chairperson - it was unanimously agreed to elect Cllr French as Chair, proposed by Cllr. Liddle, seconded by Cllr. Beukes – Declaration of Office was signed.
New Chair welcomed all, and explained there are procedures to be followed and why we do this.
Recording of the meeting is allowed, but it is polite to let the Chairman know that you are doing this.
The public are here to observe and listen to the discussion, the public will be invited to speak during item 14 Open Forum, the rules for this will be explained.
Explanation of the structure of councils - County Council – political organisation – Highways, Borough – political organisation – planning, licencing, bins and parish councils not political – look after the cemetery, some streetlighting, the parish council have no jurisdiction on planning whatsoever, they are a statutory consultee. There has been an accusation made on social media, this was offensive and libellous, where the parish council were accused of taking bribes, if the person understood where the parish council stand when it comes to planning, they would realise this is not possible.
Correction to articles in the Methwold Times regarding moles, the correction is based on the actual minutes taken and approved by the councils at the time.
Precept has increased by 5%, this is less than half the current rate of inflation and has meant an increase of approx. £3k per annum, divide this by the number of houses and it works out at approx. £3.60 per year or less than 1p per day.
Churchyard wall - estimated cost £30k to put it right, agree that the parish council shouldn't pay any money at all if it belongs to the Church of England but it doesn't, it is the parish council's wall to maintain. Money has been put aside for repairs, but the parish council will be looking at ways to get the wall repaired and hope to do this for less. Looking at the Feltwell scheme.
£4k for noticeboards – funds have been earmarked for these, but no decision has been made to spend the money yet, however the noticeboard in Methwold Hythe is beyond economic repair.
Dog waste bins – we have responsible dog owners who bag and use the dog bins provided, however, if dog waste is deposited in the normal waste bin it must be double wrapped first, this is unlikely to happen.
Discussion with the Clean Up team – the dog bins are emptied by a specialist team and incinerated; it does not go to landfill.
Tablets for councillors – there was a suggestion that not all councillors are on the internet and a tablet could be purchased for the one councillor who is not on the internet, this was not wanted and is not happening. Although not a requirement because there are so many new councillors the parish council were asked to introduce themselves which they did.
3. Cllr. Beukes proposed Cllr. Liddle as Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr. Scott, Cllr. Liddle was elected as Vice Chair, Acceptance of Office was signed.

4. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. D Scott due to being unwell and in hospital.
5. Declaration of Interest from Cllr. French and request for dispensation so he can explain planning application 23/00596/F which will be discussed in item 11.2. Cllr. French will not take part in any vote on this application.
6. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2023. Cllr. Horton asked if the training session for the Brookville defibrillator group has been agreed by the Trust, this is a trust matter and will be dealt with by them. The Trust have offered a room and are waiting for a date to be confirmed.
The minutes of the meeting were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, proposed by Cllr. Horton, seconded by Cllr. Liddle. Cllr. Beukes, Cllr. Rodriguez and Cllr. Thomas abstained as they were not present at the April meeting.
7. Co-option of parish councillors – 4 applications for co-option have been received and circulated to the parish council prior to this meeting.
Each candidate was asked to give a short presentation as to why they wish to become a parish councillor. The vote was done by a show of hands.
Each of the 4 vacant seats was voted on separately and the person with most votes was co-opted, the remaining went into the vote for the next available seat.
The Acceptance of Office was signed by each councillor as they were voted onto the council.
Donna Younge received 8 votes
Tony Grassick received 9 votes
Fiona Riches received 10 votes
Jose O'Ware received 10 votes
All 4 candidates were co-opted onto Methwold Parish Council.
A co-opted councillor is the same as an elected councillor.
Those Co-opted as parish councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took their seat on the council.
8. To agree the appointment of councillors to the following:
Planning and Monitoring Group - Cllr. Liddle, Cllr. French, Cllr. Grassick and Cllr. Riches.
Open Spaces Group – Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. Liddle, Cllr. Scott, Cllr. Riches, Cllr. French, Cllr. Grassick and Cllr. Rodwell. Cemetery Superintendent – Cllr. French proposed Cllr. Scott, seconded by Cllr. Liddle – APPROVED
Grants Group – Cllr. Rodriguez, Cllr. Beukes, Cllr. O'Ware, Cllr. Rodwell
Batchcroft Trust - representatives – Cllr. Horton, Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. Rodriguez.
Finance Committee – Cllr. Beukes, Cllr. Younge, Cllr. Grassick, Cllr. French. Cllr. D Scott.
Reports
9. Update and Report from the Open Spaces Working Party to consider the recommendations made at the Open Spaces Working Group on 27th April 2023, to include: Cllr. Scott gave an update, Noticeboards will be looked at going forwards.
Wildflower meadow planting of the trees, wildflower seeds have been sown.
Repair to the bin on Fair Hill repair will be revisited.
Recreation ground toilets – Phase 1 - a tree survey will be done in late July. A working group will be set up to look at improvements to the facilities on the rec, including the toilets, this group may include residents if they would like to be involved, a skateboard ramp is also be considered in the improvements.
Discussion with Highways regarding the road outside the primary school, 30mph roundalls to be repainted on the road by the September term, 2 new locations for the SAMs2 sign outside the school have been agreed with Highways, Cllr. Scott asked permission to purchase SAMs2 brackets for 2 new sites cost is approx. £120.00.
To the parish council's knowledge there has never been a full traffic survey outside the primary school, waiting for Highways as to whether this should be undertaken, there is a cost for this.
The SAMs2 sign will record the time, speed and the volume of traffic outside the school. The sign can be sited for up to 28 days in any location and cannot return within 6 weeks.
Cllr. Horton proposed the purchase of the brackets, Cllr. Liddle seconded – APPROVED

