

MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Emma Harris, email: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com tel 07842 499377
Chairman: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker, email eliz.stazicker@gmail.com, tel 01353 778129

NOTICE OF MEETING: Full Parish Council Meeting
TIME: 19.30
DATE: Monday 10th April, 2017
VENUE: Mepal Village Hall, School Lane, Mepal

All members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend for the purposes of considering and resolving the business to be transacted at the meeting as set out below.

MEMBERS	4
VACANCIES	3
QUORUM	3

Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council at its Open Forum.

MINUTES

063/17 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Diana Bray

The Chairman informed that Councillor Paul Edmenson had resigned from the Parish Council

064/17 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

065/17 MEMBERS' REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None

066/17 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF:

a) Full Parish Council Meeting 13th March 2017

The minutes were signed by Mrs E Stazicker, Chairman

067/17 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The Clerk read out a report from County Councillor Lorna Dupre. Lorna reported on school places in response to the Further Draft Local Plan. During the second round of consultation 69 additional or significantly increased sites across East Cambridgeshire were submitted and while it was clear that not all these sites will be accepted, any sites accepted will place additional pressure on school places. Lorna also reported on school funding; a new funding formula for schools which has meant that Mepal & Witcham will be set to lose 2.1% of their funding and Sutton will lose 2.8%. Lorna reported that at its meeting last month, the County Council agreed to instruct its officers to start work on possible different models of 'unitary' council, bringing together the functions of District Councils and the County Council and removing a tier of local government to compensate for the one that has been added with the Major and Combined Authority. Lorna reported that due to the up and coming election there will be no councillor surgery in April.

The Clerk read out a report from District Councillor Mike Bradley. Mike reported on the responses of a recent call for suggested additional sites for the Local Plan. There are two additional sites within the Mepal Parish; Site/20/03 Witcham Road & Site/20/04 New Road to Witcham Road. Mike said that this is not a public consultation, except for seeking views from the Parish Council and that it is important that Mepal Parish Council respond.

The Clerk explained that the details for the suggested additional sights had been received and will be added to the agenda in May for responding by 31st May 2017.

068/17 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was agreed that comments from the public relating to matters on the agenda should be heard at the commencement of the relevant agenda item. There were no other matters raised by the public.

069/17 PLANNING

TO BE CONSIDERED:

F/2001/16/CM – Mepal Quarry, Block Fen CB6 2AY

Extraction of sand & gravel, and clay for landfill cell engineering, as an extension to an existing quarry; field conveyor; continued use of existing processing plant, stocking areas, silt lagoons, office & welfare buildings and private access road; and importation of waste for restoration.

Mepal Parish Council have previously responded to this planning application. The applicant has now submitted additional information and plans, which would substitute 'restoration for agriculture use' for the previously agreed wet grass land. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to Cambridgeshire County Council on the same basis as previously responded by 21st April 2017.

16/01772/FUM Lane Adjacent 43 Mepal Road, Sutton

Full application for the erection of 77no. dwellings for residential use along with access, associated landscaping, parking and infrastructure.

The resubmission comprises of several changes requested as part of the initial consultation.

Mepal Parish Council have previously responded to this planning application. The applicant has now submitted additional plans and layouts. It was agreed that the increase of traffic continues to be the main concern of the Council and that the Clerk will respond to East Cambridgeshire District Council by 14th April 2017

17/00365/FUL 26 Laurel Close, Mepal

First floor rear extension onto existing ground floor extension and loft conversion to the whole roof space.

Agreed extension for comment 12th April 2017.

No Comments

PLANNING UPDATES:

17/00138/TCON – 2A Sutton Road, Mepal – T1 ASH – Reduce by 20-25% - Approved

070/17 MEPAL SPORTS JUNIOR FC

The Parish Council received a request for financial support to help pay for the kitchen to have a deep clean. A representative from the Junior Football Club explained that due to the recent rodent problem at the pavilion and the condition of the kitchen the club arranged for their current cleaning contractor to clean the kitchen at a cost of £250. It was mentioned that due to the club struggling financially this extra cost had caused more problems for the club. The Council requested that the Junior Football Club complete an application for a grant from the Parish Council like other local groups have previously done and provide financial accounts and it will be considered at the next meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk will liaise with the club representative before the next meeting.

071/17 RECREATION FIELD DRAINAGE

The Chairman explained that she met with the consultant and Councillor Alan Catley & Councillor Peter Durose on Friday 31st March 2017 to discuss the condition of the recreation ground. The consultant was surprised how long it has taken to settle. The inspection pit and drainage outlet were inspected and clearly operating correctly. A sample area of the field where there was sink-age was dug out and showed clay/loam soil above gravel over the drainage pipe. The consultant recommended continued filling with loam in the remaining areas of sink-age and recommended a contractor to do this work. The Chairman had contacted the recommended contractor and discussed the issues and what had been advised and they have been asked to submit a quote to the Parish Council for consideration.

There was a strong representation from the football clubs in the public seating. The Mepal Sports Junior Club explained that they had informed the Football Association that alternative grounds for the 2017/18 season had been found and that they would be unable to return to Mepal until the satisfactory resolution or remedial plans for the drainage line repairs to the pitches had been done. The football clubs' representatives explained that they felt strongly that the work had never been done correctly and in line with the tender. A photo showing no hardcore above the pipe in a hole that had been dug through sink-age in a different area was shown to the Parish Council. The evidence in the photo was not what the Parish Council had recently been shown at the site visit

with the consultant. The football clubs explained that they would have liked to have been represented at the meeting with the consultant so that they could have shown where the problem areas are.

The Senior Football Club confirmed that the Senior Team will follow the Junior Club and look for alternative grounds to play the 2017/18 and would return as soon as the drainage problem has been resolved.

