

MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, MEPPERSHALL ON MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2026

PRESENT: **Councillors:** L Wright (Chair), R Avrili, J Marsh, P Merryweather, J Parsons,
P Russell and J Thompson
 The Clerk: A Marabese.
 Others: Eight members of the public.

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7:07pm.

1305. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

Proposed Cllr Choksi/Seconded Cllr Thompson. Resolved that Councillor Parsons Chair the meeting in the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. Carried.

1306. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Addy, Avrili, Marsh and Wright, and Ward Councillor Stephenson.

1307. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The Chair read the Parish Council notice and announcement in relation to openness, transparency, and respect during meetings.
- b. To resolve to extend the meeting finish time beyond 2 hours.
Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Choksi. Resolved to extend the meeting finish time beyond 2 hours if required. Carried.
- c. Other information.
None.

1308. MEMBERS INTERESTS

- a. To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.
No declarations on interests advised.
No dispensations requested or granted.

1309. PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:10pm the Chair suspended Standing Orders to receive reports from our Ward Councillor, 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.

- a. Ward Councillor Stephenson
 - No report submitted.
- b. Village Organisations
 - None present.
- c. Questions from the public sent to the Clerk.
 - A resident is asking whether the Parish Council will consider replacing the VAS on Shefford Road (original VAS not working). They suggest that “this section of road continues to present a significant road safety concern. The absence of a functioning vehicle-activated sign removes an important traffic-calming and driver-awareness measure, increasing the risk to pedestrians, cyclists, residents and other road users. Given the speed of vehicles using Shefford Road going both into and out of the village, any reduction in safety infrastructure could have serious consequences. In particular,

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the section of road from Stocking Drive down to Spinney Corner is becoming a racetrack for some drivers. I would urge the Parish Council to treat this matter as a priority and to give urgent consideration to installing one of its proposed vehicle-activated signs around this location. Perhaps an average speed camera would be a better resolution. Should an accident occur, it is foreseeable that questions may be raised as to whether sufficient and reasonable steps were taken to address a known safety risk after concerns had been brought to the attention of the relevant authorities. I would appreciate confirmation of the timescale for the Parish Council's proposed sign installations and whether Shefford Road will be considered a priority site due to the existing safety concerns". *Clerk to report on Fix My Street that the VAS at the village entrance on Shefford Road is not working and to advise resident that MPC will investigate what measures can be taken in relation to non-working VAS's.*

d. Members of the public raised the following questions and comments.

- A resident raised issues with the water supply at the Shillington Road end of the village with no water on at least 4 occasions in the last two to three months. It is thought that the pump in the water tower is dropping out due to being overloaded and that this requires a engineer from Anglian Water to come out and reset it. *The Clerk was asked to write to Anglian Water about this.*

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7:13pm.

1310. MINUTES

- a.** To receive and approve distributed minutes of the Statutory Meeting of Meppershall Parish Council held on Monday 11th May 2026.

Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Merryweather. Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting of Meppershall Parish Council held on Monday 11th May 2026 are an accurate record of the proceedings and that they be signed by the Chair. Carried.

1311. PROCEDURES, CONSULTATIONS & LEGAL

a. Procedures

- i. Working Group Terms of Reference v1.0 (new).

Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Choksi. Resolved to adopt MPC Working Group Terms of Reference v1.0. Carried.

- ii. Meeting Recording and Filming v3.0 (changes to announcement).

Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Merryweather. Resolved to adopt MPC Meeting Recording and Filming v3.0. Carried.

- iii. Protocol for Marking the Death of a Senior National Figure v3.0 (changes to 1.2).

Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Merryweather. Resolved to adopt MPC Marking the Death of a Senior National Figure v3.0. Carried.

- iv. Volunteer Policy and Agreement v1.0 (new).

Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Parsons. Resolved to adopt MPC Volunteer Policy and Agreement v1.0. Carried.

b. Consultations and meetings

- i. None

c. Stocken House

- i. Update on identified issues, risks, meeting, and actions required regarding land transfer.

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No update since the Clerk spoke to Davidsons who advised that they are waiting for CBC Planning to decide on the variation of condition planning applications submitted. Until a decision is made, they will not make any changes to the play area or bins etc.

d. IT and Communications

i. Update from the Clerk.

