

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 8th January 2024 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair
 Cllr Paul Flowers
 Cllr Colin Jamieson
 Cllr Guy Palmer
 Cllr Joe Walker
 Cllr Harry White

Ward Councillor Peter Geary (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Welcome by the Chair – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Councillor Angela Laval and Ward Cllrs Keith McLean and Debbie Whitworth.

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

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 4th December 2023 – The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December 2023 were agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – nothing to report.
- 1.3 **Risk** – Cllr Duncan commented that there were draft risk assessments circulating for the clock tower, Christmas tree and grit bins. It was noted that the risk assessment for the grit bins were complete. The clerk to update the website. **Action: KG**
2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION**
- 2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – report from Ward Cllr Geary as follows:

Budget – The MKCC budget was open for consultation with the proposal of an increase of 4.99% which would be decided in February.

Ward Councillors' grant applications – Suggestions were welcomed from the parish council for the Ward councillors' grant applications.

21 bus – Details of whether the service would continue past July would be announced next week. A scheme to link MK Connect to the closest bus service was going to be trialled in the rural area.

Triangle at Petsoe End – Ward Cllr Geary reported that new signage had been installed at the junction at Petsoe End which had been placed higher, making them more visible.

Water outside Acorn early years – It was noted that the hole for the telegraph pole to the left of Acorn early years had been put through the drain and it was now too late for MKCC to make a claim through the contractors' insurers. The damaged drain was causing flooding which would become treacherous in icy conditions, particularly as the flowing water from the drain would wash away the grit put down to protect from ice. Cllr Walker emphasised the risk to children at the Acorn Pre-school. Cllr Geary confirmed MKCC have acknowledged that work needs to be undertaken to divert the drain and would be looking for funding in the 2024/5 budget. Cllrs McLean and Geary would also write to MKCC's drainage engineer, with support from Emberton Parish Council, demanding that the repair works be carried out.

New City Plan – A meeting will be held for the 17 parishes from the Olney Ward on the 13th February to hear the proposals for the New City Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – The government had made some changes to the NPPF in December 2023, including changes to the 5-year housing supply target and the planning weight to be given to neighbourhood plans and food producing agricultural land. Cllr Duncan had asked the Ward Councillors how the draft New City Plan, and in particular MKCC's housing targets, would be affected by these changes. Cllr Geary responded that the Ward Councillors had asked an MKCC officer for a briefing note on this, which could be circulated to the parishes, and that there would potentially be changes coming from this.

Street light (outside Manor Croft) – Ward Cllr Geary commented that he would follow this up but it might not just be a case of a faulty bulb.

Willen Road – Residents in Newport Pagnell were receiving road closure notices to enable works on the Willen Road from March which could potentially be closed for a year.

- 2.2 **North East Rural Community Forum (meeting held 6/12/23)** – Cllr Laval sent a report as follows: Concerns re road layout at Prospect Place/Newton Road junction with A509 were raised and the police assured us that they and the Highways team had reviewed the junction after the recent accident and had agreed that no further action is required. I understand that there were other factors (not traffic related) involved in this incident.

Crime figures were generally reduced across the area covered. There were several related crime reports regarding a cannabis operation in Filgrave. There had also been a report relating to an indecent exposure incident. There was some light relief when the Olney reports were received relating to the theft of Frank the cat's house from Sainsburys.

Speeding and rat running were also discussed but with no practical actions proposed.

Cllr Duncan responded that the Prospect Place/Newport Road turn off the A509 appeared to be a blackspot for accidents and apparently people had moved out of the area because of it. Cllr Duncan suggested that EPC should investigate what other collisions had occurred in this location. **Action: MD.**

- 2.3 **Parishes Forum (meeting held 7/12/23)** – Cllr Duncan reported that the MKCC budget was discussed. MKCC's traffic and transport manager spoke about putting in place a Local Transport Plan for MK, as this would help with funding applications. The ambition of the transport plan was to cut down use of the car and use public transport. Currently it was cheaper to use a car and pay for parking rather than use the bus. One solution would be to look at

raising parking charges. There were various forms of public transport possible – traditional buses, Demand Responsive Transport (MK Connect) or a Mass Rapid Transit (a bus or tram system with high capacity). Electric vehicles would not solve all issues as they generated harmful particulates released from braking and tyre degrading.

The waste team information sessions were being held on the 1st February.

2.4 Dates for Diaries –

The next Annual Assembly was coming up in March. This had been poorly attended the previous year and the meeting discussed different formats for the Annual Assembly. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan steering group was still active and EPC should consider closing down this sub-committee, unless there were further issues or learning points to be discussed. The next Sports & Recreation Committee would be held on the 5th April. Cllrs Duncan and Flowers to attend the presentation on the New City Plan growth options on the 13th February at the Olney Centre.

2.5 Clerk's Report

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

2.1.50 **Pothole, Olney Road** – Pothole in Gravel Walk has now been marked for repair.

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

2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Referred to in item 3.6.115.

2.1.117 **Surface water drain outside Acorn Early Years** – Reported on by Ward Cllr Geary.

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Reported on under item 2.2.

3.6.30 **Allotments** – A discussion took place regarding the legal fees associated with the transfer of the allotments from MKCC to EPC with two estimates having been sought at £350.00 per hour. It was agreed to ask the MKCC legal department if they were able to help with the fees or provide the searches free of charge. **Action: KG.** It was agreed to advise the solicitor chosen to act on behalf of the EPC that a budget of £1050 had been set aside. A discussion took place regarding raising the funds for the legal fee with a suggestion of applying to the Ward Cllrs. **Action: KG. The meeting referred to** Cllr Walker's suggestion of an "open gardens" fund raising event. This suggestion to be carried forward to the next meeting.