The Parish Council thanked the Junior Football Team for their hard work over the last few years ensuring that children were encouraged to play football and the Chairman explained how disappointed she was that it had proved so difficult to provide a satisfactory playing surface. The Chairman explained that she and the Parish Councillors felt confused at the mixed advice received in the past and more recently and that no one in the Council is an expert and that they were relying on experts in the field for advice which had been continually contradicted.

The Parish Council agreed to keep both football clubs up to date with progress and will continue urgently to seek advice and make decision on how the improvements can be made.

072/17 SAFETY OF A142

Councillor Peter Durose gave an update on a letter he has received in response to his from MP Steve Barclay. Peter explained that the road assessment of the A142 should be completed by the end of June 2017. He felt that that there were two main areas of concern; the section from the Bridge uphill to the Mepal junction and the long straight stretch from the bridge to Chatteris.

A neighbourhood watch representative mentioned that the Neighbourhood watch had recently put together a petition which had been signed by many residents. The Chairman suggested that it should be sent directly to the highways team. It was agreed that the Clerk will provide the neighbourhood watch with the best contact at the highways team.

073/17 CCC LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

The Chairman reported that Mepal Parish Council have been successful in their application for a grant to go towards the traffic calming measures with Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) on Sutton Road. As part of the East Cambridgeshire Local Highways Initiative Mepal Parish Council will receive £1,000 (25% of estimated project cost).

074/17 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk proposed Monday 8th May 2017 for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. This was agreed.

075/17 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY & ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

Potential dates were discussed for the Annual Parish Assembly. It was agreed that it would be arranged for Saturday 27th May 2017. Anyone from the village would be welcomed to the meeting with refreshments and a talk. Some ideas for talking subjects were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange and advertise this event.

076/17 FINANCE

a) PAYMENTS made since last meeting

- | | | |
|---|---------|------|
| • Elizabeth Stazicker - expenses Feb 2017 | £13.50 | BACS |
| • Mepal Village Hall - hall hire Jan, Feb & Mar 2017 | £100.00 | CHQ |
| • Glasdon UK Ltd - new dog bins x2 and fixing post | £522.08 | BACS |
| • Simon Batchelor - Expenses for March 2017 | £98.36 | BACS |
| • Emma Harris - Expenses for March 2017 | £38.88 | BACS |
| • HMRC - PAYE liabilities for March 2017 | £39.60 | BACS |
| • Simon Batchelor - March wages | £158.00 | BACS |
| • Emma Harris - March wages | £478.23 | BACS |
| • Cambridge Acre - Payroll Services for Jan, Feb & Mar 17 | £54.00 | BACS |

b) DIRECT DEBITS paid:

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------|
| • Opus Energy - Gas supply at Pavilion 16 th Feb-18 th Mar 17 | £32.54 | DD (3/4/17) |
| • SSE - Electric supply at Pavilion 16 th Dec - 23 rd Mar 17 | £118.78 | DD (13/4/17) |
- **Financial Year 2016/17

c) PAYMENTS to be made:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • CAPALC - New Clerks Training March 2017 | £200.00 |
| • Mr A Fretwell T/A Fenman Vermin & Pest Control | £60.00 |

**Financial Year 2016/17

d) INCOME received:

- Allotment rental for 3&4 (part year and full year from June 17) £36.25 BACS
- Mepal Sports Junior FC – contribution for Jan, Feb and Mar 17 £195.00 CHQ

d) QUOTES

- Balfour Beatty, Replace light column in New Road
The quote was discussed and it was felt that it was too expensive to install along with ongoing maintenance & lighting costs and the Mepal Parish Council did not want to set a precedent. The Councillors all agreed that the quote would not be accepted.
- Quotes for Lilibet Wood bramble clearance & Lilibet Wood bramble spraying
Quotes had not been received at the time of the meeting so will be moved to the next meeting.

e) OTHER

- The Clerk presented draft financial results for financial year (ending 31st March 2017) 2016-17
Income was budgeted at £40,468 and actual income was £43,285. Expenditure was budgeted at £61,620 and actual expenditure was £31,814. The Clerk explained that the figures would be presented in full at the next meeting to be approved by the council for the Internal Audit.
- The pay scales for financial year commencing 1st April 2017 were accepted by the Council.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council will use the same Internal Auditor for 2016-17 financial year as in previous years and it was agreed that the Clerk will contact them.
- The expected refund from ECDC for alcohol licence was queried by the Clerk. It was explained that the Parish Council were expecting a refund and it was agreed that the Clerk chase this.
- The Clerk's Timesheet for March 2017 was approved and agreed that overtime to be paid in April 2017

077/17 PLAY AREA

The Clerk updated the Council on the recent work at the Play Area. The Clerk explained that the handyman had started work and so far, clearing of the brambles had started, the plastic mats and handles had been replaced on the swingers. The Clerk had received notification that the annual inspection will be week commencing 17th April 2017.

078/17 ACTIONS completed and outstanding (report for information)

- a) New dog bins (031/17 & 032/17) – received and waiting for fitting date.
- b) Status of Brick Lane (045/17) – awaiting response from Searches Team via Highways Team at ECDC.
- c) Letter sent to residents on corner of School Lane & High Street (047/17)
- d) Power socket for Christmas Tree (035/17) – sent purchase order 4th April and waiting for fitting date.
- e) Pavilion Health & Safety review- ongoing

079/17 DIARY DATES

- To note that the next Full Council Meeting will be incorporated with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and held on Monday 8th May 2017
- To note that the next Mepal Litter Pick will be held on Saturday 13th May 2017

Meeting closed at 20.50.

..... 15th May 2017
Emma Harris, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

..... 15th May 2017
Elizabeth Stazicker, Chairman