

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF
Emberton Parish Council**

Held on Monday 18th March 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillor Victoria McLean (Chairman)
Councillor Steve Gibson (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Paul Flowers
Councillor Soo Hall
Councillor Mike Horton
Councillor Richard Laval
Councillor Harry White

Mrs K Goss (Clerk & RFO)

Ward Councillors David Hosking and Keith McLean
PC Dave Spencer – Thames Valley Police
25 residents and landowners

1. **Apologies** were received from PS Lucy Boddington (TVP), Ward Councillor Peter Geary, Mr McGrandle and Mrs Dench
2. **The Minutes of the Annual Assembly** held on 19th March 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Thames Valley Police**
PC Dave Spence introduced himself and gave the crime figures for Emberton for 2018 which were as follows; 3 theft from motor vehicles, 5 theft offences, 1 reported robbery, 1 dangerous dog incident, 5 reports of criminal damage, 5 reports of domestic burglaries, 2 reports of business burglaries and 5 assaults without injury.

Mrs Laval asked what constituted a theft.

PC Spencer responded that this would be taking something such as a lawnmower rather than a vehicle.

Councillor Horton asked how many crimes were related to Emberton Park.

PC Spencer responded that he didn't know but would ask the question. **Post meeting note** – 3 of the domestic burglaries related to Emberton Park but no one had been arrested for the offences and TVP felt that the offenders had probably left the area.

PC Spencer stated that TVP now had two special constables who had the same powers of arrest as police constables but they undertook the role on a voluntary basis, working Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The roles were ring fenced to the rural area and the officers had undertaken a speed awareness operation in Emberton. PC Spencer touched on Operation Drover and stated that it ran four times a year and was designed to reduce rural crime. The rat running was something that PS Boddington was aware of and it was hoped that this would be picked up within Operation Drover.

Mr Logsdail asked if the rat running was enforceable and asked why tickets had not been issued to the drivers breaching the traffic order?

PC Spencer stated that he was not aware of the incident and would take this back to PS Boddington. **Post meeting note** – the issue was raised with TVP and the clerk provided PS Boddington with some background information as follows; the enforcement of the restricted access took place around September 2017 when vehicles were stopped and turned around instead of being able to pass through Emberton. PC Hipkin was the officer at the time. At that time, vehicle owners were handed a note explaining the restriction. The parish council had always understood that enforcing the restricted access was very difficult as it would be difficult to prove that a vehicle was not going to stop on its way through. When PC Andy Perry looked at this issue, he said that it would mean two officers being sited at either end of the village and a further officer in the middle of the village making a note of the vehicle and time passing through. At the time of the last enforcement the number of vehicles turned around was in the region of 70-80.

Mrs Laval commented that the speed that vehicles came through the village was way above the speed limit.

Mrs Cooper asked if anyone had been apprehended for the theft and burglaries.

PC Spencer responded that he didn't believe so, but would find out.

Councillor V McLean commented that the parish council attended the Olney Ward Community Forum which was attended by Thames Valley Police with the next meeting being on the 15th May at the pavilion and that residents were welcome to attend.

4. **Matters Arising**

Nothing to report.

5. **Report of Emberton Parish Council**

Councillor V McLean gave the **Report on behalf of Emberton Parish Council** which is attached to these Minutes.

Councillor V McLean took questions from the floor.

Mr Logsdail referred to the Neighbourhood Plan and questioned the number of houses.

Councillor Laval responded that the Steering Group had not got a clear understanding of how many houses should be built. In order for the plan to be legal, only one house had to be allocated. The school field was in the plan and if the Steering Group were looking at between 11 and 20 houses; a single development with 11 or more houses had to have 30% affordable housing.

Mr Logsdail commented that the Neighbourhood Plan had not stated a maximum number of houses whereas other Neighbourhood Plans had.

Mrs Godber stated that she felt that The Institute should be listed as a community facility.

Councillor Laval responded that this was because The Institute had been put forward for development and it was felt that there were other facilities in the village such as the pavilion and church that would be able to cope with the additional events that would be lost at The Institute. The Steering Group's preference was for development on brownfield sites

within the settlement area; The Institute was one of those.

Mr Clarke commented that EUC had no plans to develop The Institute in any way and no decision had been made on it; it was a question of keeping options open. The Institute would remain a community asset for a long time.

Councillor Laval responded that if EUC wanted to leave The Institute as a community asset, it couldn't be a site for potential development.

Councillor Flowers suggested that the trustees of EUC make their minds up and come back to the Steering Group.

Mrs Cooper commented that thinking to the future of the village, there would be a question mark regarding the school; will this be included in the plan?

Councillor Laval responded that the Neighbourhood Plan had identified this for housing should it come forward.

Mr McGregor made reference to the land put forward at Petsoe End for potential development and asked how the sites were put forward.

Councillor Laval commented that people put forward the land that they would like to develop on. The Steering Group came up with a scoring system with the preference for development on brownfield sites within the settlement area (the west side of the village, Newport Road, Honey Hill) and then on new sites in the settlement area. The Steering Group might need to include something in the plan regarding Petsoe and development in the open countryside.

Mr Solt asked as a landowner what was his status in relation to the plan?

Councillor Laval responded that any landowner could put forward comments. However, if a landowner was not on the Electoral Roll, they would not get a vote on the plan.

Mr Solt commented that the plan looked like a village plan rather than a parish plan. The east side of the village was one of the least populated parts in southern England and something that residents would have ideas on in the future. Right through the plan, it was just about the village, there were no parish assets outside the village.

Councillor Laval responded that there were no assets east of the village.

Mr Solt commented that Hollington Wood should be considered an asset.

Councillor Laval responded that this was a fair point and it might be something that the Steering Group needed to look at.

Mrs Duncan asked if there could be a policy in the plan on light pollution.

Councillor Laval suggested that Mrs Duncan put this in writing.

Councillor V McLean stated that she would like to take the opportunity of thanking Richard Laval and also Chris Akrill of Town Planning Services for their work on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr Mann commented that he would like to raise a question regarding Emberton School and stated that when the school house was sold, the funds were put into a charity account which was administered by the trustees of the school.

Councillor V McLean responded that the trustees were governors of the school and the question of the school house fund had been raised with the federation.

Councillor McLean commented that the trustees were named on the Charities Commission website.

Councillor Horton stated that he had been requested by the parish council to look into this further and had found difficulty in obtaining the trust deed to ascertain what would happen to the account if the school closed. The income was to be used for the pupils of Emberton School.

Mr Mann commented that the school was built in 1875 on land owned by the village; what was going to happen to the school when it would no longer be a school and it was on land that belonged to the parish of Emberton?

Councillor McLean suggested that the parish council arranges to meet the Director of Property regarding Emberton School.

Mrs Yeomans asked that consideration be given to the wild flowers not being cut back in Petsoe End when mowing and spraying took place.

Councillor Gibson commented that it was good to see so many residents attending the Annual Assembly from Petsoe and it would be good to have some nominations from Petsoe for the forthcoming parish council election.

6. **Milton Keynes Councillor Report**

Councillor David Hosking presented his report as follows:-

Budget – Councillor Hosking reported that MKC passed the budget last month. There would be a 2.99% Council tax increase, increase in parish council precept and a rise in the emergency services tax. Recycling sacks were discussed with an agreement on restricted supply and replacing it with an online system.

A509 litter pick – There was a litter pick earlier in the month. The A509 was not getting litter picked quite as often as other areas of MK (every 8 weeks).

Planning – Plan:MK goes to full Council next Wednesday.

Planning applications – There were some concerns with what happened with planning applications within MKC. There were a couple of applications in Emberton where there were concerns about the process in determining the application. A meeting was being set up with the residents affected and MKC to understand the process that MKC went through to determine the applications.

Mr Solt commented that he submitted a formal complaint to the Council about a planning application in relation to the process; how would he hear the outcome of the complaint?

Councillor Hosking responded that he would feedback to the parish council and suggested that Mr Solt shared his concerns. There were a number of other parishes that had also raised concerns with the planning application process.

Mr Mann commented that he had an interesting experience when he requested recycling sacks. These were delivered by an individual in a saloon car and asked how this cost could be justified.

7. **A report from Mr Warwick Clarke on behalf of Emberton United Charity**, was read out and is attached to these Minutes. Mr Clarke asked that the parish council record that Mr Mann had retired after serving sixty years as a Trustee of Emberton United Charity.

There were no questions from the floor.

8. **A report from the Well & Towers History Society** was read out by the Chairman in the absence of a representative from the Well & Towers History Society and is attached to these Minutes.

9. **A report from the Emberton Playing Field Committee** was included with the presentation from the Chairman and is attached to these Minutes.

10. **Parish Related Matters**

Mrs Laval – commented that work was taking place for the Sainsbury development and she was concerned regarding the impact of traffic between 3pm and 7pm.

Councillor Hosking stated that he would take this up with the officers concerned and had been assured that this would not happen.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm