

Methwold Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council
Thursday 9th March 2023 at 7.30pm
21 Room St George's Hall Complex Methwold

Present: – Cllr. J Marriage, Cllr. C Beukes, Cllr. S Liddle, Cllr. M French, Cllr. J Rodwell, Cllr. D Scott, Cllr. D Charlesworth-Smith (Vice)

17 members of the public

1. Cllr. D Charlesworth-Smith welcomed all to the meeting.
2. The parish council to receive and resolve to agree apologies for absence - Cllr. R Scott, Cllr. B Horton, Cllr. Ryves.
3. Declarations of Interest (In accordance with S31 of the Localism Act 2011) and requests for dispensations. Cllr. M French declared an interest in item 8.3 and has asked for a dispensation when this is discussed so he can explain the changes to the application.
4. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th February 2023. Cllr. Beukes proposed to accept the minutes, Cllr. Scott seconded - APPROVED
5. Matters arising from the Minutes not included on the agenda but for information only - None
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 23rd February 2023, to include:
Request to use recreation Ground for Fete - Summer 2023 – Cllr. Scott proposed to allow, Cllr. Rodwell seconded - APPROVED
Approval of cost to clean village gates - £20 APPROVED
Approval of cost for Architect and Arboricultural Survey on recreation ground, this is the 1st phase to find out if the toilets on the recreation ground are feasible – Cllr. Liddle proposed to accept quote of £1820, Cllr. French seconded – APPROVED
Approval for the purchase of fruit trees for wildflower meadow – £120 Cllr. Scott proposed to purchase trees, Cllr. Marriage seconded - APPROVED
Approval of purchase of materials to repair bin - £20 Cllr. Marriage proposed, Cllr. Scott seconded – APPROVED
A meeting has been held with Highways and representative from the primary school to try and identify a safer way for children to cross the road to and from school, waiting for Highways to confirm suitable location to site SAMs2 sign near the school.
Streetlight Brook Lane – UK Powernetworks have informed the pc that the streetlight at the top of Brook Lane is to be removed, this is to enable the splay to be increased to comply with planning that has been approved. The pc has been asked to purchase a new light to be located on another pole in the vicinity. The council felt that it is not up to them to pay for the relocation and possible purchase of a new streetlight, but the developer. Clerk to follow up.
The churchyard wall is causing concern, the recent cold weather has caused more damage, Clerk to follow up with the Churchwarden.

7. Finance

7.1 Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation

7.2 For Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List, Cllr. French proposed to accept bank rec and make payments, seconded Cllr. Liddle - APPROVED

7.3 Update and Report from the Finance Committee to consider the recommendations made at the Finance Committee Meeting on 9th March 2023. The pc is on track and expect there to be a small surplus at the end of the year.

Parish Clerk

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There is £4466.46 currently unallocated from CIL funding.

The accountant who undertakes Payroll has informed the pc that they will no longer be doing this from April 2023, Clerk looking at options.

Selection of Internal Auditor – two quotes received a) 75.00 total and b) £20 per hour, the group recommend quote a) - APPROVED

Barclays – look at changing bank accounts to Unity Trust or alternative.

Precept explanation to be sent to the Methwold Times.

Section 106 payment expected soon, this is the contract between the Developer, Borough Council and Parish Council and is to be used for the development of facilities on the recreation ground.

8. Planning

8.1 To receive planning decisions

22/01352/NMA_1 14 Stoke Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PE - NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT to Planning Permission 22/01352/F: Proposed Rear and Side Two Storey Extension With Rear Single Storey Extension and Front Porch Application Refused 20 February 2023 Delegated Decision

8.2 To receive planning applications

23/00282/F Proposed un-loading canopy Quorn Foods Brandon Road Methwold Norfolk IP26 4RL – NO OBSERVATIONS

22/00860/FM Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new buildings in connection with pig finishing provision and other associated works. at Feltwell Farm Lodge Road Feltwell Thetford Norfolk

22/00866/FM Demolition of existing poultry sheds, construction of 20 new poultry sheds, 4 workers dwellings and associated infrastructure at Airfield/Methwold Farm Brandon Road Methwold Norfolk IP26 4RJ – These applications were first brought to the council for comment in June 2022 where the Objection was submitted. The latest planning application has moved the vehicle movements from the B1112 to Lodge Road. The original OBJECTION remains in place and the council will also be sending in additional/updated objections.

