

MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT
THE LOWER SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, MEPPERSHALL ON 3 MARCH 2010

PRESENT Councillors Chapman (in the chair), Bryant, Castle, Collins, Crossley, Foskett, Merryweather, Parsons, Sykes and Waite, Unitary Councillors Birt and Brown, 4 members of the public and the Clerk

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements

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 3 February 2010 at the Lower School, High Street, Meppershall are attached to these minutes but not re-circulated

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

Councillor Tony Brown reported that the overall precept would see an increase of 3.5% resulting in an increased level of Council Tax. He further reported that Central Bedfordshire is 'asset rich'. Other matters he referred to were the advantages connected to the proposed opening of a major Tesco store in Shefford which some saw as being a disadvantage to the existing small shops in the area. Councillor Lew Birt mentioned the fly-tipping near the water tower although this is on Stondon Parish land, not Meppershall

The Local Development Framework site was raised as to the extent of the number of houses and whether or not so many new houses were required

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not covered by this agenda

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
No response yet received from CBUA (Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority) to the letter sent following Councillor Brown's report to the last meeting
- ii CB/09/07025/FULL - The Hollies Campton Road, - Change of use from industrial to residential with part demolition and single storey extension
RESOLVED - noted

5A(b) Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals Received

- i **Withdrawn** - CB/09/06235/FULL/Methodist Chapel, High Street change of use and conversion of church into single dwelling
- ii 30 Shefford Road. Another application had been made, but the documentation had not reached the Clerk. It was **refused** only because it lacked the form relating to the 106 monies requirements. In all other respects the applicant had taken note of and resolved the reasons for the refusal of the first application and, if submitted again, it would be recommended for approval.
RESOLVED - noted

5A(c) Appeals Pending

Woodview Nurseries mobile home
The occupants were due to move out on 5 April
RESOLVED - noted

5A(e) Other Planning Matters

- i **Central Bedfordshire Council Housing Strategy Consultation** event held 15/1/10

The presentation aids issued to attendees who included Councillor Crossley are in circulation.
RESOLVED - noted
- ii **Local Development Framework**

As a result of the IT problems at CBUA the consultation period has been extended to 15 March 2010
RESOLVED - noted

5B FINANCE

i Audit

Following the meeting of the Finance Working Group, a copy of the Action Plan is attached to these minutes but not re-circulated
RESOLVED - noted

5C HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING

i Highway Parish Liaison

Councillor Bryant reported that there had been little activity on the part of the public in the reporting of potholes which continue to be a problem
RESOLVED - noted

ii Shefford Hill Footpath (Open agenda item)

Nothing further to report at present
RESOLVED - noted

iv Additional off road parking in Filldyke Road

The work has now been completed and Aragon's requested for the committed £2000 is awaited. However the tarmac surface between the two garage blocks has suffered in the process and this will be taken up with the Housing Authority
RESOLVED that since the payment should be applied to the current financial year, the payment is to be approved and authorised but will only be issued when the making good has been satisfactorily completed.

5D ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

5D(a) Fosters Field

i Lighting of the teenage area

The suppliers have been advised that the ground is still too wet to accommodate any heavy vehicle and the installation will need to be further delayed
RESOLVED - noted

5D(b) Play Equipment Inspection & Maintenance

Digley Associates have been requested to carry out the first quarterly inspection - date to be advised
RESOLVED - noted

I MUGA

The Clerk has received a quote from SMP Playgrounds for the marking out of a netball court in the sum of £700. Further quotes will be obtained
RESOLVED - noted

6. OTHER MEETINGS - already held

- I Meppershall Green Infrastructure Plan Workshop** held at the Village Hall on Thursday 18th February. -Councillor Foskett reported that there were a few more in attendance than were at the first Workshop and that a summation of progress would be forthcoming from the organisers
RESOLVED - noted

7, **WRY CLOSE ALLOTMENT FIELD**

- i **Tenancy Agreements and Renewals.**
There remains just one allotment holder whose renewal is outstanding and it was agreed that a Notice To Quit should be sent out and the plot re-issued.
- ii **Tanks and taps**
Requirements and provision (Mr Carne?) to be reviewed
RESOLVED that these two items be noted
- iii **Track Licences**
The Council's legal advisers have ruled that the original Licences issued to the residents on the High Street continue to be valid and with the re-siting of the gate no amendment is required. The opportunity will be taken to issue a Licence to those owners who have recently purchased.
- iv **Security**
An order has been placed for the re-siting of the gate, the installation of the high level barrier on the track and the provision of fencing to complete the security measures
- v **The problems relating to the unfenced plot of land to the rear of 49 High Street was discussed and the Clerk is to write to the owner requesting that this should be remedied**
RESOLVED that these items be noted

8. **HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES**

Councillor Castle to raise items for discussion not covered elsewhere in this agenda.
There were none
RESOLVED - noted

9. **CLERK'S ANNUAL REVIEW**

Chairman to report on progress in establishing 'modus operandii'
This item carried forward to the next meeting
RESOLVED - noted

10. **VILLAGE CARETAKER**

A copy of the existing contract is attached with suggested amendments highlighted in red for discussion. Some adjustments were made and the document will form the new contract between the Parish Council and Ian Summerfield which will be signed at a meeting between the Chairman, the Clerk and the Caretaker.
RESOLVED - noted

11. **VENUE FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS** - brought forward from the last meeting

In view of the potential problems of availability of the School Hall for several meetings in the coming year, the possibility of using the Village Hall for meetings was discussed as an alternative venue. To have an automatic monthly booking, it may be necessary to change the meeting times to the fourth Monday in July and the second Monday of every other month with the exception of August. The views of all Councillors is required
RESOLVED that, in view of the difficulties with the regular availability of the School Hall, the date and venue of future meetings are to be changed. This will necessitate a change to Standing Orders which will need to be passed at the next Council meeting

12. **ORDERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF MONEY FOR AUTHORISATION**

Schedule of payments for Authorisation and Approval will be distributed at the Council Meeting and a copy attached to these minutes but not re-circulated.

RESOLVED that the payments be authorised and approved.

13. **VENUE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

After the amendments to the date and venue of future Council meetings, the next meetings of the Parish Council will be on Monday 12 April 2010 and Monday 10 May 2010 at the Village Hall, High Street, Meppershall