

Methwold Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council
Thursday 12th January 2023 at 7.30pm
21 Room St George's Hall Complex Methwold

Present: – Cllr. D Scott, Cllr. J Marriage, Cllr. C Beukes, Cllr. S Liddle, Cllr. M French, Cllr. J Rodwell and Cllr. B Horton.

Cllr M Storey

Seven members of the public

As the Chairman and Vice Chair are not in attendance the parish council voted for Cllr. M French to Chair the meeting.

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanks everyone for turning out on such a cold night.
2. Members agreed to accept apologies for absence. Cllr R Scott, Cllr D Charlesworth-Smith.
3. Declarations of Interest (In accordance with S31 of the Localism Act 2011) and requests for dispensations – Cllr. J Marriage declared an interest in item 7.1 22/00239/TREECA
4. Cllr. Beukes proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2022, seconded by Cllr Liddle – Accepted – Cllr Horton abstained as not present at the December meeting.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes not included on the agenda but for information only. – Muslim Burials – to Open Spaces
6. Finance
 - 6.1 Accounts were Updated and Bank Reconciliation read out
 - 6.2 Two additional invoice have been added to the Income & Invoice list, ICO subscription direct debit and Methwold Times subscription payment.
Cllr. D Scott proposed to approve payments, Cllr J Marriage seconded - approved
 - 6.3 The Finance Committee recommend a 5% increase to the Precept Requirement for 2023/24 – this is based on 576.3 Band D houses, up from 552.5 last year. The 5% increase equates to an additional £5.78 per year or approx.48p per month. The parish council have tried to keep increase to a minimum however, costs for most services are increasing.
7. Planning
 - 7.1 To receive planning decisions
21/01612/F Middle Warren Farm Brandon Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4RL - Replacement dwelling. Retaining the existing outbuildings, garages, stables and menage, all to be upgraded where necessary. Application Permitted 13 December 2022 Delegated Decision
22/00239/TREECA 14 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PP - MIXED SPECIES HEDGE - Reduction in height by approx. half of the present height to make it to a manageable size
Tree Application - No objection 22 December 2022 Delegated Decision
 - 7.2 To receive planning applications
22/02227/F Installation of solar panel canopies within the school car parks for the purposes of electric vehicle charging Icen Academy Stoke Road Methwold Norfolk IP26 4PE - **SUPPORT**
22/02231/F VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 FROM PLANNING APPLICATION 22/01384/F - Construction of one dwelling including new access Beggars Roost 1 Brandon Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PB – **NO OBSERVATIONS**
 - 7.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published
23/00037/F Proposed new roof to create second floor accommodation along with rear dormer window and associated works at Himley House 47 Hythe Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PS – **NO OBSERVATIONS**

Parish Clerk

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8. Items received for the agenda - None

9. Correspondence

Training sessions are available for councillors – ask the Clerk for details

Email from resident – will the parish council purchase a defibrillator for Brookville?

Email from resident – Highway improvements for Brookville – all sent to Highways for comment – to Open Spaces

Nplaw – offering public sector legal service

Local Plan Examination – Hearing adjourned

10. Open Forum

Resident attending explained that Methwold Hythe community raised the funds for the defibrillator and its maintenance/upkeep/insurance.

In Methwold a community group and the Action Group raised the funds for the defib and arranged for it to be sited at the fire station.

Resident stated they are happy to explain what is required to the Brookville resident if they want to find out more about setting up a community group in Brookville. Since the defib was installed in Methwold Hythe in 2017 it has been deployed twice.

The parish council did not contribute to the defibrillators apart from purchasing the old red phone box in the Hythe for a £1 from BT under a scheme they were running at the time.

The parish council encourage the formation of a community group in Brookville of those who would like to raise funds for a defibrillator, to include the insurance, upkeep and maintenance.

In Methwold Hythe the noticeboard and bench need replacing. Some tiles on the bus shelter roof has been repaired by the community but the gutter and downpipe need to be replaced. – To Open Spaces

The road from the crossroads in Methwold Hythe to the Feltwell Road has no footpath, there are very large vehicles using this road and pedestrians have nowhere to go to get off the road, can some form of traffic calming be investigated? - Open Spaces

Items regarding signage was bought up – this will be taken to the Trust meeting.

The traffic lights on Crown Street have meant that lorries are using the pavement and causing damage. It is thought that Highways will put all this right once the development is completed.

It is disappointing that the village didn't have a Christmas tree outside the Post Office this year, the tree used to be donated, what happened? It is hoped that the Hall Group will include this when they put the decorations up in the Complex this year.

Outside area of the Complex – needs attention – to the Trust

What is happening with the Old Chapel/Bus Stop? Cllr Storey replied that he has discussed the situation with Highways and they are aware of the situation.

The screens around the Old Chapel are a monstrosity, why has this not been tackled by the planners or Enforcement, is there an end date for the screens to be removed? Cllr. Storey has done a lot of chasing to try and get this resolved.

Brookville – 3 or 4 of the streetlights are out, Clerk has already reported these to the maintenance contractor.

Cllr. Storey wished everyone a Happy New Year, it is an extremely important time at present setting the budget for 2023/24, there was a good response to the public consultation period which finished on 6th December. Unfortunately there is no money tree and all costs are being considered at great length with everything on the table. Hopefully a balanced budget will be set.

NCC – gritting is happening on the 2200 miles of A& B roads with the A47 and A11 covered by National Highways. Resurfacing work will be undertaken in May 2023 of the A10 Downham Market roundabout to the A1122 Stradsett junction.

Hardship – residents are suffering due to the cost-of-living crisis, NCC have published in the press details of help and advice for residents to help with food and money. It is encouraging to see people acting as one community and helping others in difficult circumstances.

Local Plan has been adjourned on the 9th January for more information in certain areas, hopefully the hearing will resume soon, until then the 2016 plan continues until the update has been completed.

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The road surface on the B1112 between the Waterworks and Weeting is in desperate need of repair or resurfacing, it is very dangerous especially if a motorbike or cyclist were to hit the potholes. This is outside the parish boundary but has been reported to Highways.

The mobile library came today, has there been a typo for the next date, should it be 9th February not the 29th?

Resident asked if there was an update on the Post Office? Discussions are taking place between the Charitable Trust and the Post Mistress, they are trying to find a resolution.

Thank you to the resident who has repaired the recreation ground car park after the heavy machine broke the surface, the repair has been completed.

11. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – February 9th 2023 - None

12. 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 –

Insurance Policy Renewal – Cllr. S Liddle and Clerk to read through the proposed policies.

As the next parish council meeting falls after the renewal date an extraordinary meeting will be required for the parish council to discuss and decide which quote to accept.

Council voted for an addendum to employee's contract.

Meeting ended 8.35pm