

**Minutes 07/2012 of Metheringham, Sots Hole and Tanvats
Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th November 2012 at 7.30pm in
the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Councillors Dr M J Allen (Chairman), N Dobbs, Mrs J Finegan (Vice Chairman), P D Ford, Mrs J Gwilym, M Haisman, T Miah, Mrs S Peek, P Saffin, Mrs S Wilson, Cllr Mrs P Bradwell (County Council), Cllr R Kendrick (District Council) and Ms S N Wetherall (Clerk).

1. **Chairman's Remarks:** The Chairman made a number of announcements relating to fire exits, conduct during the meeting and confidentiality of the closed session. He welcomed the new Councillor Turon Miah to his first meeting following his co-option at the October meeting.
2. **To resolve to accept Apologies for absence and reasons given:** Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs M Kristen, P Lincoln and J Money (District Council). It was resolved to accept the apologies and reasons, this was proposed by Cllr Mrs Peek, seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilson and all were in favour.
3. **Members Declarations of Interests:**
 - a) Declarations of interest were made by the following Councillors:
 - i) Councillors Dr M J Allen, N Dobbs, Mrs J Finegan, P D Ford, Mrs J Gwilym, M Haisman, T Miah, Mrs S Peek, P Saffin and Mrs S Wilson declared a Disclosable pecuniary interest for agenda items 7a and 7b because they live in the parish.
 - ii) Councillor Ford declared a Disclosable pecuniary interest for agenda item 7i because his wife is receiving a salary.
 - b) Dispensations:
 - i) It was resolved to grant dispensation to all members listed above in Item 3 a) i), in relation to DPI, Appendix A, Items d and g, for the duration of the term of office, if members were prohibited from taking part in the meeting it would impede the transaction of business, this was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Dobbs and all were in favour.
 - ii) Cllr Ford was granted dispensation at the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th August 2012 Minute Ref: 04/2012 Item 2b.
4. **Notes of the Council Meeting:** Held on 30th October 2012 having been previously circulated, be approved as the minutes – It was resolved to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting, this was proposed by Cllr Mrs Finegan, seconded by Cllr Haisman one abstention (Cllr Miah) and seven were in favour.
5. **Reports from representatives on outside bodies:**
 - a) Cllr Mrs Bradwell reported that the approved speed reduction on the B1188 from Branston to Ruskington will be implemented in March 2013.

The car parking charges at the station are still being charged. Chris Briggs has a meeting with Network Rail on 6th December 2012

Signed: _____

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regarding other matters, Cllr Mrs Bradwell will ensure that the charges at Metheringham are raised and she is hoping to bring him to the village.

The Clerk is to raise the request for a speed restriction on Metheringham Fen Lane with Alan Brown from LCC highways at the village meeting on 6th December 2012. 34 High Street obstructions on the highway is to be highlighted to LCC at the same meeting.

The hand in hand club have been given bus passes and are now able to use the Call Connect mini bus FOC.

Cllr Mrs Peek raised her concerns about the poor appearance of the library frontage. Cllr Mrs Bradwell to resolve if possible.

- b) Cllr Kendrick informed members of the NKDC sandbag policy, this information has been circulated to the council and has been added to the MPC website. NKDC waste collection service for the Christmas season is on the NKDC website. Two NKDC staff have been TUPE transferred to LCC to carry out car parking enforcement duties within the county. Cllr Mrs Bradwell is to enquire how the system will work.
- c) Nothing to report.
- d) The Clerk circulated a copy of the dog warden's report to all members. Cllr Mrs Gwilym stated the dog warden does a good job for the parish.

It was resolved to vary the order of the agenda, item 15 was taken before item 6, this was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Dobbs and all were in favour.

15. **Recreation field and related issues:** The boundary fence objection should have been resolved. However LCC have not yet provided a date of when the work will resume. Cllr Mrs Bradwell will obtain a date and inform the Clerk. The Clerk will then notify MPC solicitor to contact the occupants. LCC legal documents have been submitted to our solicitor. A forward planning meeting took place on 20th November with MPC solicitor. He has now sent our comments to LCC legal, it is anticipated the documents will be signed before the end of the year. A special meeting may be called to approve this.

