

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 9th January, 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	5
VACANCIES	2
QUORUM	3

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

MINUTES

001/17 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO WELCOME MRS EMMA HARRIS AS OUR NEW CLERK

District Councillor Mike Bradley
County Councillor Lorna Dupre
Parish Councillor Paul Edmenson

002/17 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

003/17 MEMBERS' REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None

004/17 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF:

- a) **Full Parish Council Meeting 14th November 2016**
The minutes were signed by Mrs E Stazicker, Chairman

005/17 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- District Councillor Anna Bailey reported on various matters including the East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) budget which has been affected by the recent announcement that New Homes Bonus payments are being taken away and the money reallocated to the County Councils for adult social care. Anna thanked residents for continuing to recycle their waste which has enabled ECDC to achieve their target of 60% recycling rate. Anna also mentioned that the waste collection contract with Veolia ends in March 2019 and ECDC are starting to prepare for the tender process but the cost is expected to increase significantly. Anna reported that the devolution deal has been accepted and that the Mayoral election will take place on the same day as the County Council elections on Thursday 4th May 2017. The Barton Road Housing Development in Ely is due to commence this month.
- Anna was asked about how the recent change to reinstate the 2015/16 gritting routes which had previously been reduced had affected the Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) budgets. Anna explained that actually the money that the council were going to be saving from scaling down routes covered, number of lorries and labour time was much less than they had originally estimated and that they would have to cover it from reserves which would have an effect on next year's budget.
- County Councillor Lorna Dupre had sent a report which Mrs Stazicker read out at the meeting. This report is appended to these minutes.

006/17 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council agreed that a statement relating to the Local Plan housing site allocation should be taken at item 011/17, and one relating to the Recreation Field at item 008/17.

007/17 HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN APPLICATION

It had been discussed previously (14th Nov 2016 632/16) that the Parish Council could consider making an application for funding for traffic calming measures under the Highways Improvement Plan. The Chairman explained that, after discussion with CCC highways team, an application had been submitted in time for the November deadline for some repositionable lights.

008/17 RECREATION FIELD MAINTENANCE

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Joanne Bull at the Cambridgeshire Football Association on the 6th January firstly for some background information and an update to report back with. Mrs Georgina King had been in contact with Joanne Bull since then and it has been suggested that Rob Bradshaw visits the pitch and provides a report with actions for improvement and relevant works to be done. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Cambs FA and arrange a suitable date for Rob Bradshaw to visit. The clerk was informed that Mr Malcolm Peacock has expressed a desire to attend this visit. It was agreed that a Parish Councilor should also attend (Mr Edmenson to be asked).

009/17 VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENT

The Parish Council have been thanked by the Village Hall Committee for the contribution towards the new village hall curtains. It was agreed that the new curtains improved the feel and the appearance of the hall.

010/17 STREET LIGHTING

The clerk was unable to confirm if we had received a quote. It was agreed that this action could be passed forward to the next meeting to allow the clerk to find out more information.

011/17 PLANNING

a) EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLAN

To consider and draw attention to the latest draft of the plan (adopted by the Council 16/11/2016), and related consultation (dates to be announced but possibly 10 Jan – 20 Feb 2017), in order for an informed response to be prepared after our February meeting, and to note the Flood and Water Subsidiary Planning Document adopted by the Council at the same meeting

A paper setting out in brief the relevant content of the Plan was tabled by Mrs Stazicker. In November the East Cambridgeshire District Council approved a further draft of the Local Plan with draft policy maps for each settlement showing proposed site allocations for housing and industrial development. The new local plan is needed to ensure that the Government house-provision targets are met. There are two housing sites of particular significance to Mepal:

- Land to the north east of the A142/Mepal junction, bounded by Sutton Road and Brick Lane for a proposed 50 dwellings (previously 58). This will involve a boundary change as the land currently sits in the Sutton Parish. The draft suggests vehicular access via Brick Lane and landscape buffers to mitigate noise from the A142.
- Land within the Sutton Parish and adjoining the northern edge of the present Sutton settlement for a proposed 250 dwellings, new football pitches, land for burial ground, public open spaces and areas of play. The site's vehicular access should be located at Mepal Road with pedestrian and cycle connections to the village centre and a landscape buffer at the northern boundary to frame the development from open countryside.

There are two other sites in Sutton which will have fewer implications for Mepal; housing site east of Garden Close, Sutton and industrial site adjoining the present Elean industrial area.

It was noted that some Mepal residents are not aware of these development plans and it was agreed that the Parish Council would produce a leaflet to outline the draft plans which would be distributed to all the village and to invite responses. The Clerk agreed that she would advertise the draft plans on the Mepal Parish Council Website, Facebook site and other groups that are relevant.

It was agreed that this item will be passed forward to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss feedback and comments from residents so that the Parish Council can respond to ECDC after.

b) APPLICATION 16/01419/FUL Construction of a new 100m firing range comprising a grass topped berm with a sand filled bank and targets – Isle of Ely Sports Club, Mepal Bypass, Sutton.

