

# MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2017

**PRESENT:** Councillors Chapman (in the chair), Bulley, Foskett, Merryweather, Smith P, Smith R, Thomason and Thompson and Parsons. Unitary Councillor Brown, 20 members of the public and the Clerk.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Read and Unitary Councillor Birt,

**1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none

**2 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Members may at this point declare an interest in any agenda item or may do so when the item comes up for discussion.

Councillor Thomason declared an interest in agenda item 6a v1

**3 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12th December 2016 at the Village Hall have been distributed to Councillors.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted and they were signed by the Chairman

**At this point the Chairman will suspend the Meeting to receive report(s) from our Unitary Councillors and to allow a period of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or to raise matters of concern.**

Unitary Councillor Brown advised that the 2017/2018 budget is being prepared and the proposal is that CBC increase the council tax by 1.75% but there is also a 3% increase requested by government to cover the rising costs in the care of the elderly. This surcharge will also be added to the 2018/19 council demands.

There was much discussion regarding speeding traffic through the village and it is intended that a petition be got up for presentation to the police and traffic management. Various solutions were suggested such as humps and chicanes although these have been mentioned by the parish council to the highways authority several times in the past. Th parish council will write to traffic management in support of improvements to traffic control.

**4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THIS AGENDA**

There were none

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## 5 THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Clerk proposed the new job description and contract of employment to the council who approved it.

## 6 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

### 6A PLANNING AND HOUSING WORKING GROUP

i] **Planning Applications pending**

ii] **Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals received**

iii] **Appeals Pending - none**

iv] **Applications since last Council meeting for consideration –**

a) CB/16/04670/FULL – 94 High Street – first floor side extension

**RESOLVED** – a) and c) No objection on planning grounds but some Concern raised on the effect on next door neighbours.

b) Unanimous objections raised – the Clerk to respond detailing the objections raised. (Copy attached to these minutes

v] **Nunswood /Nun's Wood**

The Clerk has nothing further to report apart from the fact that the Landowners are still waiting for the Forestry Commission

**RESOLVED** - noted

vi) **North Hertfordshire honours**

No further information received matter marked on to next council meeting

### 6B FINANCE MATTERS

**Accounts Financial Year 2016-2017**

The accounts were presented **RESOLVED** that the accounts be accepted for the first 6 months of the financial year to 30 September

### 6C HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

i) **Working Group Highways Report.**

Nothing to report

### 6D ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE WORKING GROUP

a) Plaque has been delivered to Paul Carne who will be fixing it to the refurbished public seat.

### 6E OLD ROAD MEADOW

It is suggested that new signs to the Old Road Meadow should be ordered to be affixed at the top of Hoo Road and at the appropriate position on Fildyke Road

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## **7 OTHER MEETINGS**

### **Bedfordshire Police Crime Commission**

Cllr John Thompson reported on the recent Bedfordshire police rural crime conference that he had recently attended in his opening remarks the Chief Constable stated that his aim was to reinvigorate rural policing and he detailed the organisation proposed to deliver the improvements. The new police and crime commissioner spoke giving her backing to the new initiative and asked for more use of 101 phone number to report crime where the perpetrators are not present and to pass on information that may help stop or solve a crime. The inspector heading his team spoke of three areas where they hoped to make improvements; 1) Speeding 2) visible policing 3) anti-social behaviour

## **8 ALLOTMENT FIELD**

### **a) Tenancy Agreements**

Chairman confirmed that all current allotment rentals have been paid.

## **9. PARISH PLAN REVIEW GROUP**

Councillor Bulley reported that the draft plan is in the final stage of production and will hopefully be available for councillors prior to the March meeting

## **10. COMMUNITY ASSET – THE SUGARLOAF PH**

Councillor Smith reported that the tribunal was in course and further developments are awaited.

## **11 HOO ROAD RESURFACING`**

The information from Chris Nicholl is that this work is due to be commenced on 30<sup>th</sup> January and completed in that same week

**RESOLVED** - Noted

## **12 PRECEPT**

After discussion, the application for precept monies is to be submitted at the save level as in previous years.

## **13. ORDERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF MONEY**

The schedule of payments was approved and payment authorised