

MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

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

NOTICE OF MEETING: Annual Parish Meeting
TIME: 6:30pm
DATE: 30th May 2024
VENUE: Mepal Community Pavilion

Minutes Annual Parish Meeting

In attendance: Councillors Hickman (JH), Knightly (SK), Billimore (DB), Bradney (TB) and two members of the public.

- 1/24 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
Councillor Williams and Sculthorpe, Parish Clerk, District Councillor Inskip and County Councillor Dupre
- 2/24 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF:
a) SK proposed, TB seconded to approve the Annual Parish Meeting Minutes from 11th April 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Motion carried.
- 3/24 TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2022/23
JH read out the summary of the report which highlighted the challenges and successes of the last 12 months. JH reminded all present that the full report is available on the parish website.
- 4/24 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT FOR 2022/23
The Parish Council have made both the District and County Council Annual Reports available on the Parish Council website.
- 4/24 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL
A member of the public raised concerns regarding privet hedges of private properties over growing the pathways around Mepal and stated that they had previously lived in a parish where a reminder of the responsibility of homeowners in regard to ensuring that hedges do not impinge on public paths was advertised in their Parish newsletter. They asked if there was anything the parish council could do to enforce the maintenance of privet hedges. A copy of that communication was handed to the acting chairman but was asked if it could please be returned once the council had had chance to read it. JH said they would look into it and respond via email but that they didn't think they would have any powers over this matter. The same member of the public also asked who owned the meadow behind the school that ran down to the river. They said that due to the rain the kissing gate at the school end had become boggy and that people had started using the field gate to enter the field. This access had then been blocked by the landowners to direct people back to the legitimate footpath entrance. They asked if the Parish council had any powers to improve the access around the gate. JH stated that they thought the land used to be owned by the church commissioner but had now been sold. JH also said they didn't think there was anything they could do but again would look into it.

A second member of the public expressed their disappointment in low public attendance given the approaching neighbourhood plan referendum. They stated they had read the plan and thought it to be a good plan but worried that not many of the villagers will not have seen it as it was only on the website. They asked if the council planned to do a presentation to summarise and also suggested that more information was displayed in the bus stops. They also raised concerns of the lack of village community and large events. They asked if a group was to be setup to organise events for the village could the parish council support that group in terms of funding and help in the gaining of public liability insurance. They were advised that there was a grant process but that applications had to be made within the window and that it would be unlikely that the parish council could hand out large sums of money. JH stated that they would look into the support they could give and reply in writing.

Meeting closed at 18:54

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Chairman
Mepal Parish Council
In draft format only – to be signed in April 2025 at next Annual Parish Meeting