

MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Chairman: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

DATE: Thursday 18th December 2008
TIME: 20:00
VENUE: Mepal Village Hall, School Lane, Mepal
PRESENT: Chair Mrs Stazicker, Mr Stacey, Mr Pleasance, Mr Drew, Mr Newstead
Clerk Mrs Shipley

IN ATTENDANCE: No members of the public were in attendance.

195/08 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and approved from Mr Sallis & Mr Slough.

196/08 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

197/08 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No members of the public were present.

198/08 YOUTH PROVISION IN MEPAL

- a) In the light of changes in youth work provision in our area, to discuss where best to procure services for the parish for next year and thereafter.

A report was received from Mrs Stazicker of a meeting held, in response to continued pressing of the Parish Council's request made earlier in the year, between herself, Mr Drew, a representative of Mepal Youth Club Committee, and Mick Oliver, County Youth Service Local Manager. The Council was concerned to learn that budget and other pressures had made it inevitable that local services were diminished, and particularly concerned that it was probable that Vicky Baily, whose presentation to the Parish Council in October had to some extent relieved the Council's anxieties, might well seek alternative employment if an expected opportunity arose. The Council also noted the concerns of Mepal Youth Club Committee, also shared by Sutton's committee, that equipment purchased with locally-raised funding was strongly requested for use in other parts of the Locality, without guarantee that it could be replaced if damaged or rendered ineffective through additional wear. Mr Oliver defended the County Service, pointing out the long-standing scarcity of resource, the successes of his team and the considerably greater need for services within 'difficult' areas (for our part of the county, Littleport and Ely), but it was clear that his long-standing affection for the Mepal Club - his first Club in the area - remained and that he was sorry that as a County Manager he could do no more for us.

As a result of the meeting, further enquiries were made of Sutton Parish Council, and the Clerk reported that a letter had since been received, setting out similar concerns over the quality of service currently being provided by Cambridgeshire County Council and the requirement for the current locality team to spread its resources over a wider area. The letter informed us that Sutton Parish Council has, as a result, resolved to withdraw from the County Council service and proceed with the provision of its own Youth & Community Development Service with effect from 1st April 2009. The service is to be run from The Glebe. The County Council's locality office in Sutton is therefore likely to be lost and the service provided from further afield. The letter offers the opportunity for Mepal Parish Council to join this new provision, an opportunity which is also to be offered to other parish councils in the local youth service 'patch'.

Councillors recognised the County Council's need to target resources where they are most needed, but felt strongly that there is clear need for youth and community services within Mepal. They are concerned to obtain best value from the funds raised through the parish precept for work within the parish. As a result, **it was resolved** that the invitation of Sutton Parish Council to discuss the terms on which service can be provided in Mepal should be pursued positively, and a meeting sought at the first opportunity. A letter should be sent to Cambridgeshire County Council warning them of our

intention, and that the parish may wish to cease funding the County Council Youth Service with effect from 31st March 2009. **Action: Clerk.** Letters to be sent to Sutton Parish Council welcoming their initiative and requesting a meeting and to Cambridgeshire County Council, as set out above.

199/08 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

Monday 12th January 2009 – Full Council Meeting.

Monday 9th February 2009 – Full Council Meeting.

Monday 9th March 2009 – Full Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:15.

..... Chairman to Mepal Parish Council

..... Date