Removal of Streetlight at the top of Brook Lane - waiting for update from UKPowernetwork

Noticeboard in Brookville and Methwold Hythe is still an issue.

Methwold Hythe bus shelter, this is an asset of the parish council, although dilapidated and not used, repair or remove, to be discussed.

Bench next to bench on the corner at the Hythe - waiting for a delivery date.

10. Finance

Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation – Clerk gave an update. Precept of £69,896.04, CIL funding payment of £2551.42, Textile recycling payment of £12.00 and MHCCT have refunded staff costs.

For Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List

Cllr. Scott proposed approval of payments, Cllr. Horton seconded – APPROVED

11. Planning - Chairman explained as statutory consultees the parish council have three options when asked to comment of planning applications these are Support, Object or No Observations.

To receive planning decisions

11.1 23/0040 /F 1 Denton Lodge Cottages Mundford Road Feltwell Norfolk IP26 4DT - Single Storey side and rear extensions Application Permitted 21 April 2023 Delegated Decision

11.2 To receive planning applications

23/00520/F Erection of Topsoil Storage Building Wissington Sugar Factory College Road Wissington Wereham Norfolk PE33 9QG – NO OBSERVATIONS

19/00144/VAR1A MODIFICATION OF PLANNING OBLIGATION LC/S106/16/51 RELATED TO PLANNING APPLICATION 19/00144/F Land W of Crown Street N of Hall Farm Bungalow Hall Farm Drive Methwold THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4QG – The Chairman explained Section 106 – the Developers offset some of the impact of the development with this payment, Planners have agreed with the Developers what the Section 106 money is to be used for, this is Church View next to the recreation ground, when 5 dwellings have been sold. This should trigger the Section 106 payment to the parish council, it is expected this will be approx. £33k as it is index linked it could be slightly more and is for specified to be used for facilities on the recreation ground.

23/00596/F 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 11 Old Feltwell Road Methwold THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4PW – Chairman explained the change to the application from brick construction to wooden, Cllr. Liddle proposed NO OBSERVATION, this was agreed by all apart from Cllr. French who abstained.

23/00084/TREECA T1 and T2 Eucalyptus Trees - Trees have gotten very tall at over 30m in height and are leaning over, during strong winds they are swaying quite a bit as they are getting very top heavy.

Trim trees right down to half the size to avoid them damaging buildings. T3 Cherry Tree - Tree is overgrown and needs to be reduced by 5m 1 Old Feltwell Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4P

11.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published – None

12. Items received for the agenda – None

13. Correspondence

Footpath 3 - Public Right of Way from Fair Hill to the Cemetery – improvements to be made to surface 1.5m wide path to be installed across the grass.

Resident emailed – improvements to road in Brookville – passed to Highways and response emailed to resident.

Methwold Parish Council copied into complaint regarding standing water on Old Feltwell Road, Highways have responded, no action required from Methwold Parish Council.

Grass verge outside house on Main Road Brookville, Highways have been made aware of the requirement to level and reseed, response - this is not high priority but will be programmed in.

Fields in Trust AGM 13th June 2023

Abandoned vehicle in St George's Car Park – BCKLWN are aware and will contact owner to remove.

2023 Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards are now open, more details can be found here

www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/community-2/community-biodiversity-awards-2/

Traffic Regulation Order – A10 from 30-31 May 2023

Traffic Regulation Order – Long Lane Feltwell from 22 May – 16 June 2023

14. Open Forum for public participation

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

Chairman explained his Rule 55, this is to make sure that this works for all.

Only 1 person to speak at a time.

Direct speech to the Chairman.

To speak put your hand up and I will get to you.

Standing Order state, no person can speak for more than 3 minutes.

Forum should not last any more than 15 minutes.

Please respect other people's views who may have views which are different to yours, everyone's view and opinion are equally as valid as yours.

When you start speaking, please say who you are and where you are from.

Start with the Borough and County Councillors.

Chairman congratulated Cllr Ryves on his return to office.

Cllr Ryves Borough Councillor – Thank you to all who voted, I represent anyone in the village and my contact details are in the Methwold Times. As a second term councillor I have an idea of how the system works, impressed at how this new council is working together, a very open council with strong members and I'm looking forward to working with the new council to progress over the next 4 years.

