

Emberton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting – Monday 7th January 2019

Present:

Councillor Victoria McLean (Chairman)
 Councillor Soo Hall
 Councillor Michael Horton
 Councillor Richard Laval
 Councillor Harry White

Mr Fred Markland – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
 Mr John Lockwood - resident

Ward Councillor Keith McLean

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Apologies for Absence - Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Gibson, Councillor Flowers and Ward Councillors David Hosking and Peter Geary.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – There were no Declarations of Interest.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 10th December. Councillor Hall requested an amendment to the Minutes in that when she gave her report from the EPFC/ESSC Meeting of the 13th November she started by stating that she had been to many meetings in the past but nothing like the one she had attended then and would only report on the salient points in brief. The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

- 1.2 Mr Lockwood addressed the meeting and stated that he lived at 14 Olney Road, also known as the Old School House and his property was originally part of the same plot as the existing school with several common boundary walls. Mr Lockwood asked whether the parish council were aware of what was happening with the school. Councillor V McLean responded that Emberton School was part of a Federation of six schools with an Executive Head and a governing body that represented all the schools. Councillor V McLean commented that she had met with the Chair prior to the end of the summer term and had been advised that the drop in pupil numbers made the school untenable but that the governing body were actively investigating opportunities to keep the school open. The governing body were then going to come back to the parish council in six weeks, which they had failed to do so. A disappointed email was sent to the governing body at the end of last term and they responded with an apology that they weren't able to send a representative to the parish council meeting and there was a consultation going on with a view to closing the school but they were continuing to look at options. Councillor Horton suggested that Mr Lockwood take his issues up regarding maintenance of the boundary walls with the Education Department at MKC. Councillor V McLean asked if Mr Lockwood had any concerns at the moment. Mr Lockwood responded that there were no present concerns but having a common boundary wall was a concern for the future.

Mr Lockwood left the meeting at 7.45pm

- 3.74 Emberton Neighbourhood Plan – Councillor Laval made a presentation to the parish council on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (V6.2) and gave some background information as to: a) how the plan was produced and the findings of the questionnaire, b) the revision of the settlement boundary, c) sites that came forward for development, d) how the sites were assessed, e) the housing allocation figure from MKC of one house, f) how affordable housing could be achieved, g) how MKC policies would come into play when considering any further development.

Councillor Hall commented that the Steering Group had worked hard as a committee to produce a very professional plan. Councillor White commented that Sherington had a problem with their Neighbourhood Plan and the housing allocation. Ward Councillor McLean responded that Sherington was a “selected village” and the parish council had elected to take 20-40 houses before their Neighbourhood Plan was produced. Councillor V McLean commented that she would like to endorse the comments made by Councillor Hall and thank those involved in putting together the plan. Councillor Laval commented that the draft plan would be published on the website and would be sent to every household in Emberton together with a covering letter. The draft plan would be out to consultation for six weeks and would come back to the Steering Group for amendment if necessary before being submitted to MKC and then the Planning Inspector before the parish referendum.

It was proposed by Councillor V McLean, seconded by Councillor Hall and unanimously agreed that V6.2 of the Neighbourhood Plan be approved, subject to some minor typing amendments.

Mr Markland left the meeting at 8.10pm

1. **Dates for Commitment** – The dates for commitment were noted.
2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING** – Nothing to report.
 - 2.1 Clerk’s Report
 - 2.1.24 **Weed spraying** - The clerk made enquiries with Serco for an annual weed spraying programme. Response awaited.
 - 2.1.102 **Silent Soldier** - The Silent Soldier has been removed and placed in Church.
 - 2.1.103 **WW1 Commemorative bench** - Decision of grant application awaited.
 - 2.1.104 **WW1 Commemorative bin** – Purchase of bin allocated in budget.
 - 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
 - 3.6.16 **Clock tower damage** – Update received from Boden & Ward (3/1/19) stating that the person scheduling the works was on annual leave until the 14th January. It was anticipated that the works would be completed in early spring but Boden & Ward would endeavour to finalise a date after 14th January so that EPC could arrange the traffic management.

2.2 To receive reports from meetings attended:

Parish Forum (13/12/18) – Councillor Horton reported that some parish councils were in favour of taking on services and some were not and a question was raised if there was no financial saving, what was the point?

EPFC/ESSC (17/12/18) – Councillor Hall reported that there was a new member brought onto the committee (Helen Knight) and that Gerry Broadbent was now the Minutes Secretary and Vicki McLean was Correspondence Secretary. Councillor Hall had been asked to bring back to the parish council the fact that there was no Bookings Secretary or Treasurer and Councillor Hall asked if Councillors had any suggestions of anyone who could be contacted regarding the positions. The role of the bookings secretary had been split as Norman Gillam had been asked to head up a team of bar staff so the bookings secretary didn't get the problem. The committee were looking at fund raising events – Burn's Night, Grand National Lunch and an event in the summer. A new cleaner had started working 2 hours a week. A revision in charges was being looked into.

