

# MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

**PRESENT:** Councillors Chapman [in the Chair], Bulley, Merryweather, Smith P, Smith R, Thompson, Foskett, Parsons, Thomason Unitary Councillor Brown, 30 members of the public and The Clerk.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Read

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting of death of Unitary Councillor Lewis Birt. He recorded the thanks for his service to Meppershall and a number of individuals.

### 2 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Thomason recorded his interest in a proposed planning application near Orchard Close Agenda Item 5A.ii and Councillor Smith R. recorded his interest in the development to the rear of the High Street Agenda item 5A.ii.

### 3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the Village Hall have been distributed to Councillors. There was one amendment being the deletion of item 6B.

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

**At this point the Chairman suspended 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.**

After consultation and review Unitary Councillor Brown reported on the proposed level of Council Tax for the coming financial year will increase by 1.5% and an additional 3% for the Central Government Social Care Provision making a total of 4.5%.

Concern was raised by numerous members of the public about the high level of proposed planning applications in Meppershall.

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

There were none

### 5 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

#### 5A PLANNING AND HOUSING WORKING GROUP

##### i] Planning Applications pending

- a) CB/16/01769/FULL – The Village Hall, High Street.
- b) CB/TCA/16/00495 – 1 Marywells – Work to sycamore Tree.
- c) CB/17/00063/FULL – 79 Shefford Road – demolition of existing chalet/bungalow and erection of two 4 bedroom dwellings.

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

- a) CB/16/05397/FULL – 87 High Street, First Floor side extension –  
**Approval.**

### iii] **Appeals Pending - none**

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

- a) CB/17/00478/FULL – Sugar Loaf public house, 25 High Street.  
Councillor Tony Brown advised the meeting that he had called the application to be heard by the CBC Planning Committee.

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

This matter remains unresolved at present. The Clerk understands that the solution is in the joint hands of CBC and the Forestry Commission. Until the new licence is issued, the maintenance work will remain in abeyance

### vi) **Enforcement / Other Planning Matters**

- a) There were no enforcement issues. The Council agreed that the planning group should consider ways that the Council could assist any campaign group that may be set up. Councillors Smith P and Thomason agreed to be points of contact.

### vii) **North Hertfordshire Homes**

No further information has been received.

## 5B **FINANCE MATTERS**

The Finance Working Group have agreed the movement of earmarked funds in reserves. The Clerks Gratuity Scheme is being reviewed by Councillor Thompson.

## 5C **HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP**

### i) **Working Group Highways Report**

Councillor Smith R to report on any issues arising since the last meeting. Hoo Road resurfacing is covered under Agenda Item 10.

## 5D **ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE WORKING GROUP**

There were no matters to discuss.

## 5E **OLD ROAD MEADOW**

Direction Signs are to be ordered.

## 6 **OTHER MEETINGS**

There were no meetings to report.

## 7 **ALLOTMENT FIELD**

Some vacant plots have now been let.

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### 8. **PARISH PLAN REVIEW GROUP**

Councillor Bulley advised the meeting that the final plan was in draft form and will be presented to Councillors at a meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

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

Councillor Smith P reported progress to date and advised the meeting that the new application was in the consultation phase and any objections should be recorded with CBC by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The Council will record their objection to this application on the same terms as the previous application.

**RESOLVED** noted.

### 10 **HOO ROAD RESURFACING`**

The work has been completed, however a number of complaints have been received about damage caused to the bridle way by the contractors beyond the area of their main operation. This is being raised with CBC to get a swift resolution as access to properties have been obstructed.

**RESOLVED** noted

### 11 **ORDERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF MONEY**

A schedule of payments will be distributed at the meeting for approval and authorisation.

**RESOLVED** that the schedule be approved and the payments authorised

### 12 **Annual Parish Meeting.**

The date of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 was agreed.

### 13 **Appointment of new a Parish Clerk.**

The Chairman reported that one application has been received and there was one pending. The closing date is 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and it was agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Foskett plus a representative from BATPC would hold the interviews as soon as possible.

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### **THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The next two Parish Council meetings will be an ordinary Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and an ordinary meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The cut-off time for the receipt of papers for the April agenda is 5 p.m. on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017