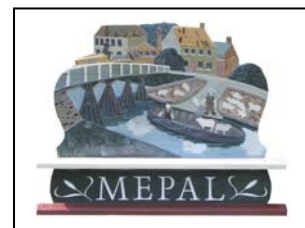


MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Sally Shipley, 50 Chestnut Way, Mepal, Ely, CB6 2YR
Email: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com

Chairman: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker

DATE: Monday 14th January 2008
TIME: 19.30
VENUE: Mepal Village Hall, School Lane, Mepal
PRESENT: Chair Mrs Stazicker, Mr Stacey, Mr Smith, Mr Slough, Mrs Woollard, Mr Drew,
Clerk Mrs Shipley

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Bailey and 3 members of the public were in attendance.

001/08 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and approved from Mr Newstead, County Councillor Read and District Councillor Goodge. Mr Slough informed the meeting that he must leave at 20:15 and requested that agenda item 011/08(a) be dealt with earlier. The meeting approved that it be moved to proceed item 006/08.

002/08 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None. All members noted that they have a personal interest in agenda item 011/08(a).

003/08 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF:

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 12th November 2007 and the Extraordinary Meeting of 26th November 2007 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meetings.

004/08 UPDATE OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

For information only.

Meeting adjourned at 19:40.

005/08 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public addressed the meeting regarding the improvements at the A142 junction and the failure of the interactive signs to work. The meeting agreed that the issue should be raised with County Councillor Philip Read.

Another member of the public addressed the meeting regarding the lack of street lighting and road signage at the Old Bridge. This will be dealt with during agenda item 012/08(a).

Meeting reconvened at 19:45

011/08 PARISH REMUNERATION SCHEME

- a) To consider Parish Remuneration Scheme for payment of Councillor allowances. To decide upon payment of allowance for 2008/9.

Following discussion of the report from the East Cambs DC Panel, it was resolved that the basic allowance not be paid. It was resolved that reimbursement of travel expenses continue to be paid when Councillors are requested to attend engagements outside of the parish. Mileage will be paid at the recommended rate of 40p per mile.

006/08 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT.

Verbal report received from District Councillor Bailey.

007/08 PLANNING

To Consider New Applications

- a) 07/01380/FUL Full planning permission for the demolition of 8 Sutton Road, Mepal and the construction of 2 chalet bungalows at 8 Sutton Road, Mepal. Applicant: Mr D Tumber.

Following submission of informal comments from the Working Party, planning permission has already been granted

by East Cambs DC. It was resolved that no comment be made on this application.

b) 07/01357/FUL Full planning permission for the demolition of shed and single storey store and erection of new two-storey extension at 21 High Street, Mepal. Applicant: Ms R Adams.
Following submission of informal comments from the Working Party, planning permission has already been granted by East Cambs DC. It was resolved that no comment be made on this application.

c) 07/01310/FUL Full planning permission for the temporary retention of mobile home for the period of construction of replacement bungalow at Bungalow Farm, Chatteris Road, Mepal. Applicant: Mrs J Robinson.
It was resolved that no comment be made on this application.

d) F/02013/07/CW Waste transfer station and skip storage area and associated traffic at Witcham Meade Quarry, Block Fen Drove, Mepal.
It was resolved that no comment be made on this application.

e) E/03024/07/CM Variation of Condition 2 of consent E/0049/99/CM to extend the period of extraction of minerals and restoration to an agricultural reservoir by two years at North Fen, Sutton Gault, The Gault, Sutton.
It was resolved that no comment be made on this application.

Other Planning Issues

f) 07/01070/FUL Full planning permission granted for Porch area at 2 Chestnut Way, Mepal.

g) 07/01271/RMA Application withdrawn for the construction of one dwelling and garage on the land south of 14 High Street, Mepal.

008/08 MEPAL PARISH PLAN GROUP

a) Project update. To receive verbal report.
Verbal report received from Mr Stacey.

