

MINUTES OF METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD
THURSDAY 13th JANUARY 2022 at 7.00pm
21 ROOM, ST GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX, METHWOLD

Parish Councillors present: J Marriage – Chairman, D Scott, R Scott, S Turner, P Andre, ,
I Cotterell, B Horton
Also in attendance: R Buckle (Parish Clerk)
5 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

1. The parish council to receive and resolve to agree apologies for absence apologies received from
D Charlesworth-Smith, R Gibson, P Crawley. Cllr Ryves and Cllr Storey.
Apologies accepted - The Chairman wished R Gibson a speedy recovery.

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

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 9th December 2021, D Scott proposed to accept
the minutes, B Horton seconded – APPROVED S Turner and P Andre abstained as they were not present at
this meeting.

4. Matters arising from 9th December 2021 minutes – The Cleaner has resigned, as there are bookings in
the complex the Clerk is looking at a temporary solution until a new cleaner can be found.

5. No Open Spaces report

6. Finance

a. Accounts Update – Bank Reconciliation – The Borough Council have decided that as St George's Hall
and the Old Social Club (Complex) buildings are now being held in a Charitable Trust the Rates for both
properties will be qualify for Charity Rate Relief to include the Top Up 20% which means no more Rates are
due in 2021/22 financial year, 0% Rates on the Complex will be on condition that the application is
accepted by the Charity Commission, we have been advised by our Solicitor that this this will take time.
The Car Boot Sales and Christmas Fair run by parish councillors raised a total of £1135.70 for the toilets on
the recreation ground fund, thank you to all those involved.

b. Approval of payments – Income & Invoice List – R Scott proposed, B Horton seconded - APPROVED

c. Update and report from the Finance Meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022, due to
unforeseen circumstances the meeting was postponed until Thursday 13th January 2022

i. Update regarding the rates paid in 2021/22 – please see Accounts Update.

ii. Approval of Draft Budget 2022/23 – J Marriage proposed to approve, I Cotterell seconded -
APPROVED

iii. Approval of Precept requirement for 2022/23 – Due to the increase in costs for many of the
services provided to the parish council the Budget requires an increase of 12% to the Precept to meet all
financial commitments.

Total Precept requirement for 2022/23 = £66,567.59

This is based on 552.5 Band D properties in the Parish and equates to an increase of approx. £1.08 per month per Band D property. J Marriage proposed to accept 12% increase on 2021/22 Precept, B Horton seconded, APPROVED

7. Planning

7.1 To receive planning decisions

21/00125/TPO 24 Crown Street Methwold THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4NR - 2/TPO/00205: T1 Lime - remove epicormic growth at the base of tree and raise canopy to three meters. crown reduction by three meters T2 Lime - remove epicormic growth at the base of tree and raise canopy to three meters. crown reduction by three meters TPO Work Approved

10 December 2021 Delegated Decision

21/02101/F 1 Thornham Road Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4PH - Loft conversion with new rooflights Application Permitted 16 December 2021 Delegated Decision

7.2 To receive planning applications

21/02138/F Methwold Proposed dwelling Land S of 22 E of 12 Thornham Road And N of 40

Holme Brink Farm 22 Thornham Road Methwold THETFORD Norfolk IP26 4PH – NO OBSERVATIONS

21/02344/F Change of use of a vacant (former) Butcher's shop (E) to one bed dwelling (C3) at 25A High Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk IP26 4NT – NO OBSERVATIONS

7.3 To consider planning applications received after the agenda was published

21/02482/F 25B and 27 High Street Methwold Thetford Norfolk - PV panels to be installed on the roofs of 25b and 27, canopy to be erected to the rear of 27 and new patio doors to 27 and replacement gate entrance to the shared driveway – NO OBSERVATIONS

8. Items received for the agenda - None

9. Correspondence

Ashwood Bond Developments Ltd – Email received in response to reply sent December 2021. Would the parish council be happy to explore an agreement in principle so Ashwood Bond can progress further? The parish council felt the tone of the email to be disingenuous and arrogant, it was made very clear in the original reply sent after the last meeting that the parish council would not be spending anymore time on the proposal. Clerk to respond to explain this.

Derby's Nurseries – have offered the parish council 3 trees for the Platinum Celebrations, the parish council thanks Derby Nurseries for their generous offer, this will be passed to Open Spaces to manage.

Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons – email received from the Pageant master and passed onto Methwold Community Action Group who organised the last event.

Streetlight contractor – has flagged up work which may need to be done in the future to move a control box, the council decided to leave it until problem occurs.

The tyre on the zip wire has been cut in four places, this is not wear and tear it is an act of vandalism and means it no longer acts as a good buffer and has been flagged up as needing to be replaced. This is a Health & Safety issue, the cost for a replacement to be fitted is £500, J Marriage proposed to have the tyre fitted as a matter of urgency, R Scott seconded – APPROVED

Residents of The Avenue have received letters asking them to cut back verges following a complaint from a resident who stated overgrown verges are causing obstruction to them when walking Mill Drove. The Clerk explained that having spoken to the new Northwold Clerk these letters were sent in error, they didn't realise that The Avenue was not in Northwold parish and has apologised and asked those residents ignore the letters.

10. Open Forum for Public Participation - An opportunity to hear from members of the public, Borough and County Councillors. Cllr Ryves and Cllr Storey did not attend the meeting.

Is there any update on when the noticeboard on the side of The Pound will be replaced? This will be done as soon as it is possible.

There are a lot of molehills on the recreation ground.

The streetlight is out at the primary school, this has already been reported to the Contractor for repair.

Clerk informed that Highway Rangers have been disbanded, the Area Technician for Highways is visiting Methwold Hythe to be shown problems and will be asked to meet councillors to walk Methwold and Brookville as well. Inspection regime and Intervention Levels to be requested by the Clerk.

Update on the bus stop outside The Old Chapel, the sign has not been installed yet, what is the delay?

A footbridge has been installed across the ditch on Footpath 7 to see if anyone uses this path. Residents at the meeting complained about funds being spent on this instead of other items which require attention in the parish.

11. Further reports and items for the next meeting agenda – Thursday 10th February 2022 - 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: None

Meeting ended at 20.10pm

DRAFT