No objections

c) APPLICATION 13/00799/DISA – Manor Farm, Mepal

Concerns were raised that the development at Manor Farm is still to be started and that the site is looking untidy. No response had yet been received from a recent enquiry, so the Chairman agreed she would aim to get an update on this application for the next parish council meeting.

012/17 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS: WINTER GRITTING – to note amended arrangements following Highways Authority’s initial proposal for reductions affecting the parish, and local arrangements

At Full Council on Tuesday 13th December Cambridgeshire County Council had agreed to increase the percentage of roads, cycleways and paths treated and to reinstate the 2015/16 gritting routes. This was welcome news to the Parish Council. It was noted that the handyman had been asked to ensure that the area outside the shop/post office is treated when icy.

013/17 LILIBET WOOD – MAINTENANCE

To consider resident complaint about rat infestation, and general maintenance

It was discussed that rodents are not uncommon around such areas at this time of year and that that the clearing of land at the end of Brangehill Lane may have had some influence. It was noted that quotes had been sought for clearance of the remnant ditch a little to the south of what seemed to be the area of concern, but two of the contractors approached had declined to quote. It was agreed that the third quote be chased and actioned as urgent given the possible rat problem and the need for the work to be done before birds start to nest.

014/17 FINANCE

a) PRECEPT FOR 2017/8.

A paper was tabled by Mrs Stazicker. It was noted that last year the precept request had been incorrectly returned, with the result that a 3.3% increase in error. It was agreed that the precept for 2017/18 will be £32,425 which equates to a standstill on the intended figure for 2016/17 less the amount overcharged in error in 2016/17. It was noted that publicity for the precept should make it clear that that basis for next year’s precept calculation will necessarily be the intended 2016/17 figure of £33,425, and that the information issued by the Council with that precept will necessarily show an artificially high increase.

b) PAYMENTS made since last meeting

Simon Batchelor – wages for November	£126.48
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c) DIRECT DEBITS paid:

E.on (11/12/16) Street lighting 1/11/16-30/11/16	£22.07
SSE (02/01/17) Pavillon 20/9/16-15/12/16	£90.09

d) PAYMENTS to be made:

David J Richards – Printing of Mepal People Dec/Jan	£119.58
Truelink Ltd – Aerating of recreation ground 7/12/16	£302.40
Briar Security	£282.00
Acre – payroll charges for Oct-Dec 2016	£45.00
Mepal Village Hall – Grant for purchase of curtains	£1,573.72
Mepal Village Hall – Hire of hall Oct & Nov 2016	£85.00
Simon Batchelor – Expenses (Materials and mileage)	£43.15
Kestrel Fencing – Fence in Laurel Close	£986.84
Barchams – Christmas Tree	£308.10

e) INCOME received:

HMRC – Vat repayment	£932.24
Mepal Football Club	£195.00
ECDC – Recycling credits 16/17 1 st & 2 nd quarter	£180.00

015/17 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS. To consider reinstating previous practice whereby groups wishing to apply for grants are asked to do so during October each year, so that requests can be considered when the draft forward budget is considered at our November meeting, and to ask the Clerk to ensure that applications for 2017/8 are requested in the forthcoming issue of Mepal People and the reinstatement of the previous timetable for subsequent years noted there.

It was agreed that the clerk should request applications for 2017/18 in the Feb/Mar issue of Mepal People and for the future bring this forward to later in the calendar year so that considerations can be made when the budget is written in November/December.

016/17 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES AND TRAINING: to consider how best to advertise and attract new councillors, and to ensure that Councillors are receiving the necessary training

It was agreed that new councillors are needed, and that advertisements should be placed on social media, village notice boards and within other established village groups.

It was agreed that the Clerk would look into what training is available to Councillors.

017/17 ACTIONS completed and outstanding (report for information)

- Continued concerns were raised on the safety of the A142. Mrs Stazicker reported that she had been in contact with Mr Andrew Preston, County Council Highways Projects and Road Safety Manager and expressed concerns raised locally by residents and by staff at Mepal and Witcham Primary School about the children becoming hardened to the occurrence of accidents. Mr Preston had since responded that it was intended to conduct an investigation into the safety of the Ely-Chatteris stretch of the A142 shortly, acknowledged the importance of local information and directed anyone to a website that has been set up by the charity International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) <http://www.irap.net/en/> . The Chairman has contacted Mr Preston to enquire how the Parish Council can help in the investigations when the time comes.

018/17 DIARY DATES

- a) To note that the next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 13th February 2017 at 7.30pm
- b) To note that full council meetings will be held in 2017 on the second Monday in each month, excepting August and December, in continuation of the established pattern.

The meeting closed at 21.10

..... 13th February 2017
Emma Harris, Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

..... 13th February 2017
Elizabeth Stazicker, Chairman