This has been called in by Cllr. Ryves.

23/ 00287/F Proposed extensions and alterations to existing cottage with associated demolitions of existing side and rear extensions at Potsford Cottage Northwold Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PF -NO OBSERVATIONS

8.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published

21/02111/NMA_1 | NON MATERIAL AMENDMENT 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 - NO OBSERVATIONS

9. Items received for the agenda

Annual Parish Meeting as Monday 22nd May 2023

Elections – 4th May 2023 for anyone wishing to become a parish councillor details can be found on

<https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/beaparrishcouncillor> or contact the Clerk. Nominations should be handed into the Borough Council from 21st March 2023 to 4th April at 4pm. Anyone who becomes a parish councillor automatically becomes part of the Sole Trustee for Methwold Hall Complex Charitable Trust.

10. Correspondence

FOI request – Community Infrastructure Levy - CIL

FOI request Attendance

11. Open Forum for Public Participation

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

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Brookville Defibrillator Community Group have the funds to purchase the defibrillator, will the parish council insure the poles and pay for the ongoing maintenance of the unit, approx. £165 per year? The cost of training up to 50 residents to use the defib. has been included, would the parish council give a room for the training session? This needs to be taken to the Trust as the parish council do not run the complex anymore.

Will the parish council fund the ongoing maintenance of all three defibrillators in the parish?

Why can't Brookville fund the maintenance? There was a lively heated discussion between residents.

Toilet facilities on the recreation ground – does the site need to have the tree survey? Could the parish council check with planning before spending the money on a survey?

Currently funds have been raised to carry out the 1st stage of the project.

Update on the situation with the post office? This is a Trust matter, they do not want to see the post office close and have offered an Occupational Licence to the hirer to run with the same conditions as the previous Hire Agreement with the parish council, this runs until the end of October 2023, nothing has changed.

In the meantime, if an Occupational Licence is to be agreed to run from 1st November 2023, the Trust and the hirer can negotiate the terms, but the Trust have to be mindful that Charity Commission require a commercial rate to be applied. The post office is a commercial business and not a community venture, which are run by the community for the community and any profits are put back into the community venture.

Digital ID – the consultation ran from 1st January to 28th February 2023, resident wrote to the MP but has received no reply.

Why has the shop got to spend £1k for their sign? This is nothing to do with the parish council, but Cllr French will investigate on behalf of a member the public.

When the planning permission was granted for the shop, it is believed no accommodation was allowed, a bathroom suite has been seen being delivered.

12. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – April 13th 2023

Can the bus shelter be demolished in Methwold Hythe, it isn't used as a bus stop, the roof needs to be replaced and suffers from vandalism and fires, can the railings remain to prevent vehicles running up on the grass, residents in Methwold Hythe feel it is not worth spending the money on repairing the bus shelter – to Open Spaces

Propose a vote of thanks to the developer of the meadow for the new wall along Crown Street, the plans required the wall to be demolished and replaced with a brick wall, but the developer has chosen to re build in flint which is in keeping with the other walls in the village, a letter will be sent to the developer.

Problems with the bin near the passageway from the recreation ground to Lower Green, this has already been talked about in Open Spaces and a suitable site is being identified to site another dog bin here, this will require an increase in payments for the Borough council to empty the bin.

Cemetery to Fair Hill – surface of the footpath is poor, puddles etc, to be reported to Highways.

Trod at the top of Brookville is overgrown.

Meeting ended 9.25pm