

MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Karen Peck, email: clerk@mepalparish.org tel 01353 741066
Chairman: Mrs Lorna Williams

NOTICE OF MEETING: Full Parish Council Meeting- Mepal Parish
TIME: 18.30
DATE: 18th December 2023
VENUE: Mepal Community Pavilion

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	3
VACANCIES	4
QUORUM	3

MINUTES

In attendance: Councillor Williams (LW), Hickman (JH), Knightley (SK), District Councillor Inskip (MI). Apologies for absence were given by County Councillor Dupre (LD)

181223/1 CHAIRMANS WELCOME

181223/2 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Councillor Lorna Dupree had set apologies - work commitments.

181223/3 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations made.

181223/4 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS
Reports from both the County and District Councillors had been received and are available on the Parish Council website.

Councillor Williams asked MI about a couple of topics in the report: Sutton Fire Station, the Doctors surgery, and the breaking news about Sutton Post Office. MI said that it was a concern, but the issues are different. In the case of the surgery, the issues relate to difficulties in negotiation for the use of the premises which are owned by an absent former GP partner, and it was simpler for the group to simply give notice for the Sutton practice which was on a separate contract to their other two surgeries. There have been difficulties looking for a suitable new premises, and the Heath Trust is re-examining the possibility of work to the existing building. MI felt that a sustainable solution will be found, eventually. In the case of the post office, it seems that One Stop no longer want to host, but the PO don't want it to close. Finding an alternative home for it is also difficult. MI said that we had to wait for the formal notice before any public action to try to stop the closure can be taken.

For the fire station, the reasons for the proposed closure relate to the number of call outs and the difficulty finding volunteer fire-fighters to man the station. Work patterns have changed and meeting the required times to be able to get to the fire station as people are working further away from their homes is difficult. There is talk of expanding at Ely, but it is not clear (with the proposed closure also of Manea) how this will work. Again, we await the final decision.

LW finally raised the issue of fly tipping and littering in the village and asked MI if he was aware of any ideas or initiatives Mepal could look at. The topic of a bin at the Engine Bank car park was also raised, and MI suggested that we contact EC Street Scene to discuss. MI wasn't aware of any specific recommendations that either ECDC or CC might be running, but again suggested that EC Street Scene may be able to advise.

181223/5 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF:
Full Parish Council Meeting 13th November 2023

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Parish Council meeting minutes of 13th November 2023.

Proposed: JH Seconded: SK

181223/6

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (max 15 minutes)

Members of the public may make only one address to the Council of no more than five minute' duration and only concerning topics on the agenda. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given. A person shall raise his hand when requesting to speak and stand when speaking (except when a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort). The chairman of the meeting may at any time permit a person to be seated when speaking. A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct his comments to the chairman of the meeting. At the close of this item, members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

There were no members of the public present.

181223/7

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a) To set the Parish Council Budget for 2024-25

A draft proposal had been circulated, incorporating the predicted year end position.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve an expenditure budget of £59,328 and income budget of £60,925 for the 2024/2025 financial year

Proposed: LW Seconded: JH

- b) To set the Precept Request for Mepal Parish Council for 2024-25

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve a precept request for £54,400 for the 2024/2025 financial year

Proposed: LW Seconded: SK

181223/8

**PLANNING
TO DISCUSS**

None

UPDATES:

23/01260/FUL Bungalow Farm, Chatteris Road, Mepal

Demolition of rear extensions and reconstruction on a like for like basis with piled foundations

23/00756/VAR Site west of Springleys Paddock, Witcham Road, Mepal

To vary condition 1 (approved plans) of previously approved 19/00109/FUL for 2 detached two storey dwellings - Approved.

23/00911/FUL The Acorns, 14A Bridge Road, Mepal

Annexe and garage - withdrawn.

23/00934/FUL 4 Sutton Road, Mepal

Extension above existing bungalow to form 2 story dwelling. New garage to replace existing garage.

181223/9

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - for information purposed only (not for discussion)

Parishioner - LHI Application

181223/10

FINANCE

- a) To approve the Bank Reconciliation up to 30th November 2023.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation to 30 November 2023

Proposed: LW Seconded: JH

- b) To approve application for a Unity Trust Corporate Multipay Card to replace the Optimum Prepayment card account which is now closed.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the application.

Proposed: LW Seconded: SK

- c) To agree to the Clerk receiving an additional spine point increase for completion of her Certificate in Local Council Administration as per existing contract.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to apply the increase

Proposed: LW Seconded: SK

- d) Online Payments:

November

HMRC, Wages and Expenses

£5294.26

SE Clarke - Pavilion Cleaning

£240.00

Cambs ACRE - Membership

£60.00

Wave - Water Pavilion

£116.65

Gallagher - Insurance

£89.60

British Legion - Wreaths

£60.00

CPD - Pat Testing

£74.00

Amazon - Lights, reflectors, various running materials,

office supplies, PPE

£373.12 OC

Optimum - monthly fee

£1.99 OC

MFG Witcham Toll - fuel

£30.11 OC

East Cambs Trading – Interim Tree Survey	£450.00
Direct Debits Made:	
EE – phone and Internet	£47.95
N Power – Street Light Energy	£53.38
British Gas – Pavilion	£47.08

e) Income	
Allotment Fees	£60.00

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the payments & receipts to 30 November 2023
Proposed: LW Seconded: JH

181223/11 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR
 DB of Witcham Road, Mepal, Cambs, was duly elected to fill the casual vacancy by co-option.
Proposed: SK Seconded: JH

181123/11 DIARY DATES -8th January 2023 6.30pm
Meeting cancelled - next meeting 12th February 2024

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K Peck
Karen Peck
Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Mepal Parish Council

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Lorna Williams
Lorna Williams
Chairman
Mepal Parish Council