A report on website usage was circulated to councillors at the beginning of the month. The Clerk has not worked on the website but plans to do this over the summer.

1312. FINANCE

a. Purchase Orders / Contracts

i. To approve all purchase orders. None.

b. Document approval

i. To approve journal entries, bank reconciliations, and bank statements.

Proposed Cllr Thom pson/Seconded Cllr Choksi. Resolved to approve bank reconciliations and statements MultiPay 27.04.2026 and 26.05.2026, Savings a/c 078 and 079, Current a/c 215 and 216.

c. Orders for the payment of money.

i. A schedule of payments was distributed at the meeting for approval and authorisation. Payments presented for payment were checked by two councillors present at the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Parsons/Seconded Cllr Merryweather. Resolved that the schedules of payments as presented be approved and authorised for payment by Councillor Thompson or Parsons. Carried.

Payment No:	Payee	Purpose	Amount
Payments made prior to meeting date including direct debits, standing orders, salaries etc			
DD01-2605	Standard Life	Clerk ER Pension Contribution (11/05/26)	
DD03-2606	Everflow	Water (08/07/26 to 07/08/26) (16/06/2026)	£179.48
DD04-2605	Smarty Mobile	Clerk Mobile Plan (19/05/26)	£7.20
DD06-2605	Lloyds Bank	MultiPay monthly fee (26/05/26)	£3.00
DD07-2605	Smarty Mobile	Allot Co-ord Monthly Mobile Plan (28/05/25)	£5.40
DD08-2606	Smarty Mobile	Env Officer Mobile Plan (3/06/26)	£4.50
DD09-2606	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges May 2026	£7.00
FA04-2606	Mr R Hirst	Salary (09/06/26)	
FA05-2606	NEST	RH ER Pension Contribution	
FA06-2606	A Marabese	Monthly Salary (15/06/26)	
BACS 1178	Three Horseshoes	AM & RA Training subsidence	£35.75
BACS 1179	Three Horseshoes	AM & RA Training subsidence	£26.85
Payment requests			
BACS 1180	Auditing Solutions Ltd	Internal Audit 2025-26	£540.00
BACS 1181	Kingham Electrical	Installation of bollard lighting Crackle Hill	£1,456.72
BACS 1182	Scotts Ground Maintenance	Grounds Maintenance May 2026	£4,657.84
BACS 1183	HMRC	QTR 1 PAYE, ER NI & EE NI	£1,230.24
BACS 1184	Shefford Runners	Payment received for MVH from Shefford Runners. Return to Shefford Runners	£58.00
Transfers			
08/06/2026	From Current a/c to Savings a/c		£100,000.00

Note of Income received:

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Income			
08/06/2026		Allotment Rent	£32.40
08/06/2026		Allotment Rent	£21.60
08/06/2026		Allotment Rent	£48.60
08/06/2026		Allotment Rent	£81.60
08/06/2026		Allotment Rent	£60.00
02/06/2026		Allotment Rent	£60.00
01/06/2026	Regina Caeli	MUGA / PITCH Use	£778.75
01/06/2026	Shefford Runners	Payment received for MVH in error	£58.00
15/05/2026	Cheques	Allotment Rent & Track rent	£145.40
11/05/2026	Don Bosco	MUGA / PITCH Use	£120.00

1313. PLANNING AND HOUSING

a. Applications since last Council meeting for consideration.

- i. CB/26/01134/FULL - 31 Gravenhurst Road, Campton, SG17 5NY - Single storey side and rear extensions and rooflight with the erection of a detached single garage.
Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Choksi. Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 26/01134. Carried.
- ii. CB/26/01196/ADV - Roundabout at the junction of Chapel Road, Henlow Bypass, Hitchin Road and Shefford Bypass - Advertisement: 4 non-illuminated, post mounted, advertising signs.
Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Choksi. Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 26/01196. Carried.

1314. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

a. Report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on.

- i. Green Infrastructure Plan draft.
The GIP has been completed and copy circulated.
Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Parsons. Resolved to approve completed Green Infrastructure Plan 2026 for Meppershall. Carried.
- ii. Extension to Conservation Area.
Queries have been raised by the consultant that the Clerk and team will respond to.
- iii. Design Guide.
This is with the Clerk.
- iv. Draft Plan.
Councillor Marsh has completed review of the questionnaire data and reviewing the data output against policies.
Census data to be updated by NP Consultant Chapman Planning

1315. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

a. To confirm VAS locations.