009/08 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS

a) To receive verbal report of meeting at East Cambs District Council on 3rd December 2007. To decide upon representatives for West Neighbourhood Panel Meetings.
Verbal report received from Mr Drew. Mr Smith and Mr Drew kindly agreed to be the representatives for Mepal.

Mr Slough left the meeting.

010/08 HCV GROUP

a) To receive verbal report of meeting on Thursday 13th December 2007. To review involvement of the Clerk.
Verbal report received from Mrs Stazicker. It was resolved that, due to other work commitments, the Clerk no longer offer administrative support to this group.

012/08 STREET LIGHTING

a) To decide upon acceptance of estimated quotation of £2400 for installation of new street light at the Old Bridge, Mepal.

It was resolved that road signage would be a more effective solution to the problems in this area and therefore that the expenditure for the new street light not be approved. The Clerk will contact the Highways Authority to investigate what other safety measures can be implemented to assist the concerns in the area. **Action: Clerk.**

013/08 PARISH MAINTENANCE

a) To consider Grass Cutting contract and schedule for 2008. To decide upon contractor and accept tender.
The Clerk presented details of the two quotations received. It was resolved that the contract is awarded to Truelink Limited for the 2008 season and the schedule proposed be accepted in full. (Open Space Act 1906 s.10).

b) To consider proposal for the employment of a Village Ranger for Mepal. Report attached.
Mrs Stazicker proposed an amendment to the recommendation and it was duly resolved that an opportunity be given to identify a number of volunteers to assist with the list of tasks. This will be done through an advertisement in Mepal People. If not successful, then the Parish Council will take steps to appoint a Village Ranger at an estimated cost of £2.5k per annum.

014/08 PATHS

a) To review Parish Paths Partnership for 2007/8.
Verbal report received from the Clerk.

- b) To consider application for CCC Parish Paths Partnership for 2008/9.
It was resolved that Mepal Parish Council should reapply for the scheme for 2008/9 and that the list of work from 2007/8 be resubmitted.

015/08 CAMBRIDGSHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

- a) To consider attendance at AGM on Saturday 2nd February 2008 and resolutions for consideration.
Correspondence attached.
Mrs Stazicker kindly agreed to attend. Mr Smith will also attend if he is available.

016/08 ELEAN POWER STATION

- a) To report details of complaints from residents regarding straw nuisance and details of action taken.
Verbal report received from Mrs Stazicker. Response awaited from Elean Power Station.

017/08 HIGHWAYS

- a) Results of Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Programme 2008/9.
Confirmation from the Highways Authority has been received that the bid submitted for speed reduction measures in Witcham Road was not successful.

- b) Road Traffic Accident – Witcham Road, Mepal: to consider what action is needed.
The Parish Council expressed their sorrow at the tragic accident. Further action will be considered once the results of the inquest are available.

018/08 RECREATION FIELD WORKING PARTY

- a) To consider Safety Inspection of Playground Equipment. Copy of report attached.
It was resolved that the proposed work be carried out as soon as possible and that the Clerk investigate the most effective solution for arranging this. **Action: Clerk.** The Clerk will ask Mr Slough if he can remove the remaining heras fencing and tarpaulin as soon as possible. (Open Space Act 1906 s.10).

Mr Stacey leaves the meeting.

- b) To consider report of meeting with District Council tree officer relating to trees on land behind Laurel Close houses and at northern boundary of field and to decide action.
Verbal report received from Mrs Stazicker. The Clerk/Mrs Stacker will obtain quotations for the removal of undergrowth in the area of the recreation field behind the Laurel Close houses. **Action: Clerk/Mrs Stazicker.**
- c) To consider quotation to aerate the main area of the recreation field.
It was resolved that Clerk seeks advice from Dr Tim Lodge. If he confirms that this would be advantageous then it was resolved that this quotation is accepted and that the work is undertaken twice during next season. (Open Space Act 1906 s.10).