Cllr. Storey – Norfolk County Councillor – Congratulations to the Chairman of the council and wish all of the council and the new candidates the very best in the time they serve.

Norfolk County Council has a new leader Kay Mason-Billig, they held their first meeting recently and a lot of business was done. I am easily contactable by email, phone or you can arrange to meet with me, I look forward to working with you and the rest of the parishes I represent through my term on office.

Resident - As recently appointed speedwatch co-ordinator in Brookville please can I request the SAMs2 sign be placed in Brookville? A team of 8 volunteers have been running since the 2nd May, monitoring each day, 6 speeders per hour on average, we are only recording 46mph and above, average speed is 53 mph in the 40mph area and top speed recorded has been 68mph. A short survey done today of the next 12 cars - 7 were over the limit, we don't know when to monitor and the SAMs2 sign may give us the information as to what times and days of the week the traffic flow is high.

The SAMs2 sign can go to Brookville next but it required outside the primary school. The SAMs2 sign will be covered when the Community Speedwatch is working, Cllr. Little will check this detail with Highways.

The process was explained by the coordinator including what happens to the information of those cars registered as speeding.

There has to be 6 volunteers to form the group with 3 present when monitoring. If anyone is thinking of setting up a group in Methwold or Methwold Hythe please contact the co-ordinator.

The parish has 1 SAMs2 sign which was purchased 50/50 in conjunction with the Parish Partnership Scheme.

The unit is moved to designated sites around the parish, it is only allowed to be sited for 28 days and then has to be moved, it cannot return to the site within 6 weeks.

The grass on the right-hand side at the junction with The Avenue in Brookville is overgrown and it is difficult to see to exit onto Main Road. Clerk to report to Highways.

Warren Energy Site – AD plant – on their website it states there is a grant of £7500 per year which local villages can apply for. Methwold Parish Council applied for this grant previously and received nothing.

Another possible source of grant funding maybe North Sea Wind Farms.

Was the meeting recorded last month? Yes, for the purpose of the minutes and the recording is deleted once the minutes are approved.

Parish Clerk

methwoldpc@outlook.com

www.methwoldpc.info

St George's Hall Complex High Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4NT

07340 162 732

The April minutes were questioned because a resident felt there was not enough detail regarding the planning application on the airfield. The Chairman has been in contact with the agents because there is an amount of interest from the public about what is happening on this site, he has invited them to come and give another public presentation.

The response has been that there are some technical issues, and it is highly likely the application will be resubmitted they are not in a position at the moment to make a public presentation. If they put in another application this resets the clock, if they will do a public presentation the parish council would host and invite those from other local parishes, we will progress it.

Resident said that the parish council haven't done anything to stop this planning. The parish council have placed an objection, the roads are not suitable and the prescribed HGV route - Lodge Road – B1112 to Stoke Ferry roundabout onto the A134, how will this be enforced?

The Borough Council should make people aware of planning applications.

The developers attended a parish council meeting in October 2021, all details are on the planning portal which is easy to access. The planning application has been discussed in June 2022 and March 2023 meetings.

Resident asked why the parish council haven't done a leaflet drop to all houses?

The minutes of the meeting are posted in the Methwold Times.

Resident stated this is a huge project which will impact the villages who should be invited to a public meeting.

Another resident asked could the Methwold to Northwold road have the weight limit dropped to 7.5t? Weight restriction would be down to Norfolk Highways and part of any planning considerations, not a parish or Borough council decision. Any weight restriction would need to be enforced.

Can all local parish councils get together and do a joint objection to this planning application? If this is allowed the impact will be on people, woods forests and wildlife, it is totally inappropriate for this area.

Chairman will be contacting local Chairpeople to discuss this planning application.

Cllr. Storey stated he has been talking to the Planning Officer who has confirmed that there are three consultees who require more information, whilst this info is gathered the estimate is that an amended application will come before the Borough Council planning committee in September 2023.

Cllr. Storey has not said anything about the planning application because if he is seen to have a view now, he won't be able to speak on the application if he does return to the planning committee. Cllr. Storey clarified that the parish council's comments will be taken very seriously.

Resident felt that the factory application has been hidden, it needs advertising banners put up to bring people together to object. It is understood that there has been a facebook group set up.

Now there is a new council you will be more transparent and keep us informed and posted of what is going on?

Chairman – hopefully you have found this evening helpful, thank you.

It is expected that the application will be coming back to the parish council.

15. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – June 8th 2023

Chairman would like to set up a review group for policies and procedures. Thank you for attending, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 22nd May at 7pm. This is not a parish council meeting it is a parish meeting, there will be reports from the local groups.

Please let the council know of any ideas of what you would like to see over then next 4 years in the parish, If it is in the parish councils power it can be discussed.

16. 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: None

Meeting ended 9.25pm.

Parish Clerk

methwoldpc@outlook.com

www.methwoldpc.info

St George's Hall Complex High Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4NT

07340 162 732