

# MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Sally Shipley, 50 Chestnut Way, Mepal, Ely, CB6 2YR  
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Chairman: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker

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## MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
TIME: 19.30  
VENUE: Mepal Village Hall, School Lane, Mepal  
PRESENT: Chair Mrs Stazicker, Mr Stacey, Mr Slough, Mr Pleasance, Mr Sallis  
Clerk Mrs Shipley

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IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the public were in attendance.

### 177/08 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and approved from Mr Newstead, Mr Drew, County Councillor Read, District Councillor Bailey and District Councillor Goodge. The meeting noted that Mr Newstead is attending another function on behalf of the Parish Council.

### 178/08 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Mrs Stazicker and Mr Sallis declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 185/08(c).  
Mr Sallis declared a personal interest in agenda item 184/08(a).  
Mrs Stazicker declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 185/08(a).

### 179/08 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF:

The meeting noted that District Councillor Goodge was in attendance. Following amendment, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

### 180/08 UPDATE OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

For information only.

### 181/08 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Meeting suspended at 19:35.

One member of the public addressed the meeting regarding distribution of Mepal People and to question the allocation of land for allotments. The Clerk will investigate the problem with delivery of the last issue of Mepal People. **Action: Clerk.** The query regarding allotments was answered by Mrs Stazicker. In response to an additional question, an update was given regarding the securing of funding for an acoustic barrier alongside the A142.  
Meeting reconvened at 19:45.

### 182/08 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT.

No County or District Councillors present.

### 183/08 PLANNING.

#### New Planning Applications

a) 08/00994/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new 2-storey dwelling at 32 New Road, Mepal. Applicants: Mr P & Mrs D Smith.  
It was resolved that no comment be made on this application.

b) F/02017/08/CM Extension to Mepal Quarry, Block Fen Drove, Nr Chatteris.  
It was resolved that no comment be made on this application.

#### Updates

c) 08/00933/FUL Full planning permission granted for first floor extension at 17 Laurel Close, Mepal.

#### 184/08 ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY

- a) To receive an update report, including arrangements for a public meeting to form an Allotments Association, and to note the working party's intention to bring to the Parish Council at the next meeting a recommendation for the use for allotments of part of the northern tongue of the Recreation Field, behind Laurel Close.

Oral report received from Mr Sallis. Cambridge Probation Service has confirmed that it will be able to offer free labour to assist with site clearance, fence erection and other items offering training opportunities to its probationers. Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust will make a site visit to see how the area of the recreation field can be integrated to form a wildlife area and allotments. A recommendation will be brought to January meeting regarding this area. There will be a public meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 19:30 in Mepal Village Hall; the main aim of the meeting will be to form an Allotment Association for Mepal.

#### 185/08 COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

Mrs Stazicker left the meeting. Mr Stacey took over as Chair.

- a) To consider a proposal from the Community Sustainability Working Party regarding membership of Cambridgeshire ACRE.

It was resolved that Mepal Parish Council should become a member of Cambridgeshire ACRE at a cost of £25.

Mrs Stazicker rejoined the meeting.

- b) To receive report from the Community Sustainability Working Group on the progress made towards ensuring continuation of a shop and post office in Mepal. Also, to consider whether an application be made for a loan sanction to enable the Parish Council to purchase the freehold of the shop premises, should no better means of securing the shop and its community contribution be achievable, and should the business model for continuation demonstrate an acceptable repayment capability.

The motion for the application for a loan sanction was withdrawn as financial figures are not yet available. Oral report received from Mrs Stazicker.

The meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to speak on the following agenda item.

The meeting was reconvened.

Mrs Stazicker and Mr Sallis left the meeting. Mr Stacey took over as Chair.

- c) To receive request from Mepal Village Hall Management Committee for support, should it become necessary, to complete the currently-planned phase of building work. Also, to consider whether to provide the Village Hall Management Committee with an interest-free loan for a term of two years for a sum of up to £4000, to meet a demonstrable funding gap, should they be unable to raise the necessary sum through grant application and fund-raising. It was resolved that the Parish Council would make an interest-free loan available should it be required.

Mrs Stazicker and Mr Sallis rejoined the meeting.

#### 186/08 FINANCE.

- a) To consider a proposal from the Finance Working Party for the setting of the estimated figure for the 2009/10 precept.

It was resolved that the estimated precept figure be set at £25,950 for 2009/10.

- b) It was resolved that payment of the following outstanding accounts made between meetings be approved:

Dyno-Rod – Unblocking of drains at Community Pavilion (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19	£93.42	Local Government
Mr G Mann – Topping up on recreation field (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19	£165.00	Local Government
Mr G Mann – remedial work to manhole covers at Community Pavilion (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19	£238.00	Local Government

- c) It was resolved that payment of the following outstanding accounts be made;

Mepal Village Hall – annual grant (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19	£500.00	Local Government
S Shipley – Salary adjustment October	£135.26	LGA 1972 s.111
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax & NI	£64.75	LGA 1972 s.111
S Shipley – Expenses October	£22.29	LGA 1972 s.111
Mepal Village Hall – Hire for Meetings	£98.00	LGA 1972 s.111

**187/08 MEPAL PARISH PLAN ACTIONS**

- a) To receive oral update from Parish Plan Actions Working Party.  
Oral report received from Mr Stacey. Following the article in Mepal People, no volunteers have come forward who are willing to restart the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the village. Further requests will be made in upcoming issues. Volunteers are also required for a Business Club, a Volunteer Driving Scheme and a Good Neighbour Scheme. It was resolved that two new working parties should be formed to progress actions from the Parish Plan. Mr David Stazicker kindly agreed to head a Renewable Energy Working Party, Mr Pleasance and Mr Sallis agreed to become members. Mrs Stazicker, Mr Stacey & the Clerk will form a Play Working Party. Both will report directly to the Parish Council.  
The Meeting noted thanks to Mr Gordon Reid for the work he has undertaken in highlighting problems with the paths within the village.

**188/08 NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS**

- a) To receive oral report of West Neighbourhood Panel Meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008.  
Oral report received from Mrs Stazicker.

**189/08 CONSULTATIONS**

- a) To consider response to consultation on "The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws."  
A draft response was prepared by Mr Sallis. It was resolved that the draft response be approved. The Clerk will respond accordingly. **Action: Clerk.**
- b) To consider response to consultation on "Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power. Codes of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees."  
It was resolved that Mr Pleasance will read the consultation and advise the Clerk whether a response is required. **Action: Mr Pleasance.**

**190/08 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

- a) To adopt new Freedom of Information Publication Scheme.  
It was resolved that the new Publication Scheme and Guide to Information be adopted with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

**191/08 CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

- a) To consider attendance at CPALC AGM on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and resolutions for consideration.  
It was resolved that Mrs Stazicker would attend the meeting. It was resolved that congratulations should be offered to CPALC for the new website and to request that training seminars be arranged to ensure best use of the site given its size and complexity.

**192/08 WEEKLY RECREATION FIELD AND PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS.**

- a) It was resolved that the Mr Pleasance will check the play area on a Monday and Mrs Stazicker at the weekend. Mr Slough will undertake the weekly equipment inspection.

**193/08 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (For Information Only).**

- a) What's on in East Cambridgeshire - Nov/Dec 2008.
- b) Inside Trade - Autumn 2008.

**194/08 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.**

- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 - Full Council Meeting.
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 - Full Council Meeting.
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009 - Full Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:50.

..... Chairman to Mepal Parish Council

..... Date