

**MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT**  
**THE LOWER SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, MEPPERSHALL 3 JUNE 2009**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Chapman (in the chair) Bryant, Castle, Collins, Crossley, Foskett, Merryweather, and Waite

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-** Councillors Parsons & Sykes

**1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman read a letter received from the new local police chief

**2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

To receive from members, declarations and the nature thereof in relation to any item on this agenda.

- (a) **Personal interest**, where a decision on the matter in hand would affect the member, their partner, relatives or close friends, a body employing those persons, any firm in which they are a partner and any company of which they are directors. Any corporate body in which those persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £5,000 or any body in which such persons hold a position of general management or control.
- (b) **Prejudicial interest**, where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would view the member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 6 May 2009 at the Lower School, High Street, Meppershall are attached to these minutes but not re-circulated

**At this point the Chairman suspended proceedings allow a period of up to 15 minutes to receive reports from our County and District Councillors and to enable members of the public to question Councillors or make observations**

Subjects referred to were the acquisition of water butts for the Gardening Club, progress on the middle track at Wry Close Allotment Field, the 'mechanics of Bonfire Night, usage of allotment plots and the Section 106 monies relating to the development at 92 – 112 Fildyke Road.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**5. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

**5A PLANNING AND HOUSING**

**5A(a) Planning applications pending**

- i. 05/01366/SE73 - Land between 92 & 112 Fildyke Road Removal of footpath provision

**5A(b) Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals Received**

**5A(c) Appeals Pending**

- i. Land to rear of 82 Fildyke Road

5A(d) Recent Applications

5A(e) Other Planning Matters

5B FINANCE

- i **Audit** The accounts to 31 March are in course of preparation and require to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk on behalf of the Council by 30 June  
**RESOLVED** - noted  
(On 29th June a meeting was held at the home of the Chairman and attended by the Chairman Councillor Chapman, Spokesman of the Finance Working Group Councillor Foskett, Councillor Collins and the Clerk at which the accounts were approved on behalf of the Council)

5C HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING

- i Highway Parish Liaison  
Councillor Bryant report that the Mayor of Shefford had carried out another survey session on the usage of Shefford Hill
- ii Shefford Hill Footpath
- iii Additional off road parking in Fillyke Road  
Open agenda item for news of progress

5D ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

5D(a) Fosters Field

- i Lighting of the teenage area  
Conditional planning approval has been received  
**RESOLVED** that an order be placed for the installation of one column adjacent to the youth meeting area
- ii Annual Play Equipment Inspection  
This inspection has now been carried out with Councillor Castle in attendance - the report is awaited
- iii Toddlers Play Area  
The new signs have been received and erected  
**RESOLVED** that these points be noted

5D(b) Refurbishment of Village Sign

The new sign has been erected  
**RESOLVED** - noted

5D(c) Old Road Meadow

Councillor Foskett reported that a further spraying for ragwort and other weeds is necessary. Furthermore there are 2 Leylandii trees, one in Old Road Meadow and one in the rear garden of one of the houses in Lypitt Common that need to be removed.

**RESOLVED** that Ian Hanglin be requested to visit again with his spraying equipment and a price obtained from Steve Dear for the removal of the Leylandii

5d Land behind Cracklehill Road

The Clerk reported that the fencing requires attention  
**RESOLVED** - noted

6. **WRY CLOSE ALLOTMENT FIELD**
7. **ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD GATES**  
The repairs to the gates have been completed and a claim awaited.  
The account has now been received and a cheque for £1710 plus VAT is included with the Orders for Payment schedule.  
**RESOLVED** - noted
8. **PARISH PLAN**  
There are still some responses due from Councillors.  
Mr John West who did much work towards the Plan and also with the Allotment Association is removing from the village.  
**RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to John thanking him for his works generally within the Community.
9. **OTHER MEETINGS**  
There were none
10. **BONFIRE NIGHT 2009**  
In view of the Petition in the Post Office, the Parish Council is to explain the situation in THE MESSENGER and will include the proposal to be submitted to the next Council Meeting of limitations on bonfire 'fuel' and the vetting procedures to be set up to ensure compliance  
**RESOLVED** - noted
11. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
Despite all efforts to publicise this meeting, there was again a very poor response, only nine parishioners putting in an appearance  
**RESOLVED** - noted
12. **ORDERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF MONEY FOR AUTHORISATION**  
Schedule of Payments is attached for Authorisation and Approval  
**RESOLVED** that the payment be authorised and approved
13. **DATE & VENUE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 16 July 2009 and Wednesday 2 September 2009 at the Lower School