

MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, MEPPERSHALL ON MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 2026

budget included proposals and agreement for staff salaries, grants, percentage increase on previous year expenditure where applicable, the addition of new nominal code expenditure (e.g. events, electricity supply) and proposed new fixed asset purchase. The Chair thanked those responsible for the preparation of the budget.

Meppershall Parish Council		
Approved budget - 27.01.2026		2026/2027
Income		
115	VAT Refunds	£ 28,372
1000	Agency Grass Cutting	£ 966
1001	Allotment Rents Received	£ 2,400
1002	Miscellaneous Income	£ 755
1004	Parish Facilities Escrow	£ -
1005	Green Space Hire	£ 4,762
1076	Precept	£ 110,954
1090	Bank Interest Received	£ 1,500
1100	Grants and s106	£ 6,748
NEW 1	Donations	£ 750
Total Income		£ 157,208
Expenditure		
515	VAT on Payments	£ 20,797
4000	Salaries	£ 33,671
4001	ER NI	£ 3,050
4006	ER Pension	£ 7,486
NEW 2	Contractor	£ 5,000
4010	Audit- Internal	£ 452
4011	Audit - External	£ 441
4040	Miscellaneous Expenses	£ 200
4055	Computer consumables	£ 300
4057	Computer Software New	£ -
4058	Computer maintenance & service charges	£ 1,118
4060	Insurance	£ 2,200
4070	Legal Fees	£ 5,000
4071	Professional Fees	£ 3,000
4075	Postage	£ 50
4080	External Printing	£ 500
4090	Stationery	£ 300
4095	Subscriptions	£ 1,052
4098	Telephones / Broadband	£ 385
4100	Training	£ 1,700
4150	Use of Building for Meetings	£ 616
4151	Use of Home as Office	£ 312
4160	Travel expenses	£ 200
4190	Grants s137	£ 4,150
4191	Defibrilators	£ 3,030

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4205	PPE	£	450
4230	Grasscutting	£	14,710
4235	Maintenance (environmental)	£	12,600
4236	Play & Gym Maintenance	£	3,083
4250	Pitch maintenance	£	5,646
4260	Rubbish Clearance	£	2,110
4270	Trees/hedges & maintenance	£	7,730
4275	Bank Charges	£	120
4280	Village Plan / Neighbourhood P	£	2,000
NEW 3	Electricity Supply	£	500
4300	Water supply & maintenance	£	2,150
4301	Water & Drainage Rates	£	10
4304	Allotment Deposit Return	£	-
4600	Parish Facilities Projects	£	-
NEW 4	Events	£	3,000
4902	New Fixed Assets	£	41,818
	Total Expenditure	£	190,935

Proposed Cllr Parsons/Seconded Cllr Thompson. Resolved to approve the 2026-2027 budget as amended (Income £157,208 / Expenditure £190,935). Carried

b. 2026-2027 Precept

- i. Review and approve 2026-2027 precept request.

Councillors debated precept options based upon the approved budget and the impact on both general and earmarked reserves. The Clerk provided data on average Band D Council Tax charges for Central Bedfordshire parishes and England (2025/2026) to compare Meppershall to. Councillors recognised that the predicted end of year 2026-2027 general reserves would be lower than in previous years but agreed that this was necessary to achieve annual running costs and aspirations for improvements in and for the village.

Meppershall Parish Council	2025/26	2026/27
Precept (£)	91,134	110,954
divided by		
Tax base	1,098	1,114
equates to		
Band D CT charge (£)	83.00	99.60
Monetary change	10.00	16.60

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EARMARKED RESERVES MOVEMENTS		2026/2027
		Recommended Start Position
312	Recreation Ground	£ -
313	Village Highways Fund (was Hoo Road)	£ 8,136
318	Local Election Costs	£ 1,560
320	Contingency	£ 10,000
322	Traffic Calming Programme	£ -
324	Environmental Maintenance capital expenditure	£ 50,000
330	Neighbourhood Plan Grant	£ 0
332	Allotment Deposits	£ 2,819
333	Locum Clerk	£ 10,000
334	OPCC Grant Funding	£ -
335	Centenary Field	£ 3,329
336	Defibrillator Replacements	£ 7,000
337	Christmas Tree	£ 510
338	Defib batteries	£ 300
NEW	Village Sign	£ 6,000
NEW	Legal	£ 3,000
NEW	War memorial cleaning	£ 3,500
Total reserved funds		£ 106,154

Proposed Cllr Parsons/Seconded Cllr Thompson. Resolved to approve and to set a precept of £110,954 which equates to Band D Council Tax charge of £99.60 (increase of £16.60 per annum on 2025-2026). In setting the precept and budget for 2026-2027 Councillors also resolved to approve Earmarked Reserves for 1st April 2026. The Clerk and Councillor Wright were also asked to write an article for the Messenger. Carried

1248. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:55pm and reminded everyone that the next meeting would be 9th February 2026, starting at 7pm in the Village Hall.

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

Glossary

- CBC = Central Bedfordshire Council
- MPC = Meppershall Parish Council
- MVH = Meppershall Village Hall & MVHT = Meppershall Village Hall Trustees
- NALC = National Association of Local Councils
- NP = Neighbourhood Plan
- ORM = Old Read Meadow Nature Reserve