



Minutes of Metheringham, Sots Hole & Tanvats, Annual Village Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors N Byatt, A Cleland, P Ford, J Kendrick, S Peek, P Stallebrass and S Wilson (Chairman).

In attendance: Councillor R Kendrick (Lincolnshire County Council – LCC) & North Kesteven District Council - NKDC).

Officer: S Stafford (Parish Clerk)

Parish Council Staff: P Chambers (Handyman)
L Evans (Administration Assistant)

Public: 74 members of the public

Apologies: Councillor S Stocker and Councillor J Money (North Kesteven District Council - NKDC).

Councillor Wilson welcomed everyone to the 2017 Annual Village Meeting and thanked them for attending. In light of the recent terror attack in Manchester a minute's silence was held followed by a short prayer from Reverend Paul Cockburn.

- 1. Notes of the last Annual Village Meeting held on 26th April 2016 to be approved and signed as the minutes.** The notes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 26^h April 2016 were confirmed as a true record of the meeting, this was proposed by Councillor Ford, seconded by Mrs K Hawbrook and all were in favour, the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 2. To receive a report from the Chairman (Councillor Sally Wilson) on the parish council activities during 2016-2017.** All in attendance had a 'council services' document (Appendix 1), this provided an overview of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Metheringham Parish Council. Councillor Wilson explained the services and facilities provided by the parish council to help people understand where the money collected through the precept is spent. She paid tribute to all the Parish Councillors that had recently stepped down and a special thanks to Dr Allen, who resigned from the council after 17 years' service and 13 as the Chairman.

The Chairman then proceeded to provide an update on each of the council's responsibilities:

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- The precept request for 2017/2018 is £132,760.00. For a band D property this equates to £119.10 per year or £9.92 per month or £2.48 per week per household.
- The parish council currently has just four allotment plots in the village which is considered to be woefully low. Land owners around the village have been approached for further land, including Network Rail, Western Power and local farmers but none has been forthcoming. The council also investigated compulsory purchase but this was not an option due to the high legal costs involved.
- Planters in the village are maintained by the handyman.
- The parish council shield has been installed on the beacon.
- The parish council maintain two car parks in the village which are very well used but it was recognized that more parking is needed.
- The council support the fantastic community library which is run by volunteers and which is going from strength to strength.

Councillor Wilson invited Councillor Byatt as the leader of the Events working group to report on their activities. The group, which includes councillors and interested volunteers, are involved in the planning and management of all events which have a call upon the parish council's public liability insurance. The group has procedures in place which aim to improve the running and content of previous events and always welcomes feedback from function attendees. The Christmas Market group has separated from the parish council for this year's event as they will now have their own public liability insurance and conduct their own risk assessments etc but will liaise with the parish council to co-ordinate the Christmas lights switch on. The Armed Forces Flag Raising will take place on 19-06-2017 at 10:15 in the war memorial garden to support the armed forces, past, present and future. The 2016 Fayre & Feast was deemed a success but there is still room for improvement. A huge amount of time and work goes into the Fayre & Feast, but critically for the event to go ahead again the number of volunteers needs to increase, so please offer whatever assistance you can.

Councillor Wilson promoted the fact that the parish council offer grants for specific things for example the Guides trip to Nepal, LIVES for delivering the annual reports and 1st Metheringham Scout Group towards 'Poacher 2017'.

- The parish council has two playgrounds and has been awarded a £50,000 grant from WREN for new play equipment in Prince's Street. The project has taken a long time to plan, get quotes and seek funding but the installation is due to start on 23-06-2017. The play equipment chosen has been based on feedback from villagers and is inclusive for all age ranges and abilities. An official opening is planned for 14-07-2017 but is weather dependent. This is the second major parish council project supported by WREN, but sadly will be the last due to the closure of the landfill site and distance criteria. The parish council is extremely grateful for the support given by WREN over the years.
- Further plans are to extend the car park and install public toilets there. The public toilets on Fen Road are now in parish council ownership, the bus drivers think they are amazing!

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- There are 14 dog waste bins in the village, so it is not acceptable to not pick up. Dog fouling is classed as litter so, when picked up and placed in a bag can be put in any litter bin.
- The parish council is responsible for just over 200 street lights. Many of the lights are old concrete columns which will need replacing in the coming years at a cost of £1,600 each; a programme of works has been created. The parish council has no plans to turn off our street lights!
- The war memorial will have its 100 year anniversary in 2018 along with the 100 year celebrations of the formation of the RAF.
- Other plans include the creation of new changing rooms on the playing field to bring this area into the 21st century.
- An installation of an information board containing village facilities is being investigated and could be located on the grass area near to Grange Road.
- LCC are responsible for the roads. The parish council regularly report the pot holes and problems that we are aware of and will not give up. However, anyone can report pot holes direct to LCC and are encouraged to do so. Councillor Rob Kendrick is the 'king of pot holes'.
- The re-surfacing of the High Street is scheduled for July 2017.
- The Fayre & Feast will take place on 21-10-2017 and will celebrate 'All Around the World'.