ACTION: Working Group/Clerk

6. **Clerks report on matters outstanding:**

- a) Request for speed limit to be imposed on Metheringham Fen Lane near to residential properties. This has been declined by LCC. Further letter sent to LCC asking they reconsider the request due to it being a residential area, a number of children, street lights and no footpaths. LCC are to carry out an automatic survey of the area. LCC are now stating the site does not meet the criteria. A parishioner and dog have been hit by a car on Metheringham Fen Lane near to the properties.

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MPC have requested LCC highways attend a village site meeting to discuss all highways issues. Meeting has been postponed due to poor weather conditions. New date 6th December 2012.

Pot holes on Metheringham Fen Lane have been reported again on 16-07-2012, but not all have been repaired – Ref: 1101287 and 1101292.

Pot hole outside 24 Middle Street – Ref: 1123262.

Damage to footpath Kings Road – Ref: 1142184.

Cobbles outside the library have been removed. Cllr Mrs Bradwell is dealing with this.

- b) E-mail sent to Mr Renfrew requesting details in relation to the community allotment initiative. Clerk to write.
- c) New planters are to be installed in various locations.
- d) Further complaint received in relation to items on the footpath outside 34 High Street.
- e) Request to Nick Worrall at Linden Homes to remove ‘Stamford Homes’ sign adjacent to Dunston Road.
- f) Public toilets - Fen Road. Transfer deed has now been signed by the Chairman and returned to the solicitor, still waiting for completion date from NKDC.
- g) East Midlands Trains have started charging again for car parking at the railway station car park, Cllr Mrs Bradwell has requested a meeting with East Midland Trains.
- h) Request from resident for a drop curb from the station car park to Pullman Close. Cllr Mrs Bradwell is dealing with this request.
- i) Complaint received about children playing on grass area at Millfield Road, details passed to NKDC as it is their land. Waiting for a response.
- j) Street light outside 40 Princes Street has been reported as not working, this has been repaired twice.

Cllr Mrs Bradwell and Cllr Kendrick left the meeting at 8.02pm

7. Financial matters:

- a) To discuss and approve a budget for 2013/2014, following recommendations from the Finance Committee: Documents had been previously circulated to all members. Following a detailed review of the proposed budget, it was resolved to approve the budget, this was

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an increase of £4,866.00 for 2013/2014, this was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Saffin and all were in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

- b) To approve the Precept for 2013/2014, based on proposals from the Finance Committee: The precept proposal was £105,175.00, this was a £4,866.00 increase on last year's figure, mainly due to new projects requested by parishioners; youth group and skateboard park. The Clerk informed members NKDC are waiting for the new formulae from the government to calculate the parish tax base, this will not be available for some time yet. Following a detailed discussion it was resolved to accept the increase, this was proposed by Cllr Dobbs, seconded by Cllr Saffin and all were in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

- c) To consider a request from the Sleaford Citizens Advice Bureau for a donation towards their activities: Following a debate, it was resolved a donation would not be made on this occasion, this was proposed by Cllr Ford, seconded by Cllr Saffin and all were in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

- d) To consider purchasing a colour laser printer at a cost of £199.00: It was resolved to purchase the printer from Viking Direct, this was proposed by Cllr Ford, seconded by Cllr Mrs Gwilym and all were in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

- e) To consider purchasing 2 off scoop range double chairs for use in the pavilion at a cost of £139.00 each from Viking Direct: The chairs will be used during the youth sessions, it was resolved to purchase the chairs, this was proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilson, seconded by Cllr Mrs Gwilym and all were in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

- f) To consider and approve quotation received from Hill Holt Wood for cutting the hedge at the war memorial garden and Shiregate play park at a total cost of £280.00, the Clerk clarified exactly which parts of the hedge are to be cut, it was resolved HHW should carry out the work, this was proposed by Cllr Dobbs, seconded by Cllr Mrs Gwilym and all were in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

- g) To consider increasing Metheringham Parish Council's public liability insurance limit from £5,000,000.00 to £10,000,000.00 at an additional cost of £186.80 for the remainder of the year, until the renewal in June 2013: Members felt the limit should be increased, during times of increasing litigation, this was proposed by Cllr Ford, seconded by Cllr Saffin and all were in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

- h) To consider payment of the Metheringham Swimming Pool outstanding water bill of £1800.60: Cllr Haisman informed members that the bill had been taken to the billing department at Anglian Water, to confirm if it was correct. It may be possible to have a one off rebate in the future, based on the sewerage. Further enquiries are to be made. A small leak has been detected which is costing approximately £25.00 per month during the open season, this is to be repaired before the pool re-opens. The committee are to provide their income and expenditure and a budget for 2013. The Chairman stated they have

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done an excellent job. The committee should be self sufficient after 2013. Following a lengthy debate it was resolved to make payment of the 2012 outstanding invoice of £1800.60, this was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mrs Gwilym, one abstention (Cllr Mrs Peek) and seven were in favour.

ACTION: Cllr Haisman/Clerk

- i) To consider accounts for payment:

Payment to	Amount £
Viking Direct Stationery	56.49
Badgemaster – Cllr Miah name badge	5.65
LALC AGM – x 3 delegates	43.50
E.on – public toilet lighting	39.94
E.on – repair o/s 4 Lime Tree Avenue	23.47
E.on – repair Station Road	31.27
Bates Sound – PA system for Remembrance Day	120.00
Metheringham Scouts – Tinkers Hall hire	80.00
Bonnett Ltd – cleaning materials	44.60
MVHMC – Hall Hire	39.00
County Cups – banners for F & F	65.00
Red Cross – F & F	288.00
Veolia – Grass cutting	96.94
Employee Salaries, Expenses and LCC Pension	2,282.08
HM Revenue & Customs	363.15
Parish Dog Warden	360.00
BACS Payments – November 2012	3,939.09
P Chambers – Materials	16.67
Bugler – Remembrance Day	25.00
M Kristen – Santa gifts	170.00
JTF – F & F debrief	45.94
Metheringham Army Cadets – F & F help donation	50.00
Total – November 2012	4,246.70

It was resolved to make payment of the accounts, this was proposed by Cllr Dobbs, seconded by Cllr Saffin and all were in favour.

- d) To receive a report from the RFO on the PC finances, Income and Expenditure: There were no questions or queries on the financial position.

It was resolved to suspend the meeting at 8.54pm for a short refreshment break, this was proposed by Cllr Ford, seconded by Cllr Mrs Finegan and all were in favour.

The meeting resumed at 9.12pm.

8. **Planning Committee:** Notes of meeting held on 14th November 2012, having been previously circulated, to be approved as the minutes: It was resolved to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting, this was proposed by Cllr Dobbs, seconded by Cllr Mrs Finegan and all were in favour.

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9. Correspondence:

- a) To note general correspondence (publications and letters were available for inspection at the meeting).
 - i) Some members of the Council had received a letter from the occupants of 10 Church Walk. Clerk to acknowledge receipt of the letters on behalf of members.

ACTION: Clerk

10. To receive reports on Outside Meetings:

- a) To receive a report from Cllr Miah on the Councillors Training session held on 14th November 2012: The course was very interesting and contained lots of good information. He has a lot more knowledge from attending the course. The Chairman added that all training sessions are worthwhile even for more experienced Councillors as there is normally something new to be learnt.

11. To receive reports from Working Groups:

- a) Allotments: Nothing to report.

- b) Anti Social Behaviour: A meeting is to be arranged for December or January.

ACTION: Working Group

- c) Children's Playgrounds and Playing Fields: A working group meeting took place on 8th November to review the RoSPA report an action plan has been produced and quotations are being obtained for new equipment. A further meeting will be arranged to establish how this will be funded.

ACTION: Clerk/Working Group

- d) Christmas Celebrations: Cllr Mrs Kristen was not present at the meeting, but other members reported that the stalls are required at the Star & Garter car park on Saturday at 2.00pm. The Chairman requires further details.

ACTION: Working Group

- e) Community Emergency and Flood Plan: Nothing to report.

ACTION: Working Group

- f) Consultation and Questionnaires: Nothing to report.

- g) Fayre and Feast: F & F de-brief took place on 15th November a number of issues were raised. A meeting will be held in January.

ACTION: Clerk/Working Group

- h) Forward Planning: This will be discussed in detail at Item 15.

ACTION: Working Group

- i) Highways, Footpaths and Car Parks: A meeting with LCC highways has been re-arranged for 6th December 2012 at 10.00am at the village hall car park.

ACTION: Working Group/Clerk

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- j) Recreation field developments: Nothing to report.
- k) Risk Assessment: A further meeting is to be arranged.

ACTION: Working Group

- l) Skate Board Park/BMX Track: Some members were concerned that we had acquired the mobile skate park equipment, but it has not yet been used. It was suggested the car park should be closed during the Christmas break and the equipment set up. Clerk to contact Nick Byatt to discuss options.

ACTION: Clerk

- m) Street Lighting: Nothing to report.

ACTION: Working Group

- n) War Memorial, Spring and Library frontage/planted area: Nothing to report.

12. Committees and Working Groups:

- a) To appoint Cllr Miah to the Planning Committee: It was resolved to appoint Cllr Miah to the Planning Committee, this was proposed by Cllr Haisman, seconded by Cllr Saffin and all were in favour.
- b) To confirm leaders and members of working groups: a revised document will be circulated to all members. It was resolved to accept the additions and amendments this was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Ford and all were in favour.
- c) To clarify protocol of working groups: The working groups are set up to carry out the ground work and bring their findings and recommendations back to full council for approval, the working groups do not have the authority to spend money. Notes of meetings and meeting dates should be circulated to all working group members.

- 13. Meg Youthy:** A new working group has been formed consisting of Cllr Mrs Finegan, Cllr Mrs Gwilym, Cllr Miah, Cllr Saffin, Ms Wetherall, co-opted members; Mr N Byatt, Mr A Coates and five young people. It was resolved to appoint the working group, this was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Haisman and all were in favour.

- 14. Representatives to Outside Bodies:** To appoint Cllr Mrs Wilson as the representative to the Bowls Club: It was resolved to appoint Cllr Mrs Wilson, proposed by Cllr Saffin, seconded by Cllr Mrs Gwilym and all were in favour.

- 16. Floodlighting on Playing Field:** To consider MPC will take over the responsibility and running costs of the flood lights on the playing field for a trial period. At the recent meetings with the young people they have asked for lighting on the playing field, floodlights are already located at the south end of the playing field. Cllr Ford informed members the quarterly bill is £50.00 - £60.00, the lights are currently on 5 days a week for 3 hours per day. A timer and stop button would need to be installed, the Clerk will obtain quotations. It was resolved MPC should take over

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responsibility and the running costs for a trial period, this was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Saffin, one abstention (Cllr Haisman) and seven were on favour.

ACTION: Clerk

17. **Remembrance Day Service:** Some members were disappointed Bates Sound did not have the national anthem, which they have played in previous years. The collection in the church appeared to be disorganized. The clergy moved off too quickly not allowing the parade to assemble. The path to the new cemetery was slippery due to the leaf fall. Cllr Ford was disappointed over the mix up with who was reading The Kohima Epitah. Next year a meeting should be held with the Reverend and organized groups.

ACTION: Clerk

18. **Annual Village Meeting 2013:** Mike Credland has agreed to give a presentation in relation to the Metheringham War Memorial. Other organizations should be invited to provide displays in the hall.

ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Haisman

19. **Village Hall:** The financial situation is very close to being resolved. A meeting has been arranged on 29th November 2012 with the acting executive committee and the staff.

ACTION: Clerk

20. **Dispersal Order:** Cllr Money has spoken to Heidi Ryder, but she is still of the opinion that the ASB in Metheringham does not meet the criteria for a dispersal order. MPC are to produce a statement to be issued to North Kesteven Community Safety Partnership.

ACTION: Working Group/Clerk

21. **Parish Council Surgeries:** The Clerk has spoken to the library and they are happy for the surgeries to take place in their premises on the first Saturday of the month at 10.00am – 12.00pm, during this time two Councillors will be present.

ACTION: Members

22. **Date, time and venue of next meeting:** Tuesday 29th January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

23. **Public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the Press and the Public:** It was resolved that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Finegan, seconded by Cllr Dobbs and all were in favour.

24. **Princes Street Play Park:** Members were provided with a further update relating to a matter at the play park.

The meeting closed at 10.35pm.

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