

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 13th November 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 6
VACANCIES 1
QUORUM 3

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

MINUTES

178/17 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Parish Councillor Jan Fishenden

179/17 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
The Clerk declared an interest in 194/17 (e)

180/17 MEMBERS' REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

181/17 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF:
a) Full Parish Council Meeting 9th October 2017. Approved and signed by Chairman Elizabeth Stazicker

182/17 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
District Councillor Anna Bailey gave an update on the 'in-house' Waste Services from April 2018 and the option for an additional Blue Bin for households at a one-off charge of £25 and the Council's effort to deal with fly tipping with an increase in the fixed notice penalty rate. Anna explained that the Ely station car park is now open, the Littleport station car park is due to be open before Christmas and The Hive Leisure Centre is due to open in Spring 2018. Anna also gave an update on the North Ely housing developments, Ely Southern bypass which is expected to open in the Summer of 2018, the anti-social behaviour at Elean Business Park and the improvements required at the railway junctions and crossing in Ely. Anna's full report is available upon request.

District Councillor Mike Bradley expressed the continued concern of the river section '234' Pymoor to Mepal being at risk of flooding. Mike is meeting with the Environment Agency.

County Councillor Lorna Dupre gave an update on the £4.5M feasibility studies, Community Transport inquiry, Children's centres cuts, Local urgent care hubs and the move of the Ely Registration Office to the new Cambridgeshire Archive building at the former bowling alley. Lorna explained about the Parliamentary boundary reviews and the local government re-organisation. Lorna explained that the Mepal roundabout petition coordinated by the Mepal Neighbourhood Watch was presented to the Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee last month and that it was agreed to be considered as part of the council's response on the recent A142 study. Lorna also explained that she has received news that the contractor has accepted the defect in the carriageway round the joints on the bridge at Mepal and has undertaken to take out and re-lay but this will need another road closure for a single night.

183/17 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
No comments from the public.

184/17 PLANNING

TO BE CONSIDERED: None

PLANNING UPDATES:

15/00834/DISB – Land Adjacent 14 Bridge Rd, Mepal. To discharge condition 3 (details of external materials)

17/01036/FUL – Four bed dwelling, Hiams Farms. Approved subject to conditions

17/01616/FUL – Rectory Cottage, 3 Rectory Fields. Approved subject to conditions

17/01738/FUL – The Three Pickerels. Amendment – slight change in roof design. Information only, no response required.

185/17 EAST CAMBS LOCAL PLAN

The latest version of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, known as the Proposed Submission Local Plan was distributed prior to the meeting. It was discussed and agreed that the only concern that the Parish Council have is the special considerations/requirements section (b) 'Access to the site should be provided from Brick Lane, which will require improvement to ensure safe and suitable access for all users'. The Chairman asked District Councillor Anna Bailey for advice as to whether we are able to respond to this section. Anna explained she would find out and let the Clerk know but it might worth writing to the developers directly explaining the concern. It was agreed that the Clerk will liaise with Anna and respond with comments by the 19th December 2017 and draft a letter to send to the developers.

186/17 RECREATION FIELD

Parish Councillor Diana Bray gave an update on the drainage issues at the recreation field. At the last Parish Council meeting it was agreed to go ahead with the proposal from the Institute of Groundman (IOG) but since then it has been found that the inspection by the Football Foundation early 2017 was conducted by a representative from the IOG and Diana expressed her concerns that it would be a duplication of what had already been done. Diana has since contacted some approved drainage companies that belong to The Land Drainage Contractors Association (LDCA) which is a national standard setting organisation. Diana has sent 4 companies the original spec and previous inspection reports. 1 company has already visited the site alongside Diana and Parish Councillor Alan Catley, 1 company declined to quote and Diana is arranging visits with the other 2. It was agreed that Diana continue to take this forward and that the Clerk thank the contact at East Cambridgeshire District Council who arranged the proposal with IOG.

187/17 COMMUNITY LED-PLAN

Georgina King gave an update on the Community Plan. Georgina explained that there are 36 people interested and a meeting has been organised for Monday 20th November at 7.30pm to form a steering group. Parish Councillor Steve Green mentioned that he cannot attend the meeting but is happy to represent the Parish Council on the steering group.

188/17 BUSINESS PLAN

The Clerk gave an update on the Business Plan. She explained that she met with Chairman Elizabeth Stazicker, Parish Councillor Alan Catley and Cambridgeshire Acre. It was agreed to start the Business Plan after Christmas and that all members of the Council will be required to take part in a questionnaire in January and then a workshop in February/March 2018. A date needs to be agreed for the workshop. It was agreed the Clerk organise this date as soon as possible and inform Cambridgeshire Acre.

189/17 LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE 2017/18

The Clerk gave an update on the Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs. The proposed installation sites were discussed and an additional one on Witcham Road was suggested which the Clerk will inform the Highways Team about. The MOU paperwork between Cambridgeshire County Council and Mepal Parish Council was signed and it was explained that delivery is due Jan 2018

190/17 THE INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND

It was discussed and agreed that the Parish Council fully support some support for young people in the village and it was explained that two residents have shown interest in being part of this initiative. The deadline for the Innovate and Cultivate fund is 15th December 2017 and it was agreed that it is too soon to get an application in but it was something to consider in the future. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the two residents keen to get involved and move things forward at the start of the new year.

