

MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT
THE VILLAGE HALL, MEPPERSHALL ON 10 APRIL 2010

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Councillors Parsons, Sykes and Waite

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman gave Councillors details of a CPRE meeting to be held on 22 April and invited members to attend. He then introduced the Community Policeman P C Steve Busby who reported that in addition to 2 thefts from motor vehicles and a domestic assault there had been some incidents involving youths in the village causing nuisance and noise

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. RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

As a result of the decision taken at the March 2010 meeting to change both the venue and the timing of Council meetings, a change to the Council's Standing Orders is necessary.

Standing Order 1a will now read :-

Meetings of the Council shall be held on the second Monday of each month at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, Meppershall. The exceptions to this are the months of July, when the meeting is held on the fourth Monday and August when there is no meeting.

RESOLVED that Standing Orders should be changed in this respect

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2010 at the Lower School, High Street, Meppershall are attached to these minutes but not re-circulated

The Chairman then closed the meeting to receive reports from our Unitary Councillors and to give members of the public the opportunity to question Councillors or make observations

Councillor Tony Brown referred to the Residual Waste Disposal issue and the expansion of the Stewartby site to take waste from other areas as well as Central Bedfordshire. The insurance for the VHMC fete was raised and the Clerk advised that there would be considerable difficulties in utilising the Council's insurance to cover the event. The other subject concerned the state of the footways throughout the village and the dangerous state of repair that many of them are in following the recent winter weather.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were none

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 - see attached report
RESOLVED - noted and recommend that a letter be written to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council protesting at the final outcome

5A(b) Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals Received

- i **Refusal** - 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(c) Appeals Pending

- I CB/09/00545 - Woodview Nurseries - a variety of delaying action tactics have moved the final date forward to 3 May
RESOLVED that this be marked forward to the next meeting for a further report

5A(d) Recent Applications

- i CB/09/06681/FULL - Meppershall Lower School - replacement of climbing frame (retrospective) -----No objections raised
- ii CB/10/00802/LB - The Manor House, Church Road - Removal of stables building and replacement with garden storage building-----
No objection raised
RESOLVED - noted

5A(e) Other Planning Matters

- i MB/08/00121 - Land to the rear/side of 2 Crackle Hill Road
Councillor Castle raised the question of the various conditions imposed on this development and suggested that the Enforcement Officer be asked to ensure that the conditions are satisfied
RESOLVED - that this action be taken

5B FINANCE

i

5C HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING

- i **Highway Parish Liaison**
Councillor Bryant reported that there had been no recent meetings with the Liaison Officer
RESOLVED - noted

- li **Shefford Hill Footpath (Open agenda item)**
Copies of some of the exchanges of emails between the Clerk, the Mayor of Shefford, Paul Makin and various officers of Central Bedfordshire..are attached for information but not re-circulated
RESOLVED - that these be noted and that a letter be sent to Amey to ascertain the facts regarding the completion of the footpath

- iv **Additional off road parking in Fillyke 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
The surface has been re-laid and the final invoice will be received shortly
RESOLVED - noted

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

5D(b) Play Equipment Inspection & Maintenance

- i Digley Associates have produced the first quarterly inspection report which has a number of defects which are all 'low risk'
- ii Arrangements have been made with SMP for some bolts and tools to be sent in connection with the MUGA. This cannot be confirmed until the Area Manager at SMP returns from holiday later this week

6. OTHER MEETINGS - already held

- I **Meppershall Green Infrastructure Plan**
No updates yet received

7, WRY CLOSE ALLOTMENT FIELD

- i **Tanks and taps**
Requirements and provision (Mr Carne?) to be reviewed
- ii **Track Licences**
The Clerk is in the process of establishing which of the properties between 27 and 47 High Street have or need Licences
- iii **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. Work is scheduled to be done Monday 19 April
- iv **Land adjacent to the rear of 49 High Street**
No response received as yet to the Clerk's letter

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES Councillor Castle to raise items for discussion

9. CLERK'S ANNUAL REVIEW

Chairman to report on progress in establishing 'modus operandii'

10. **VILLAGE CARETAKER**

The Chairman and the Clerk met with Ian Summerfield; the revised contract was signed and the new system for the weekly inspection explained. Clerk to report

11. **RURAL HOUSING**

Zoe Ashby has taken over from Philip Jerred as the Rural Housing Enabler and will be carrying out the suggested survey

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

Schedule of payments for Authorisation and Approval will be distributed at the Council Meeting

13. **NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on Monday 10 May 2010 (The Annual Meeting) and Monday 14 June 2010 to be held in the Village Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting