

MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON 12 DECEMBER 2011

PRESENT Councillors Chapman (in the Chair), Bryant, Bulley, Crossley, Foskett, Merryweather, Morris and Sykes, Unitary Councillors Brown & Birt, the Clerk and 4 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors Parsons & Read

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman introduced PCSO Lisa Antoine who only gave a brief report since there were no crimes in Meppershall during November.

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 anybody 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

No interests were declared

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th November 2011 at the Village Hall, High Street, Meppershall are attached to these minutes but not re-circulated
RESOLVED – that the minutes be adopted and they were signed by the Chairman

At this point the Chairman suspended proceedings to receive a report 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

Unitary Councillor Tony Brown presented his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes together with the Central Bedfordshire Council Salting Map.

Mrs Foster advised that the kissing gate on the new permissive footpath is being replaced to enable perambulators to have access.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Agenda item 5cia – Councillor Bryant reported that the trees on Taylors Close have now been trimmed by the Highways Department to a satisfactory standard.

5. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

5A PLANNING AND HOUSING

5A(a) Planning applications pending

- i CB/11/03812/FULL - 5 Fildyke Road - Garage conversion with raised roof and dormer windows

5A(b) Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals Received

- i Approval CB/11/03142/FULL – 6 Marywells – Single storey front extension
- ii Approval CB/11/03569/FULL – 102 Fildyke Road – Erection of rear conservatory
- iii Approval CB/11/03732/FULL – 62 Shefford Road – Erection of rear extension and front porch

5A(c) Appeals Pending

- i CB/09/00545 – Woodview Nurseries
This case was due to be heard on 7 December but has been adjourned until 27 February as the defendant, who did not attend, had requested further time to get legal advice and the Court was unable to trace the documents of the case

5A(d) Applications since last Council meeting – for consideration

- i CB/11/04125/FULL – 14 Shefford Road – erection of replacement garage
- ii CB/11/03898/FULL – 101 High Street – Construction of dropped kerb
- iii CB/11/04231/FULL – 30 Shefford Road – Alteration to approved driveway / crossover

RESOLVED – that all the above matters under this heading should be noted and that there were no objections to the 3 new applications under 5A(d)

5B FINANCE

- i Internal Audit Report

RESOLVED – that a meeting of the Finance Working Party with the Chairman and the Clerk should be arranged and this will take place on Tuesday 3rd January. We will report to the Council at the next meeting

- ii The accounts for the year to 30 September will be available for the meeting

iii Precept calculations will be required for the January meeting. To be included in the calculations..

The accounts for the financial year to the 31st December will be distributed with the Precept documentation early in the New Year.

5C HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING

i Highway Parish Liaison

a) Councillor Bryant to report

Councillor Bryant reported that some of the pot holes in the village have been repaired by other whilst marked have yet to be filled.

ii Shefford Hill Footpath

Further news is awaited on the signage

The Clerk reported that the Highways Authority suggested that signs were already in place and after discussion it was resolved that a request for a more specific road sign on either side of the bend should be installed for safety reasons.

iii Salt Bins

Central Beds Council have installed the new bins at the original sites identified by this Council. The installation of the Parish Council bins will be at the junctions of Chapel Road and Stondon Road, Chapel Road and Fildyke Road and Hoo Road and High Street.,

5D ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

i Picnic Table/Benches on Fosters Field and Old Road Meadow.

Chairman to report on progress

It was agreed that this shall be left until Spring

ii Play Equipment Maintenance

These works are now complete and partly invoiced

Now that the major works have been finished a comparison should be made between the next maintenance report and the last report to ensure that nothing has been missed.

5E OLD ROAD MEADOW

i Councillor Foskett to report as necessary

Councillor Foskett had nothing to report but the Clerk was able to circulate a copy of the CPRE Bedfordshire Living Countryside Awards 2001 brochure, a copy of which will be included with these minutes but not circulated.

6. OTHER MEETINGS

Councillor Roger Bryant attended a School Governors meeting as the Parish Council representative but the only business of note was the installation of two new Governors.

7. WRY CLOSE ALLOTMENT FIELD

i Tenancies

All Tenants packs were delivered before the end of last month and signed Tenancy Agreements and rentals are being returned

Clerk reported that agreements and rentals are being returned

ii Notice Board

Progress of movement to new position

Paul Carne the allotments maintenance man now holds the keys to the notice board and will attend to its removal to the new site.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Items under this heading not already covered.

There were none

9. TRAFFIC CALMING

The required information was not to hand at the time this Agenda was concluded.

The Clerk reported that he had received some information with regards to the new scheme of sleeping policemen. Councillors were not in favour of a series of speed humps through the village and would prefer the option of by the Dunlop Traffic Calm system, provided tests have been carried out as to its suitability for use with a 30 mph speed limit.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to both Dunlop and the Highways Department advising of this situation.

10. RISK ASSESSMENT

The test run has yet to be carried out

RESOLVED - noted

11 ORDERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF MONEY FOR AUTHORISATION

Schedule of payments for Authorisation and Approval to be distributed at the meeting

RESOLVED – that the payment should be approved an authorised.

12. NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on Monday 9th January 2012
and Monday 13th February 2012 in the Village Hall at 7.45 pm.