

MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Welcome to Mepal Parish Council's first Annual Report. As Councillors, we are your representatives attempting to do what you want to make Mepal a nicer place to live. This report will set out briefly what we did and how your money was spent last year (2007/8) and our plans for this year. Councillors are always pleased to hear your views and concerns and our Clerk will always do what she can to help you.

Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month except in August and December, in the Village Hall. A calendar of dates is on display on our noticeboard in the High Street and on our website. There is a Public Forum at the start of every meeting and you are welcome to address the Council on any matter of local concern.

As well as your Councillors, many people help our community in a wide variety of ways from helping with litter picks to editing *Mepal People*. I am very grateful to everyone who supports our efforts. If you feel you can help us, please do get in touch.

Elizabeth Stazicker
Chairman – Mepal Parish Council

Parish Guide, Newsletter and Website

A *Mepal Guide* is published to provide basic information about the village. Collect a copy from Mepal Stores if you are new to the village.

Our newsletter, *Mepal People*, is published every second month and delivered in the village. If you don't receive a copy, please ask the Clerk.

Take a look at the brand new website for Mepal, which we intend to launch formally soon. Visit www.mepalparish.org.uk.

If you want to contribute to *Mepal People* and/or the website, please contact the Clerk.

Major Achievements in 2007/8

- With Mepal Sports Action Group, completion and opening of our Community Pavilion.
- Supporting the Village Hall improvement scheme.
- Planting trees beside the Community Pavilion and at the recreation field entrance.
- Completion of Mepal Parish Plan for 2008 – 2012. The plan is now available and has been distributed within the village. If you haven't had a copy, please contact the Clerk.
- Forming closer links with Mepal & Witcham Primary School (Mark Newstead and Elizabeth Stazicker are now Governors).
- Further cementing the link with the 75th New Zealand Squadron Trust, who in November 2007, affixed the Squadron plaque to the village sign.
- Committing to Quality Parish Council Status: achieving qualifications and training to ensure that we serve our community in the best ways we can.



Community Pavilion opened July 2007. A £275k project completed within budget. Supported and funded by Mepal Sports Action Group, The Football Foundation, East Cambridgeshire District Council, WREN, the Grant Weston Trust, Cambridgeshire ACRE and Donarbon.



Many thanks to our head teacher, Miss Green, for letting the school take part, to Mrs Walker and her helpers, who brought the children over, to the adult helpers, and especially to the children, who will we hope enjoy the trees for many, many years to come.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH

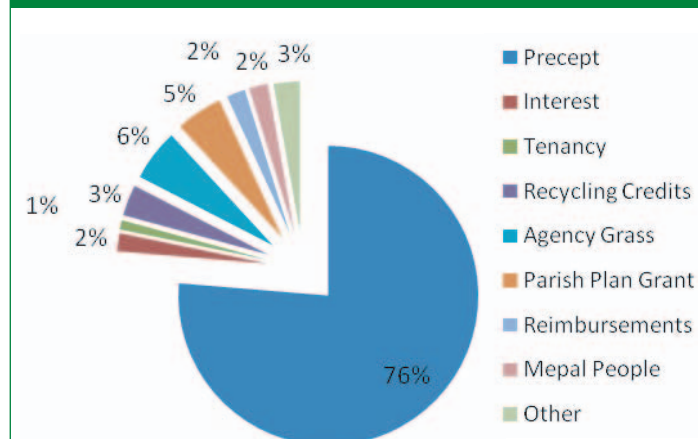
Year Ended 31 st March 2007	INCOME	Year Ended 31 st March 2008
21250.00	Precept*	22900.00
1654.66	Agency Grass Cutting	1687.12
0.00	Loans for Capital Expenditure	0.00
323.58	Interest on Investments & Accounts	577.02
0.00	Sale of Assets	0.00
300.00	Tenancies	300.00
1668.50	Capital Grants	0.00
0.00	Parish Plan Grant	1500.00
0.00	Reimbursement - pavilion expenses	605.47
440.00	Newsletter	578.01
566.16	Recycling Credits	1036.00
107319.14	Pavilion Project	140899.67
5934.49	VAT	3297.40
53.34	Other	840.63
<hr/> 139509.87 <hr/>	Total Income	<hr/> 174221.32 <hr/>
	EXPENDITURE	
1611.03	Training, subscriptions, telephone etc	3003.15
5572.81	Wages, PAYE, NI, Pensions, Expenses	7103.12
1854.75	Youth Club, Good Companions	1926.72
0.00	Capital Spending (asset purchase)	0.00
1267.00	Agency Grass Cutting	1215.35
0.00	Other Payments	0.00
0.00	Provision for doubtful debts	0.00
0.00	Loan Interest & Repayments	0.00
64.50	Advertising & Publicity	24.00
0.00	Tenancies (Council as tenant)	0.00
268.50	Newsletter	605.01
242.38	Public Lighting	234.24
7377.41	Parish Maintenance	7627.03
769.10	"Celebrations"	0.00
100825.96	Pavilion Project	158085.60
942.51	Insurance	1033.83
0.00	Parish Plan	692.25
5934.49	VAT	3297.40
<hr/> 126730.44 <hr/>	Total Expenditure	<hr/> 184847.70 <hr/>
16756.94	< Balance at 31st March 2006	29536.37
139509.87	Add total income	174221.32
0.00	Add VAT to be reclaimed	0.00
156266.81		203757.69
-126730.44	Deduct total expenditure	-184847.70
<hr/> 29536.37 <hr/>	Balance as at 31st March 2008 >	<hr/> 18909.99 <hr/>

*The precept equated to £60.94 per annum at Band D in 2006/7, £65.61 in 2007/8 and £67.11 in 2008/9. Budget estimates for 2008/9 are available from the Clerk.

