

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: 12th February 2024
VENUE: Mepal Community Pavilion

MEMBERS 6
VACANCIES 1
QUORUM 3

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman, LW), Hickman (JH), Knightley (SK), Billimore (DM) and 4 members of the public.

120224/1 CHAIRMANS WELCOME

LW welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

120224/2 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Councillor Dupre and District Councillor Inskip - work commitments

120224/3 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

120224/4 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.

120224/5 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF:

With the change of the date of the next meeting to reflect the cancelled January meeting, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Full Parish Council Meeting minutes of 18th December 2023 as true record of the meeting.
Proposed JH Seconded SK

120224/6 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 four members of the public in attendance and no matters were raised.

120224/7 COUNCIL BUSINESS

a) Fire Safety Legislation Changes

The Parish Council confirmed it had reviewed the recent Section 156, Building Safety Act 2023 and that the facility is compliant.

b) To discuss Ecologist Site Visit to further improve and support the Parishes biodiversity.

LW highlighted the requirements of Parish regarding Net Gain and the need for Biodiversity Plans and had recently received a site visit from East Cambs DC Ecologist. LW circulated a draft copy of Mepal Parish Nature Recovery Plan prior to the meeting. LW detailed the content of proposed Pride of Place Grant and council agreed unanimously to apply.

Proposed LW Seconded JH

- c) To note the Council's priorities and 5-year plan:
- 2024-25 Source funding to enhance the basketball square and add an additional piece of equipment to Laurel Close play area.
 - 2025-26 Source funding to refurbish the War Memorial and replace the Village Sign
 - 2026-27 Source funding addition seating for play area and an outdoor equipment
 - 2027-29 Source funding for Pavilion Improvements
 - Continuous throughout 2024-29 with Parish Biodiversity net gain and Nature Recovery Plan
- The plan was a **RESOLVED** unanimously with the caveat to include Play Area Seating (from 2026-27 to 2024-25) **Proposed SK Seconded JH**
- d) To approve Mepal Neighbourhood Plan - Draft Responses to Questions from the Examiner
A draft response had been circulated to all before the meeting. Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to the response. **Proposed LW Seconded JH**
- e) Witcham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation
The Parish Council had no comment to make.
- f) Sutton Neighbourhood Plan (Replacement) – Consultation
The Parish Council had no comment to make.
- g) Mepal War Memorial: Invitation to comment on Consultation Report
The Parish Council had no comment to make.
- h) To thank volunteers who helped with the Tree Planting
The Parish Council wished to thank all the volunteers who spared their time to help planting of the Woodland Trust saplings. It is greatly appreciated.

120224/8

**PLANNING
TO DISCUSS**

24/00002/FUL Mepal Union Chapel, School Lane, Mepal

Change of use from Chapel to dwelling

The Parish Council discussed the application and had no objection.

24/00069/FUL Land Northwest of 7 Bridge Road, Mepal

Construction of one detached dwelling and new access

The Parish Council discussed the application and raised concerns on the boundary map shown on the application which would be raised with the Planning Officer.

24/00107/FUL 4 Sutton Road, Mepal

Extension above existing bungalow to form chalet bungalow, single storey front extension and garage extension.

The Parish Council discussed the application and had no objection.

UPDATES:

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

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

120224/9

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

Parishioner – Wildlife Enhancement

Parishioner – Fly Tipping Engine Bank

120224/10

FINANCE

1. To approve payments and Bank Reconciliation up to 31st January 2024

a) Online Payments:

SE Clarke – Cleaning	£120.00 BACS
HMRC, Wages and Expenses	£3627.26 BACS
Ernest Doe – PPE	£53.50 BACS
National Broadband	£299.00 BACS
N Power – Street Light Energy	£64.19 DD
British Gas -Gas Pavilion	£72.82 DD
Unity Bank – MultiPay Set up Fee	£50.00 BACS
EE – Phone and Broadband	£8.00 DD

b) Income

Sutton Ranger Football Club – cleaning fee	£60.00 BACS
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It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the payments & receipts to 31st January 2024.

120224/11

CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Parish Council has received three applications for Co-option. Two candidates were in attendance and were asked to address Council.

Thomas Bradney and Lesley Sculthorpe was duly elected to fill two casual vacancies by co-option.

Proposed LW Seconded JH

120224/11

DIARY DATES -11th March 2024 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 18.58.

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

11th March 2024

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L Williams
Lorna Williams
Chairman
Mepal Parish Council