2.3 Update from Ward Councillors

Street Lighting – Ward Councillor McLean asked if there were still issues with street lighting. It was noted that some of the street lights in Olney Road had not been replaced with the new LED lights. Ward Councillor McLean to follow this up.

**K
M**

Olney Ward Community Forum – Operation Drover will take place on Thursday 10th January and might look at the rat running.

Budget – This was out for consultation.

18/00643/FUL – Ward Councillor McLean commented that it was quite unacceptable that the parish council had not been kept informed at the level expected regarding this planning application and suggested that the parish council write to seek assurance that this would not happen again.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 **Emberton Park** – Nothing to report.

3.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – Nothing to report.

3.85 **Emberton School – correspondence from Mr N Sibbald** – Councillor Laval asked what the consultation would involve. Ward Councillor McLean commented that he had no idea given that it was a federation and didn't know where the ownership lies. Councillor V McLean commented that all the parish council could do was to keep the pressure on and she would follow this up as Chair.

Vm

3.87 **Public Path Diversion Order 005 and 008 Chicheley and 015 Emberton** – There were no objections to the Order. The clerk to respond accordingly.

KG

3.93 **Milton Keynes East Local Stakeholder Group** – Councillor V McLean reported that she was unable to attend the meeting and the Minutes had yet to be circulated. Ward Councillor McLean commented that the aim was to submit the bid by March

which might be scaled back to £25m.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS & ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.1 **To note planning decisions** – The planning decisions spread sheet was noted and was reported on under the items below.

4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Councillor Horton reported that the committee were due to meet on the 13th December but the meeting was not quorate so no decision could be made on a grant application. Next meeting to be held on the 28th March.

4.109 **Solar Farm & Community Benefit Fund** – Nothing to report.

4.210 **18/00643/FUL** – Conversion and extension of an existing stone barn to a two bedroom residential property at barn set back from West Farm Way for Mr D J Soul – **permitted**. It was agreed to write a letter to Mr Bracey to raise concerns regarding this application. The clerk to draft.

KG

4.225 **17/03386/FUL** – Public airsoft events scheduled for once every two weeks throughout the year (with a break in Winter of variable length according to weather conditions). Occasional private bookings (retrospective) at Hollington Wood, Newport Road for Mr C Williams – **refused**. It was agreed that, as there was nothing further to report, this item could be removed from the agenda.

4.229 **18/02637/TCA** – Notification of intention to reduce and reshape the upper crown of a silver birch by a reduction of approximately 2.5 – 3.0m in height, pruning back to suitable growth points and unions at Old Rectory Coach House, Olney Road for Mrs Crocker – **no objection**

4.230 **18/03015/FUL** – Erection of a single storey timber outbuilding for use as a garden room at 7 West Farm Way for Mr Sparks. There were no objections to this application. The clerk to respond accordingly.

KG

4.231 **18/00369/DISCON** – Details submitted pursuant to the discharge of condition 8 (biodiversity enhancement scheme) attached to planning permission 18/00643/FUL at Barn set back at West Farm Way for Mr D Soul. The clerk to respond that there were no comments to this discharge of conditions.

KG

5. ACCOUNTS

5.1 **RFO's Report** – The RFO's Report for the 7th January 2019 was accepted. It was proposed by Councillor Horton, seconded by Councillor Laval and unanimously agreed that the below payments be approved.

Anglian Water – supply at allotments	£25.51
Antrams Payroll Services – quarterly payroll	£39.00
Mrs K Goss – clerk's December salary	£416.34
Mrs K Goss – clerk's December computer/telephone/expenses	£48.48

5.2 **Draft Budget – to approve budget and set precept.** Councillor Laval stated that the current budget was reliant upon a healthy balance being carried forward from

the previous financial year and that this year, the balance carried forward had decreased. It was proposed by Councillor Laval, seconded by Councillor Horton and unanimously agreed that the precept be increased by £1000 to £18000 for the 2019/2020 financial year.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

7.1 Village Publicity – The clerk to draft. Councillor Laval to draft a report for the Well & Towers regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

7.2 Councillors' Concerns

Councillor White reported that a local news statement had commented that MK were going to introduce a 20mph speed limit. Ward Councillor McLean responded that this was for new developments and that Moulsoe had written to MKC asking them to support it but it also needed to have support from TVP.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is confirmed as Monday 4th February 2019 at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm