



MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Mr C J Waghorn ACIB

15 Church Lane, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 1AJ

Website: www.meppershall.org

Contact
07847-948351
Fax
01462 – 637531
Email –
meppershallclerk
@gmail.com

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby give notice that an ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Meppershall will be held in the Village Hall, High Street, Meppershall on Monday 8th January 2017 commencing at 7.45 pm.

Yours sincerely,

C J Waghorn
Parish Clerk

Distribution

All Councillors
Unitary Councillors L Birt & A Brown

AGENDA

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12th December 2017 at the Village Hall have been distributed to Councillors.

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.

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

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)
 - c) CB/TCA/16/00495 – 1 Marywells – Work to sycamore tree
 - d)

- ii] Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals received**
 - a) CB/16/02868/FULL – Sugar Loaf ph, 25 High Street – change of use -
REFUSAL
 - b) CB/16/04670/FULL – 94 High Street – first floor side extension –
APPROVAL
 - c) CB/16/04896/FULL – 4 High Street – demolition of existing site
(including former Methodist Chapel) and erection of 7 dwellings.
APPROVAL

- iii] Appeals Pending - none**

- iv] Applications since last Council meeting for consideration –**
 - a) CB/16/05397/FULL – 87 High Street – Rear Conservatory
 - b) CBV/TCA/16/00495

- 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) 41, Coneygate case opened reference the possible unlawful extension of garden. After investigation the Enforcement Officer decided that there had been no encroachment
 - b) Notification has been received from the Planning Enforcement Officer that there has been a breach of planning – an unauthorised development at Meppershall Airfield in the shape of a new runway (if Heathrow can try to install a third runway, why shouldn’t one of its competitors - Meppershall have a second??)

- vii] North Hertfordshire Homes**

A resident in Orchard Close has been in touch with Councillor Smith P and has expressed concern at what appears to be survey work being carried out on a fairly large scale on the land at the back of her property. Subsequently, the Clerk received a letter from North Hertfordshire Homes and a copy of that letter is attached.

Since the company is based in Letchworth the Clerk went to the Company’s Offices and met the signatory on the letter, Paul Richards who confirmed the situation as outlined in the letter. Full details of the suggested development, although promised, have not as yet materialised. A plan of the site has been provided (copy attached) which indicates that it will be accessed from Shefford Road following the demolition of number 32. It is understood that the intention will be to erect 80+ dwellings on the Site which will stretch from Shefford Road down to the Hoo Road bridleway.

- 5B FINANCE MATTERS**
Accounts Financial Year 2016-2017
 Figures for the first 6 months of the financial year to 30 September will be distributed at the meeting
- 5C HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP**
- i) **Working Group Highways Report**
 Councillor Smith R to report on any issues arising since the last meeting.
 - ii) **Street Lighting Column in Orchard Close**
 The unsatisfactory response to the damage done to a lighting column in that location was reported to the November meeting.
- 5D ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE WORKING GROUP**
- a) **Grass cutting Contract**
 Four tenders have been returned of the five that were sent out and a depersonalised summary is attached. The tenders have been considered by Councillor Merryweather and the Clerk and their recommendation will be made clear at the meeting.
 - b) **Councillor Merryweather to report** on other matters.
- 5E OLD ROAD MEADOW**
 Matters arising
- 6 OTHER MEETINGS**
Bedfordshire Police Rural Crime Conference
 Councillor Thompson to attend on 16th December and report to the January meeting
- 7 ALLOTMENT FIELD**
- a) **Tenancy Agreements**
 There remain just 2 plots where the rental has yet to be paid and these are being pursued.
 Rentals received amount to £1394.40 from 66 plots
 Rentals due but outstanding £ 33.60 from 2 plots
 Rentals on unlet plots £ 457.80 from 24 plots
 Possible rental income £1885.80 from 92 plots all let and paid
 Water 2015/2016 £ 963.23
 Maintenance 2015/2016 £ 835.94
- 8. PARISH PLAN REVIEW GROUP**
 The initial work of the Group in the gathering of information has been completed. All the information has to be collated and a report on the findings prepared. This will be available during the first quarter of 2017
- 10. COMMUNITY ASSET – THE SUGARLOAF PH**
 Councillor Smith P to report on the present situation
- 11 HOO ROAD RESURFACING`**

Eight of the ten have responded positively to contribute towards the cost but cannot afford to contribute and one hasn't as yet been contacted. In the interest of getting the matter started, CBC have agreed to fund a further £500 and have instructed the contractors to put the matter in hand.

12. PRECEPT

Any requirement for the provision of funds for the next financial year must be advised to this meeting. The Finance Working has a meeting arranged for 13th December at which budgets will be considered and a proposal for the precept for 2017/2018 will be presented to the January meeting. The precept requirement must be advised to Central Bedfordshire Council by 20th January 2017

13. POLICE CRIME STATISTICS

A copy of an email from Roger Fowler is attached explaining the new system of recording crime which Councillors are welcome to use. If any Councillor can understand the procedure please help the Clerk!

14. ORDERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF MONEY

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

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two Parish Council meetings will be an ordinary Meeting on 9th January 2017 and an ordinary meeting on 13th February 2017. The cut-off time for the receipt of papers for the January agenda is 5 p.m. on Tuesday 27th December 2016

The Meppershall Christmas Tradition

*As always, following the December Council meeting,
Councillors are invited to repair to the home of the
Chairman where he and Mrs ~~Pickwick~~ Chapman and their
Family will be happy to provide Christmas sustenance and
fare at this, the first major event of the Festive Season
2016*

*A joyous and happy Christmas to you all.
May the spirit of Christmas ensure for you a happy and
joyous holiday time with Family and Friends
and may 2017 bring health and happiness to all
Chris*



*Any perceived resemblance of any
Councillor to Mr Pickwick's friends in
this sketch are purely coincidental*