3. To answer questions or consider any matters relating to Metheringham Parish Councils Annual Report.

- Parking enforcement was raised as an issue, how many FPN's have been issued?
- The parish council is aware of at least 3 being issued, but it may be more, Clerk to ask for details/monthly reports.
- Do the team work on a Saturday as there are particular problems on a Saturday?
- Could the parish council employ an enforcement officer? If so who would receive the funds from the FPN?
- There is also an issue of vehicles parking on the pavements and at drop kerbs. This should be reported to the police on 101 as these infringements constitute an obstruction of the highway.
- Some thought the issue of dog fouling in the village was worse. The dog warden works ten hours per week and helps to educate people that they should pick up after their dogs. If he was not present as a visual deterrent the issue may be much worse.

4. Reports from village organizations.

B1188 Community Police Panel: Councillor Byatt reported that the police have the poorest budget in the country. There are 18 villages covered by 1 police officer and 2 PCSO's in the Neighbourhood Policing Team. While it is a rarity to see the police on the street there is other police activity ongoing in the background, including tackling cyber-crime which is a serious issue.

✚ NK is one of the safest districts in the country but if you see something suspicious or raises your concern please report it on 101 or, if an emergency call 999.

✚ Speeding in the villages is an issue countywide. The Community Police Panel (CPP) and Parish Council take the issues of speeding very

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seriously. Metheringham has the use of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in conjunction with 4 other villages. The data is analyzed and reported to the police.

- ✚ The CPP always want representatives to help reflect the views and issues of residents; new panel members are always welcome.
- ✚ The parish council funded and installed the skate park to help reduce ASB.
- ✚ The creation of the new play park is another major investment. New CCTV is to be installed to cover the new park/recreation field.

Metheringham Methodist Church: Reverend Paul Cockburn introduced himself as the new Reverend for Metheringham. There is a rumour that the building, which was originally known as a Methodist Cathedral, has been sold. This is not true at present, however it may happen in the future, due to the upkeep of the building and a lack of people attending. Community worship will still be offered in the village but it may be in a different place/format.

Metheringham Christmas Market: Linda Lacey explained that the market started out with just 2 stalls, but has grown over the years. It costs in the region of £3,000.00 to put the event on, which includes complementary coffee, tea, mince pies and a gift for children age 0-11 years.

- ❖ Fund raising events include Bingo which is hugely popular with 96 people regularly in attendance.
- ❖ She thanked Jan and Norah for the nativity and the fire service for the sleigh and the cadets who erect the stalls.
- ❖ The group are proud to have won the best dressed stall at last year's Fayre and Feast.
- ❖ This year Reverend Coates is looking to provide a service in St Wilfird's Church. The nativity will then proceed to the cross with a torch light procession for the Christmas Tree lighting prior to the opening of the market.
- ❖ There are 14 people on the committee who welcome any suggestions.
- ❖ She thanked everyone for their support.

LIVES: Mike Keal is now the cluster coordinator. LIVES have 700 community responders whose aim is to get to as many people as quickly as possible to help save lives, especially as some early CPR can make a huge difference. They currently need more volunteers to cover Metheringham. Defib training – Save a Life Campaign now has 10,000 trained. St John's is having a training session in Metheringham on Monday 5th June from 18:00 – 21:00.

5. **Presentation of certificates to volunteers and voluntary groups awarded grants.** Certificates were presented to a variety of volunteers to thank them for all their hard work in assisting the parish council and to LIVES 1st Responders for providing first aid cover at the Fayre & Feast and delivering the Annual Reports to the Metheringham residents, unfortunately 1st Metheringham Scouts were not present at the meeting to receive their certificate. (Appendix 2).

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6. **An opportunity for residents of Metheringham to raise matters relating to the village.** Questions in relation to the village had been covered in agenda item 3.

Councillor Wilson stated that a village the size of Metheringham really needs its full complement of 13 Councillors, “we need your expertise to run this village smoothly. If you can give up a couple of hours per week, to help drive the village further forward into the 21st century, let us know”. There were no further questions, Councillor Wilson invited attendees to make their way to the refreshments and thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed: _____

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