

# MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker, email [eliz.stazicker@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.stazicker@gmail.com), tel 01353 778129

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**NOTICE OF MEETING:** Annual Parish Assembly  
**TIME:** 10.30am  
**DATE:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
**VENUE:** Mepal Village Hall, School Lane, Mepal

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## MINUTES

The Annual Parish Assembly was attended by Mepal Parish Council Chairman Elizabeth Stazicker, Parish Councillor Alan Catley, Parish Councillor Diana Bray, Parish Councillor Jan Fishenden, District Councillor Anna Bailey, District Councillor Mike Bradley, County Councillor Lorna Dupre along with 12 members of the public.

**01 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
None

**02 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
Approval of the minutes was proposed by two of the public present, and agreed by the meeting. The minutes were signed by Mrs E Stazicker, Chairman

**03 TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016/17**  
The Chairman thanked everyone for coming along to the annual assembly. The Chairman thanked Parish Councillors Alan Catley and Diana Bray for all their hard work over the last year. The Chairman thanked Paul Edmenson and Peter Durose for their contribution to the Parish Council in 2016/17 and explained that she was sorry that they have both had to resign from the posts. The Chairman welcomed new Parish Councillor Janet Fishenden and thanked Emma Harris, Parish Clerk and Simon Batchelor, Maintenance for their continued hard work and support.

The Chairman talked about the Parish Council achievements in 2016/17.

- The introduction of organised village litter picks has been successful and continue to the next year.
- The Parish Council have received approval to move the one-way signs on the High Street.
- The village Christmas Tree was installed before Christmas. The Clerk is arranging for a power socket to be available so that next Christmas it can become a real focal point in the village.
- The Parish Council have received acceptance of a grant application for traffic calming scheme on Sutton Road to reduce the speed that cars enter the village.
- The Parish Council have supported local community groups with small grants; Mepal WI, Mepal & Witcham PreSchool, Mepal Village Hall and Mepal church (for graveyard maintenance).
- The introduction of grass cutting at the entrance to Mepal off the A142.
- Parish Maintenance which is a constant service provided by the Parish Council Maintenance Man and external contractors to keep the village respectable; Play area maintenance, waste and recycling provision on Bridge Road, maintenance of green spaces, bus shelters, waste bins.

The Chairman explained that it has been a difficult year in respect of recreation field drainage. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council are very grateful to the Junior Football Team for maintaining the Pavilion but disappointed that it had got to the stage where the field has been deemed unplayable by referees. The Parish Council have struggled to receive consistent advice from experts over the last few months which has meant that the remedial work and improvement has not yet started.

**04 TO RECEIVE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2016/17**  
The Clerk presented the financial results for 2016/17.

The Chairman explained how the Parish Council planned to spend the reserves and explained that the Parish Council would like an input from the residents on how they feel the money should be spent.

**05 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL**

There were some questions from the floor which were answered at the meeting.

**06 TO RECEIVE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2016/17**

District Councillor Anna Bailey reported on the work of the District Council for 2016/17 and District Councillor Mike Bradley gave a report on additional work that he had been involved in over the year. Both of the reports are available upon request.

**07 TO RECEIVE CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2016/17**

County Councillor Lorna Dupre reported on the work of the County Council for 2016/17. Lorna's report is available upon request.

**08 BEGINNINGS OF PARISH CONSULTATION**

The Chairman explained the Parish Council are happy to support a Parish Consultation, and that Cambridgeshire Acre had been invited to an open meeting at the beginning of the July Council meeting to talk about options and process. Any plan or consultation would have to be led by the residents of the village as an independent survey, to be adopted upon completion by the Parish Council, and the Council had been disappointed when the last plan was compiled at the lack of volunteers to steer it. A member of the public showed interest in taking the lead on this and explained that something would be put into the next Mepal People publication to provide more information.

**09 REFRESHMENT BREAK**

Refreshments were provided and members of the public were asked to put post-it notes on the sheets around the room to note what improvements/ideas/suggestions they had for the village. The Clerk agreed to ensure that the information gathered was made available to the Council at its next meeting, and to any planning group which might be established.

**10 NEIGHBOURHOOD CARES PRESENTATION**

Anna Bailey (well known to us as our District Councillor but working on and speaking about this project in her capacity as a County Councillor) gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Cares which is a new initiative that Anna has created and is developing, through pilot projects about to be started in two areas, to provide better, more flexible, more responsive, local support within social care, to provide better value for money and better experiences for those who need support. Support will be available 24/7. Support will be delivered locally by small teams from within the community. Teams will be responsible for the whole community, not just those with eligible social care needs. Teams will be empowered to use their professional judgement to get things done for people. Teams will follow people that have to go into hospital and be responsible for their timely discharge. There will be more frontline staff and drastically reduced back office management overheads - moving the money to the frontline. Anna's ultimate ambition is to fully integrate the service with community health services in the future.

**11 SPEED WATCH PRESENTATION**

District Councillor Mike Bailey gave a presentation on Speedwatch which is a project which has been started in Witcham. Mike showed some interesting videos of accidents and near misses on the bend from Mepal into Witcham. Mike mentioned that a meeting will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June at St Martins Church, Witcham at 10am, and invited any interested to attend.

..... 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Emma Harris, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer