

Methwold Parish Council

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Friday 20th May 2022
7.30pm to 9.30pm
21 Room St George's Hall Complex Methwold

Parish Councillors present: J Marriage – Chairman, D Charlesworth-Smith, R Scott, D Scott, I Cotterell, S Turner, B Horton, P Andre
Also in attendance: Parish Clerk
6 members of the public

The Annual Parish Council meeting was postponed from last week after a question was raised regarding Elected and Co-opted councillors. Clarification has been received from Norfolk ALC (NALC) and R Taylor from Wellers Law Group who have confirmed -

The Chairman can either be a Councillor elected or co-opted onto the Council. The word "elected" in section 15 was inserted under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 when it was envisaged that regulations would be introduced which enabled a third category of councillors (to be known as Appointed Councillors) to be part of the Parish Council. Appointed Councillors were not able to become Chairman.

The Act only enabled regulations to be made. No regulations have ever been made and Appointed Councillors do not exist and therefore the word "elected" does not apply.

1. To elect the Chairperson for the coming year

D Charlesworth-Smith proposed R Scott, B Horton seconded – APPROVED – R Scott accepted the decision and signed the Declaration of Acceptance as Chairperson.

2. To elect the Vice-Chairperson for the coming year

B Horton proposed D Charlesworth-Smith, I Cotterell seconded – APPROVED – D Charlesworth-Smith accepted the decision and signed the Declaration of Acceptance as Vice Chairperson.

R Scott thanked J Marriage who has stepped down as Chair and R Gibson who resigned due to ill health, they have both done a marvellous job and everyone appreciates all that they have done.

3. To receive apologies for absence - Cllr Storey, P Crawley has resigned.

4. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations - None

5. To agree the appointment of councillors to the following:

5.2. Open Spaces Group – R Scott, J Marriage, D Scott, I Cotterell & D Charlesworth-Smith

D Charlesworth-Smith volunteered as Cemetery Superintendent

5.3. Grants Group – P Andre

5.4. Batchcroft Trust representatives – B Horton, S Turner & JM

To be discussed and volunteers to be agreed in July's meeting.

5.1. Planning and Monitoring Group

Parish Clerk: Rachel Buckle

The Parish Office

methwoldpc@outlook.com

www.methwoldpc.info

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07340 162 732

5.5. Any other groups which require representation – Taken forwards to July meeting

6. Any other business

Request approval to purchase current edition of Local Council Administration book 12th edition approx. £170 or with membership of SLCC cost is reduced to £120

Clerk requested payment of subscription to join Society of Local Council Clerks is approved – cost £180, membership enables discount on reference books

D Charlesworth-Smith proposed agreement to pay subscription for Clerk to join SLCC and purchase of reference book when 13th version is launched, B Horton seconded – APPROVED

OPEN FORUM

Resident thanked J Marriage for all he's done in his time as Chair.

The developer has withdrawn the planning application for 7 custom self-build homes on the land behind the car park, the email on the website states this is to assess access, however if planning is not able to be approved they will consider the strong interest they have received as a gypsy/traveller site. There was further discussion on the withdrawal email which is available on the Borough Council planning portal. The parish council will wait to see if any further applications are submitted for discussion/comment.

7. 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:

7.1 Discuss and approve quotes for appointment of Architect to draw up plans for toilet facilities on the recreation ground to include setting up of a working group to manage project.

Three quotes have been obtained and these were discussed, there is no doubt the village needs toilet facilities on the recreation ground, however as costs are increasing is this the right time.

Members believe there could be an opportunity to convert The Pound into toilets.

J Marriage proposed to ask the favoured architect to quote to complete a feasibility study to find out what can be achieved and if this option is worth pursuing, I Cotterell seconded – APPROVED

Once a feasibility study is completed a working group will be formed to take forwards – J Marriage agreed to take this forwards and D Scott, P Andre and D Charlesworth-Smith volunteered to join this group when it is set up.

Meeting ended at 9.15pm

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