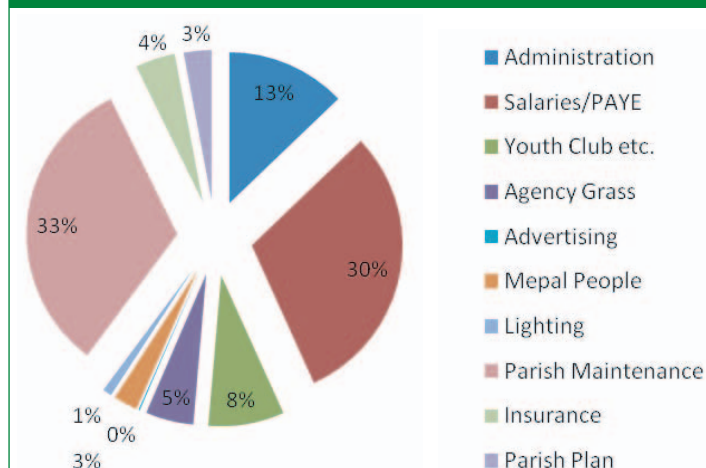
Receipts 2007/8

Payments 2007/8

Income £30k (exc. pavilion project)



Expenditure £23.5k (exc. Pavilion project)



Current Projects

- Putting together our application for Quality Parish Council Status.
- Provision of Allotments.
- Starting to fulfil the Parish Plan Action List, especially improving road safety within the village and helping to fulfil the School's Transport Plan.
- Making the most of our website.
- Improving the recreation field at the Laurel Close end.

Work and Role of Mepal Parish Council

Our major role is to represent the parish on issues affecting us to the District and County Councils, and to regional and central government, and other agencies. Within the parish, we carry out the following regular work:

- Maintain open spaces:
 - ✦ The Recreation Field and children's play area
 - ✦ The Village Green
 - ✦ Laurel Close greens
 - ✦ River Close green (on behalf of the District Council)
 - ✦ Highway verges (on behalf of the County Council)
- Consider and comment to the Local Planning Authority on all planning applications (statutory consultee) and respond to government, regional, council and other consultations on planning and other matters.
- Maintain the Recycling Site for the District Council and request clearance of reported fly tipping.
- Provide and maintain parish noticeboards, litter bins, dog waste bins, seats and some street lighting.
- Support the Community Pavilion, run on our behalf by Mepal Sports Action Group, and the Village Hall, run by independent trustees.
- Support charitable groups and organisations which work within the village.
- Help the County Council to provide a Youth Club.
- Through the Parish Paths Partnership, assist the County Council with Rights of Way.
- Nominate representatives on the following bodies: East Cambridgeshire West Neighbourhood Panel, Mepal Outdoor Centre Committee, Elean Power Station Community Liaison Committee, Cambridgeshire Heavy Commercial Vehicles Group, East Cambridgeshire Play Partnership and Cambridgeshire County Council Parish Paths Partnership Scheme.

In a fast-changing world, the Parish Council's role is to work to make and keep Mepal the place you want it to be.

Help Keep Mepal a Pleasant Place to Live

We are grateful to the many people, not only the Parish Council, who work hard to keep Mepal clean and tidy. Unfortunately, there are several problems caused by the inconsiderate few.

PLEASE:

- Clear up after your dogs and dispose of the waste in the bins provided.
- Slow down and keep an eye on your speed through the village. School children like to walk/bike to school but they are made to feel unsafe by the speed of vehicles travelling past them.
- Use the Recycling Site sensibly - post your recyclables into the banks provided and don't leave general household rubbish beside the banks. The success of the site has been beyond expectation, 30 tonnes recycled and £1,036 income for the Parish. The banks available are for tetrapaks (i.e. orange juice etc cartons, NOT cardboard), glass, cans, plastics (bottles ONLY) and newspapers.
- Don't park inconsiderately.

Parish Council Contacts

Clerk: Sally Shipley

Mepal Parish Council, 50 Chestnut Way, Mepal, Ely CB6 2YR

Tel: (01353) 774994

Email: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com

Mepal Parish Council has 7 councillors who are elected for a 4 year term. The next elections will be in May 2011. Casual vacancies are filled by election or co-option as they occur. At the time of printing, we have one vacancy for a Councillor which we hope to fill very soon.

Elizabeth Stazicker (Chairman) elizabeth.stazicker@mepalparish.org.uk	The Willows, Low Bank, Mepal	01353 778129
Mike Stacey (Vice-Chairman) mike.stacey@mepalparish.org.uk	58 Meadow Way, Mepal	01353 775474
Ron Slough ron.slough@mepalparish.org.uk	18 Brangehill Lane, Mepal	01353 778893
Glenn Drew glenn.drew@mepalparish.org.uk	6a New Road, Mepal	01353 775176
Mark Newstead mark.newstead@mepalparish.org.uk	6 Rectory Fields, Mepal	01353 777573
Tony Pleasance tony.pleasance@mepalparish.org.uk	51 Laurel Close, Mepal	01353 777275

Please feel free to contact any of your Councillors if you have a concern that you would like to discuss. We would politely request that you respect Councillor's family times and be aware that responses to emails may not be immediate.

Other contacts:

District Councillor: Anna Bailey	40 Cambridge Road, Ely CB7 4HL	01353 663253
District Councillor: Tony Goodge	7 John Amner Close, Ely CB6 1DT	01353 664491
County Councillor: Philip Read	"Mostyn", 76 High Street, Sutton CB6 2NL	01353 778603