Proposed locations from Mr Hirst and Councillor Thompson are:

- i. Fildyke Road - Facing west up Fildyke Road, adjacent to the public footpath at 30 Fildyke Road

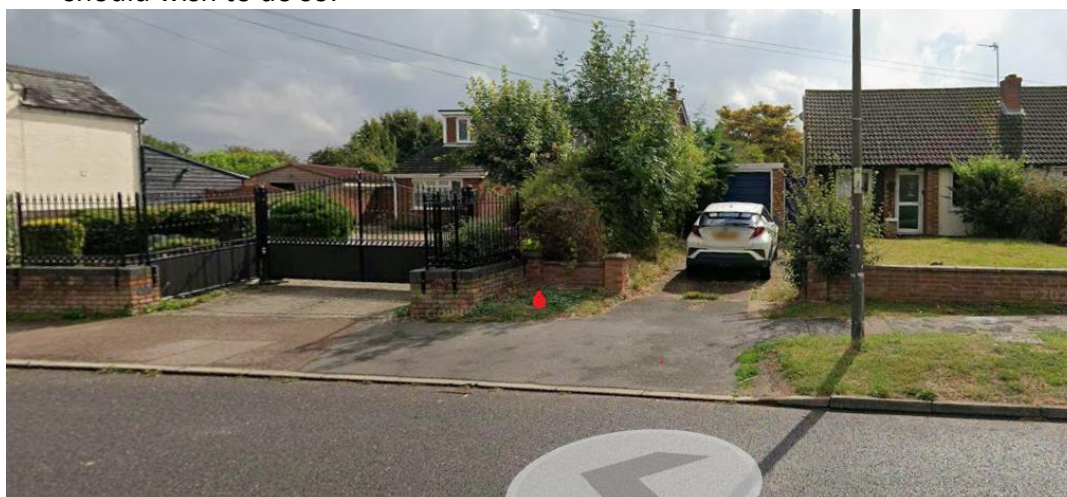
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- ii. High Street, adjacent to 63 High Street. This will be fitted facing South towards Budgens but will have the ability to be moved to face north towards the school if we should wish to do so.



Councillors agreed with the proposed VAS locations and asked that we pre-notify householders of the VAS installations.

b. Update on Highways issues.

- A footpath from Poppy Gardens to Crackle Hill is due for installation from circa 18th August.
- Potholes on Shefford Road continue to be an issue.
- The raised tables have been reinstalled on the Stocken House development.

1316. ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

a. Update on Allotment Access Track Agreements.

The Clerk advised that 4 agreements are outstanding and documents and letters resent to them.

b. Update on allotments including any actions.

3 plots cleared by our ground's maintenance team.

c. Update on ORM including any actions.

Nothing to report.

d. Update on Centenary Field including any actions.

Nothing to report.

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e. To consider response to reports of ASB in Carne's Copse in Centenary Field.

A resident has raised concerns regarding ASB they have experienced over the past year in Carne's Copse in Centenary Field. The resident says that the area is now being used "as an 'adventure playground' by young children and has also attracted older individuals with anti-social tendencies. On Sunday 10th May one of his fence panels had been partially lifted by some individual(s). No damage was done or costs incurred however the residents feel unsettled by this. On the same day people had trespassed into 7 Shefford Road and used a broken paving slab from the Cemetery area to smash a caravan window. Since this date an empty can of beer has been thrown over into the resident's garden, which though trivial in nature, is also unsettling. The resident considers this to be the beginning of a trend of anti-social behaviour in this location. There are no notices on view to warn children not to play there and no deterrent to stop older individuals using it for anti-social activities. The proposal to the council is to fence off the area and allow nature to reclaim it."

The Council agreed that the issue should be raised with our local policing team.

Residents are to be advised that any issues of ASB must be reported to the Police as they have the powers to take reasonable actions.

f. Update on all other environment and leisure issues.

Repairs to the outdoor gym have been completed.

1317. STAFF MATTERS

a. Allotment Co-ordinator update.

The Clerk to arrange interview with the candidate and Councillor Merryweather.

1318. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:00pm and reminded everyone that the next meeting would be on 13th July 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