

**Emberton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair  
 Cllr Paul Flowers  
 Cllr Fred Markland  
 Cllr Guy Palmer  
 Cllr Harry White

Ward Cllr Keith McLean

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

**To accept Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jamieson, Ward Cllrs Peter Geary and David Hosking. Cllr Duncan reported that a resignation had been received from Cllr Gibson. Cllr Gibson had been a parish councillor for twelve years, most of which either as Chair or Vice Chair. The clerk to organise a card. **Action: KG.** It was agreed that, although the parish council election was due in May, to advertise the vacancy with a view of co-opting. **Action: KG**

**Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda** – Cllr Duncan declared an Interest in item 2.1.17.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Cllr Markland commented that comments made under item 3.74 of the previous Minutes referred to the planning appeal for 34 Gravel Walk and not the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were then signed by the Chair.

1.2 **Public questions** – There were no members of the public present.

1.3 **Risk** – Nothing to report.

2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION**

2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report**

**Ward Councillors' Grant** – Application was open for the Ward Councillors' Grant, deadline for submission 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**Emberton Park** – Resurfacing the perimeter road had taken place between Grounds Café and the static caravan park; this was looking very good.

**A509** – Works had taken place on the dip on the A509; this was a temporary repair.

**MKCC Budget** – Proposal of an increase by 4.99%, 0.1% less than the maximum increase with social housing rent up by 7%.

**MK East** – Three applications for MK East had come forward for 800 houses, for the purpose of development rather than detail. Ward Cllr McLean commented that his worry was with flooding in the area.

**Olney** – Traffic lights once again in Olney for Anglian Water works; emergency repairs.

**A509 speed limit signage** – Noted that the speed limit signs on the A509 changed from 50 to National then back to 50. Ward Cllr McLean to report this. **Action: KMc**

Cllr Duncan reported that one of the sites in the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan had received planning permission. Ward Cllr McLean remarked that the decision did not make sense. It was noted that there was no right of appeal with the planning inspector. Ward Cllr McLean suggested contacting David Blandamer for his advice. **Action: KG**

2.2 **Thames Valley Police** – Nothing to report.

2.3 **Parishes Forum** – Cllr Duncan reported that the focus was on the budget with one council making reference to some properties that had been granted planning consent not being included in the precept.

2.4 **Dates for Diaries** – It was noted that the 8<sup>th</sup> May was the King’s Coronation and the parish council meeting was therefore moved to the 15<sup>th</sup> May. The date of the June parish council meeting was moved from 5<sup>th</sup> June to 12<sup>th</sup> June.

2.5 **Clerk’s Report**

2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – nothing to report.

2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – nothing to report.

2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Awaiting feedback from highways.

2.1.115 **Pump in pump field** – The clerk wrote to Nick Crank at MKCC to ascertain whether the pump in the pump field was of any heritage importance. Response received as follows:

“By ‘listing’ I assume that you mean adding to the Historic Environment Record (HER)? I’d be happy to add this feature to the HER if you could provide me with more evidence and detail regarding the pump and its history. Though it appears to be of some age based on what I can see using Google Streetview it does not appear on the historic Ordnance Survey maps that we hold, suggesting that it is not Victorian or early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

As indicated this feature seems an unlikely candidate for statutory listing. However, this process is handled by Historic England, with more information available here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/apply-for-listing/>

Cllr Flowers commented that the pump was used to pump water into the barns when they were a dairy. The clerk to make enquiries with the History Society. **Action: KG**

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – The clerk to obtain the SIDs from Moulsoe. **Action: KG**

- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – Awaiting response from MKC regarding transfer.
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – pedestrian safety issues** – Awaiting response from MKCC highways.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Awaiting update from Ward Cllr Geary.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – Awaiting installation.
- 3.6.115 **Village questionnaire** – No further comments have been received.
- 3.6.116 **No HGV's - Newport Road** – Awaiting update from MKCC highways.

### 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – It was noted that MKCC had provided limited information on the accounts of Emberton Park. Cllr Markland commented that the issue of income had been raised at the PLUG meeting previously and Paul Trendell had stated that he would try to supply the information. Cllr Markland reported that the PLUG had commented that income streams were falling and there needed to be a way to see what that meant for the park. Ward Cllr McLean responded that PLUG was aimed at users of the park and was not a decision-making body and it was never the intention of PLUG to disclose how income was spent.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – It was agreed that a date for a meeting should be set and further advice needed to be sought from David Blandamer at MKCC and the planning consultant, Chris Akrill, now that 34 Gravel Walk had been granted planning permission. The clerk to contact Chris Akrill. **Action: KG**
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Duncan reported that that there was a much clearer view of the timeline on how the two charities developed. Only the income on the School House Fund could be spent and not the capital. The clerk to draft a letter to the trustees to emphasise that we are dealing with two sets of charities with two constitutions and this needed to be made clear to them. **Action: KG to draft an email for circulation and approval.** It was noted that nothing had been heard back from the legal department.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – It was noted that the SRC meeting was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – No update from MKCC. It was noted that there would be an opportunity for the parish council and residents to feed into the review once it had taken place.
- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton/cycle links from Emberton to Olney and Sherington** – Cllr Markland referred to S106 money which Sherington and Olney had access to but Emberton did not and asked whether the parish council could suggest to them that funds were spent on cycle links between these two communities? Ward Cllr McLean responded that this was a good question to ask both parishes whether this would be a viable project but it would be a MKCC decision how the money was spent. It was agreed that the clerk would write to Sherington PC and Olney TC. **Action: KG**

- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – A discussion took place on how the parish council could be more proactive with regard to the lack of the 21 bus service for Emberton with suggestions of 1) raising this issue with Cllr Debbie Whitworth at Olney TC who had been proactive with attempting to re-instate the 41 bus service and 2) speaking at a Milton Keynes City Council meeting with a view to asking the committee a question on the re-instatement of the 21 bus service in Emberton. The clerk to find out the date for the next Full Council Meeting. **Action: KG**
- 3.112 **Planning Application Validation Requirements** – Awaiting the results of the consultation.
- 3.113 **Climate Change** – It was proposed by Cllr Flowers, seconded by Cllr Markland and unanimously agreed that the Climate Change policy be approved. The clerk to put this on the parish council website under a “Climate Change” page. **Action: KG**
- 3.114 **Parish Councils Partnership with MKCC Rights of Way Section** – North Crawley have appointed their own volunteer dedicated footpaths officer to walk public footpaths and bridleways in their parish and report back any issues to the MKCC rights of way officer. It was agreed that the parish council should follow suit. The clerk to put this in the parish magazine and ask for volunteers for a ranger to inspect the rights of way. The parish council would also annotate a parish council map with notes of ownership for ease of reporting issues. **Action: KG**

#### 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – A discussion took place regarding potential applications for the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund with a suggestion of battery storage for the photovoltaic panels on the pavilion roof. The clerk to contact ESSC. **Action: KG**
- 4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Nothing to report.

#### previous applications status

- 4.309 **21/01130/FUL** – Erection of one dwelling with attached single garage (re-submission of 20/00483/FUL) at 34 Gravel Walk – **permitted**
- 4.336 **21/00249/COMPCH** – Appeal by Mr Philip Solt against an enforcement notice served for Without planning permission, the unauthorised change of use of part of the land and operational development **Land** at Hollington Wood, Newport – **pending**
- 4.337 **21/00249/COMPCH** – Appeal by Special Ops HQ against an enforcement notice served for Without planning permission, the unauthorised change of use of part of the land and operational development **Land** at Hollington Wood, Newport Road – **pending**.
- 4.341 **22/02055/DISCON** – Approval of details required by conditions 4 (Landscaping and Boundary Treatment), 7 (Cycle parking details) and 10 (Biodiversity Enhancements) of permission ref. 20/00822/FUL At: West Lane House West Lane – **details approved**
- 4.344 **22/02310/TCA** – The pruning back all over by no more than 2m of a Copper Beech (T1) to maintain good shape and health of tree. The reduction of 3 small conifers (T3) to 2m above hedge in front, and the reduction by 4m of one large conifer (T3) at Holcombe House, Olney Road. It was noted that a revised site plan had been submitted – **pending**

- 4.345 **22/0375/ENF – 59 Olney Road** – description of alleged breach Erection of a timber garden building less than 2.5m from the property boundary – **no enforcement action (permitted development)**

### New applications

- 4.347 **22/0-2980/TCA** – The removal as close to ground level as possible of 1 x Silver Birch (T1) at The Coach House, 19A High Street. It was noted that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations made by MKCC’s tree officer with regard to this application.
- 4.348 **22/02999/TCA** – Crown reduction in height and spread by approximately 1.5-2 metres of Swedish Whitebeam (T1) tree to remove the sections overhanging the driveway of no. 19a at 19 High Street. It was noted that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations made by MKCC’s tree officer with regard to this application.
- 4.349 **22/03026/CLUP** – Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed demolition of the existing rear extension and the erection of a new single storey rear extension at 28 Olney Road. Please note that this is a notification letter only. Statutory or non-statutory consultation to parish councils, town councils and local councillors is not usually required for the application type described above, due to the nature of the submission and timescales involved – **pending**

## 5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr White that the payments be approved as per the RFO’s Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.**
- 5.2 **Draft budget** – It was proposed by Cllr Flowers, seconded by Cllr Duncan that the draft budget be approved.
- 5.3 **Precept** - A discussion took place regarding increasing the precept to allow for a greater reserve but it was agreed that with the current economic climate, any increase should wait. Cllr Flowers emphasised the importance of planning ahead for likely increases in costs, with the need for future proofing in respect of identified concerns. It was agreed to review risks on potential cost increases further and explore solutions eg setting up of sinking funds. It was proposed by Cllr Flowers, seconded by Cllr Duncan that the precept be set at £18,500 with a view to look at increasing the reserve next year. The clerk to advise MKCC of the precept required. **Action: KG**
- 5.4 **Ward Councillors’ Grant** – It was agreed to apply for a grant from the Ward Councillors for repairs to the clock tower. **Action: KG**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing to report.

## 7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Cllr Gibson’s resignation, Councillor vacancy, 21 bus and MK Connect, Precept & reserve fund, Rights of Way volunteer ranger, parking on pavements, Acorn Early Years volunteer readers. **Action: KG**

7.2 **Cllrs' concerns – Cllr Markland** commented on the strain on education and health services in Olney with the new housing developments that were taking place and stated that these issues should feature on the agenda somewhere.

**Cllr Flowers** – stated that there were lights being left on overnight in the school field. The clerk to look at the conditions for the permitted planning and contact Acorn Early Years.

**Action: KG**

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 6th February 2023 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

DRAFT