

MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

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

NOTICE OF MEETING: Mepal Parish Council – Full Council
TIME: 18.30
DATE: 21st January 2026
VENUE: Mepal Community Pavilion

MEMBERS 5
VACANCIES 2
QUORUM 3

Minutes

Present: Councillor Williams (LW) Chair, Bradney (TB), Gould (RG), County Councillor Dupre (LD) and three members of the public.

210126/1 CHAIRMANS WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

210126/2 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Hunter – prior commitments. Apologies accepted.

210126/3 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were made.

210126/4 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Council and District Reports are available in full on the parish council website. LD gave an overview on the Local Government Reorganisation position with a decision expected late summer 2026. Consultation due to start in 2-3 weeks' time but date not confirmed.

Pothole season is in full swing and LD updated that County have increased the number of crews actively working to help keep up with demand. LD noted that due to the closure of the Twentypence Road for two months and then the 3-week closure of the Earith to Willingham Road for essential maintenance, officers are looking to alter the planned closure from daytime to night closure to aim motorist. The Council thanked LD for he works on this as they appreciated this was out of her area.

210126/5 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF: 11th December 2025

The Parish Council minutes of 11th December 2025 were unanimously approved.

Proposed LW Seconded TB

210126/6 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 minutes)

Members of the public may make only one address to the Council of no more than three 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 their 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.

No matters were raised.

210126/7 COUNCIL BUSINESS

a) To note vandalism to the Sutton Road Bus Shelter

The Council were disappointed to report that the bus shelter on Sutton Road had again been vandalised over the Christmas and New Year period. Thanks to the member of the public who made us aware and although reported to the Police there is no action they can take. The Parish Council will investigate more robust remedial measures due to the frequency of this vandalism. If anyone had any information, please do come forward.

b) To discuss the traffic survey

The draft traffic survey was circulated to all prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the draft be approved and added to the Parish Council website for completion. A link to the survey will be added to the village page if possible. Paper copied can be obtained by contacting the Clerk directly.

Proposed LW Seconded RG

- c) To formally note and agree that no sports pitches are to be sited in the designated area of the field
It was formally noted and **approved** that no sports pitches are to be sited in the designated area of the field (which sites the Anglian Water Main Drainage, what3words ///social.branch.bullion and Anglian Water Ref 4501). Professional inspection conducted and users aware. The Parish Council will investigate repurposing the area for the community.

Proposed LW Seconded RG

- d) Public Spaces Order: Vehicle related Antisocial Behaviour
The Parish Council are unanimously supportive of the Order and will respond accordingly.

Proposed LW Seconded TB

210126/8

**PLANNING
TO DISCUSS**

25/01344/FUL 3 School Lane, Mepal

Construction of 1 no. detached self-build dwelling and extension to garden of No.3
The Parish Council have no objection to the application.

F/YR25/0905/F Northwest of Mepal AD Plant, Iretons Way, Chatteris.

Construct an extension to existing anaerobic digester plant including 8x digesters, 4x post digesters with 4x technical buildings, 2x pump buildings and 10x feed hoppers, 1 x gas entry unit, 2 x process gas upgrade area, 2x separate bunkers, 1 x straw processing buildings, 1 x dry digestate storage building, 2 x flare stacks, 1 x site office and 2 x balancing ponds (part retrospective)

The Parish Council have concerns over the application and will respond outlining these.

25/01303/FUL The Three Pickerals, 19 Bridge Road, Mepal

Erection of a single storey function room with the garden area of an existing hotel to replace temporary marquee
The Parish Council fully support the application.

25/00421/OUT Horticultural Site between 8 and 14 Bridge Road, Mepal

Subdivision of an existing horticultural site to create a single self-build residential plot while retaining the remainder of the land for horticultural use – Pending consideration

The Parish Council had objections to the application.

210126/9

FINANCE

- a) To approve payments and Bank Reconciliation up to 31.12.2025
b) Online and Income:

December	
National Broadband Network	£42.00
N Power Street Light Energy	£71.40
Lloyds Card - materials, parts and supplies	£460.63
British Gas - gas	£196.24
SSE - Electric	£167.51
HMRC Wages and Expenses	£3909.13
Unity Bank Service Charge	£6.00
JRH Contracts - Annual Hedge take back	£210.00
Red Shoes Accounting - payroll	£68.40
Anglian Water Business - pavilion	£81.72
Allotment Rent	£30.00
Income	
Allotment Rent	£30.00
HMRV VAT Reclaim	£6014.83

The income, payments and bank reconciliation presented were unanimously

APPROVED. Motion carried.

Proposed LW Seconded TB

210126/10

DIARY DATES –25th March 2026 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 19.08

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Karen Peck
Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Mepal Parish Council

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Lorna Williams
Chair
Mepal Parish Council

Issued: To be signed at the next meeting of the Parish Council and in draft format until this date