

# MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD VIA VIDEO LINK ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020

**PRESENT:**      **Councillors:** Chapman (in the Chair), Austin, Karslake, Merryweather, Morgan, Parsons, Seaman, Standbridge, Thomason and Thompson  
                  **The Clerk:** A Marabese  
                  **Others:** Ward Councillors Brown and Liddiard, and 5 members of the public  
The Chairman declared the virtual meeting open at 7:49pm.

### 555. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None required.

### 556. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The Chairman thanked all participants of the meeting which was being held via video link. The Chairman then explained that during the 15-minute public session interventions would be limited to 3 minutes per person. All participants to the meeting were asked to 'mute' themselves and to raise a hand when wishing to speak. Councillor voting would be conducted by a show of hands. The Clerk is acting as the meeting 'moderator'.

### 557. MEMBERS INTERESTS

- a. To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda and requests for dispensation.  
None received or requested.

### 558. PUBLIC SESSION

At this point (7:50pm) the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to receive reports from Ward Councillors, village organisations and to allow members of the public to address the Council in relation to items on the agenda or request matters to be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

Ward Councillor Brown advised the meeting that:

- Conservative Group new leader will be announced on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- Traffic Management Committee meeting – Will be held tomorrow and Cllr Brown is speaking on behalf of the petition submitted by Meppershall resident. He will be pushing for a 20mph limit on Fildyke Road and a 40mph limit on Shefford Road up to the village entrance.
- Fix My Street – This is a new highways reporting system that is to be rolled out shortly.
- Enforcement issues – Having seen the highways issues caused by developments in the village and the correspondence between MPC and enforcement officers Cllr Brown suggested inviting Richard Proctor of CBC Enforcement to our February meeting.
- CBC Tree Planting Grants – CBC's tree planting scheme is open to all parish councils but closes on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- Dual carriageway from M1 to A421 – this new road is now open.
- Community Grants - £250 has been awarded to the Meppershall Messenger and £300 to Crusader Boxing.
- He wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ward Councillor Liddiard advised the meeting that:

- Traffic Management Committee meeting – Cllr Liddiard will also be attending the meeting tomorrow and can with Lisa Wright our CBC Highways Officer comment of the speeding and bottleneck at the Village Stores.

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- A507 Bypass Traffic Monitoring – This will be conducted by CBC and Beds Police due to highways safety issues. In the New Year we expect to see greater enforcement from the Police on this part of the road.
- Covid Vaccine Publicity – Shefford Health Centre are contacting all over 80's inviting them to take up the vaccine. CBC is fully supportive of this.
- Schools Covid Update – We are seeing a small spike in cases however 88% of children have been in school since September.

Members of the public asked the following questions:

- Where will rapid vaccination centres in the CBC area be located? *Cllr Liddiard advised that a centre was planned near to Meppershall to enable a high volume of vaccinations.*
- What can be done about the state of Shefford Road? The mud on the road is very bad today and lorries are pulling into the nursing home entrance in order to pass each other? *Cllr Liddiard agreed to flag these issues with enforcement.*
- Another resident commented that they had emailed CBC enforcement about mud on the road caused by lorries leaving the 34 Shefford Road site. It is evident that wheel washing is not in use due to the quantity of mud on the road. CBC enforcement have advised that residents should contact the Police. If this is the case why do CCBC planning approvals include conditions that cannot be enforced? Also if the planning enforcement team have no powers, should the department not be included in cost savings? *Cllr Seaman confirmed that mud on the highway is a criminal offence that should be reported to the Police.*
- Another resident confirmed that at the 84 Fildyke Road site breaches of conditions are not being enforced due to ill worded traffic management conditions.
- On behalf of the Messenger the Ward councillors were thanked for their £250 grant.
- Are the demolition crew at 59 Stocken House yet? *The clerk confirmed that they were on site.*
- A resident emailed the Clerk asking for additional street lighting from Robinson Grove to the Shillington Hill past the village entrance / exit. *Cllrs suggested that any street lighting outside of the 30mph village speed limit would not be supported. Clerk to respond to resident.*

Standing orders were reinstated at 8.10pm

### 559. MINUTES

- a. *Proposed Cllr Parsons/Seconded Cllr Seaman. Resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Meppershall Parish Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November are an accurate record of the proceedings and that they be signed by the Chairman of this meeting (at the first opportunity). Carried*

### 560. CLERKS REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING

- a. To request clarification on matters arising and items within the Clerks report.
  - As Croudace landscaping is to replace all the dying trees previously planted, the clerk was asked to investigate whether the CBC tree funding grant could be used to replace trees on Walnut Tree Way.

### 561. PROCEDURES

- a. To approve 2021-2022 meeting dates.

# MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD VIA VIDEO LINK ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020

*Proposed Cllr Chapman/Seconded Cllr Parsons. Resolved to approve 2021-2022 meeting dates. Carried.*

### 562. FINANCE

- a. Update of Parish Facilities purchases** - To review and approve income, expenditure and purchase orders for parish facilities.

There has been no movement in parish facilities purchases.

- b. Draft 2021/2022 budget** – To review and provide input into draft 2021/2022 budget in preparation for precept request in January 2021.

Item deferred to next meeting.

- c. Document approval** – To approve journal entries, bank reconciliations and bank statements.

*Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Seaman. Resolved to approve Bank Statements and Reconciliations numbered 013 savings account and 134 and 135 current account, and that they be signed electronically by Cllrs Morgan and Standbridge. Carried.*

- d. Orders for the payment of money**

*Proposed Cllr Chapman/Seconded Cllr Thompson. Resolved that the schedule of payments as presented be approved and authorised for payment. Carried.*

Payment requests received before agenda published			
BACS352	Village Garden Services Ltd	October Grass Cuts	£1,600.80
BACS353	SLCC	Clerk membership fees (cost split with Gravenhurst)	£110.66
BACS354	Mazaars LLP	External auditor fees	£360.00
BACS355	Mr P Carne	Expenses - strimmer fuel	£11.05
BACS356	Anglian Water Business (National)	Allotment Water (actual)	£716.56
BACS357	Anglian Water Business (National)	Allotment water (estimated)	£98.84
BACS358	HMRC	Q4 PAYE & NI	£268.03

### 563. PLANNING AND HOUSING

- a. Applications since last Council meeting for consideration**

- i. CB/20/04458/FULL - 8 Banland Croft - SG17 5AW - Single storey rear extension with roof light.

*Proposed Cllr Chapman/Seconded Cllr Karslake. Resolved that the Council has no comments on 20/04458. Carried.*

*Note: For planning applications that are submitted between meetings and for which an extension to the comment's deadline date is not given, powers have been delegated to the Clerk (with a proposed response circulated to the Council) to submit comments to CBC Planning.*

- b. Other Planning Matters for consideration**

- i. To consider response to Gravenhurst Neighbourhood Plan consultation. *Response due by 16<sup>th</sup> December.*

*Proposed Cllr Chapman/Seconded Cllr Thomason. Resolved that the support the Gravenhurst Neighbourhood Plan. Carried.*

- ii. Update on RAF Henlow consultation by Cllr Thompson.

Cllr Thompson reported that recent discussions concerned traffic management and that there has been no further update other than a focus on what can be incorporated from the current RAF base and included in the new development.

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### 564. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

#### a. Report from Cllr Thomason

Cllr Thomason reported that the grant funding from Groundworks UK had been received. A meeting with the Clerk and Sally Chapman has taken place to review the current status of the plan which is coming to life and looks good. Sally Chapman felt that the plan was nearly at the Regulation 14 stage.

### 565. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

#### a. Discussion on any highways issues if required

Cllr Seaman reported the following:

- Thanks were offered to Cllrs Brown and Liddiard for assisting with the presentation for the petition tomorrow at the CBC Traffic management Committee meeting. As the Police believe that Fildyke Road is not a safe place to carry out SpeedWatch duties a 20mph speed limit in this location would be welcomed.
- Walnut Tree Way now has 20mph signage
- A 40mph speed limit on the approach to the village on Shefford Road would also be welcomed.

### 566. ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

#### a. Centenary Field Parish Facilities – Update from Clerk and to consider / approve actions specific to Snagging list resolution and handover, specifically:

##### i. To review snagging list

The Clerk confirmed that the majority of items on the snagging list have now been resolved and only major items remain outstanding. We are awaiting confirmation from CBC on landscaping and cemetery issues.

- ##### ii. The Clerk on behalf of the working group confirmed that cost proposals with a deadline for a response had been sent to Croudace. The response from Croudace was received on 14<sup>th</sup> December at 17:12 via email. This inability to meet deadlines provided means that the working group has been unable to review the Croudace response and proposal in any details and put together options for the Council to consider. The initial thoughts of the Working Group are that there is little detail to the Croudace proposal.

*Proposed Cllr Chapman/Seconded Cllr Thompson. Resolved that the Working Group review the Croudace proposal received on 14<sup>th</sup> December, communicate accordingly with Croudace and make prepare proposals for the MPC January meeting. Carried.*

#### b. Allotments – Update from Clerk.

The Clerk reported that there were 2 new allotment tenants and that rent renewal reminders had been sent.

#### c. Woodland Tree Pack Planting – Update from Clerk on planting proposals and approval of any actions required.

Woodland Tree Pack was planted at the allotments on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November with Mr Carne and Cllrs Karslake, Thompson and Merryweather. A few plants remained and have been bedded in for use at a later date on Centenary Field or Old Road Meadow.

Thanks was offered to all those involved in the planting for giving up their free time.

### 567. HEALTH & SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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### **a. Community Safety** – To receive report from Cllr Seaman

Cllr Seaman reported:

- An armed robbery had taken place at the Village Stores / Post Office last week. No one was injured but money was taken from the till and safe.
- An article on scams will be appearing in next month's Messenger.

### **568. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

#### **a. A motion to exclude the Press and/or the public from the meeting**

*Proposed Cllr Parsons/Seconded Cllr Chapman. It is hereby resolved that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at Agenda Item 568.b Namely approval of actions resulting from last Personnel Committee Meeting it is advisable in the public interest that the Press and/or the Public be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw. Persons invited to remain: Mr Carne. Carried*

At 20:47 The Chairman thanked all members of the public for their attendance, wished them a Merry Christmas and asked them to leave the meeting.

#### **b. Personnel Committee Meeting** – Update from last meeting and approval of actions required.

Please refer to private and confidential minutes.

### **569. CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

The Chairman reminded everyone that the next meeting would be the 11<sup>th</sup> January and declared the meeting closed at 21:02pm

Where no signature exists in this electronic version, a hard copy version is available for inspection from the Clerk.

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