019/08 PAVILION PROJECT WORKING PARTY

- a) To receive oral update on the preparation of lease.
Verbal report received from Mrs Stazicker.

020/08 LAUREL CLOSE MEMORIAL GARDEN AND TREES

- a) To receive update on legal status and to consider report of meeting with District Council tree officer.
Verbal report received from Mrs Stazicker. It is necessary to arrange a meeting with the 75th NZ Squadron Memorial Trust to clarify arrangements regarding the memorial garden and plinth. It was resolved that a meeting be arranged. Concern has also been raised by a neighbour of the memorial garden regarding the roots of the trees. Following the meeting, the Tree Officer confirms that the trees require some attention although not immediately. This issue should also be discussed at a meeting with the memorial trust.

021/08 MEPAL PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

- a) To decide upon future production of Mepal People newsletter.
Mrs Mary Fuller has kindly offered to assist in the future production of the newsletter by typing up any hand written articles. Thanks are extended to her. It was resolved that the Clerk will produce the next issue and rerun the advertisement for a volunteer to take on the role. Mrs Stazicker will produce the Parish Council's report for this issue.

022/08 FINANCE

- a) To receive quarterly report on budget and expenditure to date.

Verbal report received from the Clerk. It is forecasted that expenditure for 2007/8 will remain within budget for the year.

b) To decide upon the setting of the final precept figure for the 2008/9 precept. It was resolved that the precept be set at £24,555 for 2008/9.

c) It was resolved that payment of the following outstanding accounts between meetings be approved;

Truelink – Grass Cutting for October	£448.53	Open Space Act 1906 s.10
NPower – Gas for pavilion (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19	£46.75	Local Government
Sutton British Legion – Poppy Wreath	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.137
Mepal Stores – Newsletter	£120.91	LGA 1972 s.142
Mepal Stores – Parish Plan Questionnaire	£515.00	LGA 1972 s.142
S Shipley – Expenses for November	£83.97	LGA 1972 s.111
S Shipley – Salary for November	£733.01	LGA 1972 s.111
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax & NI	£116.05	LGA 1972 s.111
S Shipley – Salary for December	£418.00	LGA 1972 s.111
B J Jordan Building Contractor – Final Stage Construction (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19	£16747.35	Local Government
Julie Barnes – Project Management (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19	£582.20	Local Government

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

S Shipley – Expenses/Salary adjustment for December 2007	£28.53	LGA 1972 s.111
CALC – Workshop on Allotments	£45.00	LGA 1972 s.111
CALC – Councillor Training	£15.92	LGA 1972 s.111
Truelink – Grass cutting for November	£45.81	Open Space Act 1906 s.10
Wicksteed Leisure – Safety Inspection	£76.38	Open Space Act 1906 s.10
Society of Local Council Clerks – Subscription for 2008	£91.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Mepal Village Hall – Hire for Parish Plan Group	£56.00	LGA 1972 s.142
Mepal Village Hall – Hire for meetings/Good Companions s.137	£102.00	LGA 1972 s.111/ LGA 1972
Truelink – Grass cutting for December/Hedge Trimming	£222.06	Open Space Act 1906 s.10

023/08 WEEKLY PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

a) To review and agree schedule of future inspections. It was resolved that the current schedule continue. Mr Smith will check the play area every Tuesday and Mrs Stazicker at the weekend. Mr Slough will carry out the inspection of the play equipment every Thursday.

024/08 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (For Information Only)

- a) ECDC - Highlights of the Week.
- b) Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum – future meeting dates.
- c) What’s on in East Cambridgeshire – Dec ‘07/Jan ‘08
- d) Standards Committee Update.
- e) LeAP Ahead Newsletter – Dec 2007.

025/08 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Monday 11th February 2008 – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 10th March 2008 – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 14th April 2008 – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 28th April 2008 – Annual Parish Assembly
- Monday 12th May 2008 – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Meeting closed at 21:55.

..... Chairman to Mepal Parish Council

..... Date