191/17 LILIBET WOOD

Parish Councillor Steve Green gave an update his recent visit to Lilibet Wood with Parish Councillor Diana Bray. Steve reported that the pathway through the wood is usable throughout and the main issues that need attention are; the state of the ditch behind the properties on ~~Brangehill Lane~~ Meadow Way, the management of the brambles, management of the edges of the path to aid the County Council in its work and the small trees that are overgrowing resident's fences. Steve and Diana proposed that an IDB engineer advises on the purpose and usefulness of the ditch, the Woodland Trust are contacted for advice on the management of the wood and residents are contacted about overhanging trees and their wishes over the future maintenance are discussed. It was requested that the Clerk provide Steve and Diana with a contact at the Woodland Trust. It was agreed that Steve and Diana can move this forward with the help from the Clerk when needed.

192/17 VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT

The Clerk gave an update on the Christmas Event organised for the 3rd December 2017 at 3.30pm. A meeting was held last week with everyone involved and posters will be displayed and leaflets delivered in the next few days.

193/17 NOTICE BOARD

A request was received for a new notice board near Chestnut Way at the beginning of the village. It was discussed and agreed that the Clerk can order a notice board up to the value of £200 to be put up at the bus shelter near Chestnut Way.

194/17 FINANCE

a) PAYMENTS made since last meeting

• Emma Harris- Oct Expenses	£27.59	BACS
• Simon Bachelor - Oct Expenses	£56.81	BACS
• CAPALC - Training Sep 2017	£175.00	BACS
• David J Richards Ltd - Mepal People Oct/Nov	£93.47	BACS
• CPRE Cambridgeshire branch - Training Nov 17	£40.00	BACS
• Mrs C Catley - Expenses Mepal People	£59.99	BACS
• Wicksteed Leisure Ltd - Baby Swings	£527.57	BACS
• Cambridgeshire ACRE - Membership 17/18	£54.00	BACS
• HMRC - October 2017	£31.60	BACS
• Simon Batchelor - Oct Wages	£126.48	BACS
• Emma Harris - Oct Wages	£646.83	BACS
• Mr L Shepherd - Neighbourhood Watch Jackets/Vests	£277.28	BACS

b) DIRECT DEBITS paid:

• E.on - Street Lighting Sep 17	£24.14	DD (12/10/17)
• SSE - Electric at Pavilion 22/6-20/9	£198.06	DD (20/10/17)
• SSE - Electric at Pavilion 21/9-9/10	£39.60	DD (27/10/17)
• Tesco Mobile - Oct 17	£7.50	DD (16/10/17)
• E.on - Street Lighting Oct 17	£24.95	DD (11/11/17)

It was requested that the Clerk investigate the Electric readings and invoices from SSE as it seemed particularly high considering the building is not being used.

c) PAYMENTS to be made:

• Mepal Village Hall - July-Sep 17	£95.00	CHQ
• The Royal British Legion - Wreaths	£50.00	CHQ
• Public Works Loan	£448.92	DD 1/12/17
• Tesco Mobile - Nov 17	£7.75	DD 15/11/17
• Truelink Ltd - October 2017	£217.56	BACS

The 2 cheques were signed at the meeting

d) INCOME received: None

e) QUOTES to discuss

- Play Area grounds maintenance & tree work £380.00

The quote was discussed and it was agreed to go ahead with the work. It was requested that the dead elm tree was not removed as long as it's not a danger so that wildlife can use it.

f) COMMUNITY GROUP GRANT APPLICATIONS 2018/19

Several applications had been received for Parish Council grants by the deadline of the 3rd November. The 4 applications were discussed and the following was agreed in line with the Mepal Parish Council Grant Policy.

1. Mepal & Witcham PreSchool – A grant of 50% of the requested amount for the project was agreed at the value of £140.00.
2. Mepal Friendship Club – The application did not relate to a specific project and therefore in line with the policy it could not be considered.
3. Mepal Garden Club – The application did not relate to a specific project and therefore in line with the policy it could not be considered.
4. Mepal Sports FC Seniors – A grant of £150 was agreed for the project.

It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the applicant to inform them of the decisions made at the meeting.

g) PRIORS FIELD SURGERY FUNDING REQUEST

- A request for funding towards proposed extension had been received prior to the meeting. It was discussed the surgery is a private business contracting their services to the NHS and agreed that the Parish Council need to understand if they have the powers to provide funding for a business. It was agreed that the Clerk find out more information from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) before a decision can be made. It was requested the Clerk find out how many residents use Priors Field Surgery as well as the other local surgeries; George Claire at Chatteris and the Haddenham Surgery so the Parish Council have a full understanding of the situation for the next meeting.

195/17 ACTIONS completed and outstanding (report for information)

- a) Business Plan – Meeting with Cambridgeshire ACRE 10/10/17. Project starts in the new year and dates for facilitated workshop session being arranged for February/March 2018.
- b) Additional banking options – outstanding
- c) Replacement baby swings – fitted and nice comments received
- d) Streetlight – back of river close. New post fitted, waiting for connection to be transferred.
- e) Pavilion Health & Safety review and re-decoration- Clerk will work on this in December
- f) Boundary change and CIL – The Clerk received a call from the Clerk at Sutton requesting that the Parish Council write to Sutton Parish Council to explain what is proposed to solve the issue. It was agreed the Clerk write to Sutton Parish Council ready for their meeting on the 28th November.
- g) Status of Brick Lane – the Chairman has no update on this
- h) A142 IRAP Road Safety Assessment presentations- the presentations have been organised for Thursday 7th December at 4.30pm and one representative from every Parish Council is invited. It was agreed that Chairman Elizabeth Stazicker will attend the presentation.

196/17 DIARY DATES

- To note that the next Full Council Meeting will be held on the 8th January 2018.

Meeting closed at 21.30

..... 8th January 2018

Emma Harris, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

..... 8th January 2018

Elizabeth Stazicker, Chairman