3.6.50 **Dog fouling** – The clerk reported that she had been unable to find any legislation regarding where dog waste bins could and could not be sited. It was agreed that the dog waste bin was in the most appropriate location. The clerk to contact the resident who raised the concern. **Action: KG.**

3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – frequent collision issues** – See Ward Cllr's report.

3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.

3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – It was noted that an upright post was still in place where the handrail had been. The clerk to ask highways to remove this. **Action: KG.**

- 3.6.115 **Questionnaire** – The clerk shared the results of the questionnaires, for consideration and action where applicable. It was noted that it was disappointing to receive only 9 responses. A discussion took place and it was agreed that an article should be put in the Well & Towers to update residents, particularly those new to the village, of the role of the parish council and lines of communication. **Action: KG.**

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – An email had been received from a resident who had raised concerns regarding the black poplars located adjacent to some that had previously been pollard and formed a boundary to field 13. It was agreed that the resident should be notified to contact MKCC directly. **Action: KG.**
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – A discussion took place regarding raising this as a topic at the Annual Assembly. Cllr Duncan asked whether the parish council needed to keep a “Wish list” of actions from the plan. It was agreed in the short term to make a note of the planning policies within the Neighbourhood Plan when commenting as a consultee to MKCC on planning applications. **Action: KG.**
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker reported that he had been invited to the EUC meeting next week to discuss how the Emberton School House Fund could be administered as a charity within the EUC. If it was not practicable to transfer the fund to the EUC, then it might well be possible for the EUC trustees to become the trustees of the Emberton School House Fund and administer it in parallel with administering the EUC, if the EUC trustees were willing to do this. It was noted that the School House Fund could only spend the income from the capital and not the capital itself.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Meeting to be held on 5th April 2024.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – A response had been submitted. The clerk to check with Mr McGrandle that the historical content was accurate. **Action: KG.**
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service) and double yellow ones** – It was noted that a response to the TRO for the double yellow lines had been submitted.
- 3.113 **Climate Change** – Cllr Flowers reported that he had been notified that the Environmental Agency were looking at the proposal for hydroelectric plant at the Olney weir. It was noted that the National Trust had undertaken a lot of works to generate energy from water on properties they owned. Cllr Duncan commented that there was an EV Consultation in MK at the moment, which should be publicised
- 3.115 **Grit bins** – The grit bin was now in place in Olney Road. The clerk to upload the grit bin assessment and manual handling document on the parish council’s website. **Action: KG.**
- 3.116 **Access to playing field from residential properties and general access** – Agreed to take this forward to the next meeting.
- 3.118 **New City Plan (MK Design code scoping consultation)** - The meeting considered the scoping consultation on MKCC’s Commonplace website for the New City Plan and also

looked at Cllr Duncan's suggested draft response. The clerk to re-circulate the draft response and if no comments to it were received by the 15th January, the clerk to submit to MKCC.

Action: ALL/KG.

- 3.121 **Consideration of proposals to extend the restrictions on street trading by mobile vendors throughout Milton Keynes** – nothing to report.
- 3.122 **Milton Keynes City Council traffic sensitive streets review October 2023** – nothing to report.
- 3.123 **Ousedale School – admission arrangements for September 2025 consultation** – It was noted that a response had been sent to this.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Nothing to report.

previous applications status

- 4.352 **23/00342/OUT** – Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for the redevelopment of the Acorn (MK) Nurseries site for up to 29 no. dwellings including affordable housing, alongside access and other off-site highways improvements, following the demolition and removal of all existing structures and hardstanding from the site at Acorn MK Nurseries, Newton Road – **appeal for non-determination**
- 4.361 **23/00275/ENF** – Hollington Wood, Newport Road – Description of alleged breach Continued use of the ancient woodland for airsoft activities following refusal of planning permission - **pending**
- 4.366 **23/02176/FUL** – The erection of one dwelling with attached single garage at 34 Gravel Walk - **permitted**
- 4.367 **23/02349/TCA** – The reduction in height of two cherry trees (1 and 2) by 1.5 metres, the reduction in height of a field maple (3) by 4-5 metres, the reduction in height of three silver birch trees (4, 5 and 6) by 2-3 metres and the reduction in height of a beech hedge (7) by 0.5 metres at 1 Home Farm Court – **no objections**
- 4.368 **23/02399/TCA** – Remove T1 (silver birch) to ground level, reduce TG1 (yew) by 2m and prune side away from garage, and reduce 2-T5 (4 apple trees) to compact shape and remove epicormic growth at Dower House, 19 Olney Road – **no objections**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 8th January 2023** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Walker that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.**
- 5.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – Nothing to report.
- 5.3 **Draft budget for EPC** – A discussion took place regarding the draft budget and the VAT situation. It was agreed to show the actual costs to include VAT. **Action: KG.** It was agreed

to pass the additional £200 second payment of the winter hub grant to the seniors' 2024 Christmas party. It was proposed by Cllr Flowers and seconded by Cllr Jamieson that the precept be set at £19,423. The meeting agreed to reconsider the budget at the next meeting.
Action: KG.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

7.1 **Village publicity** – The clerk to draft for circulation. **Action: KG.**

7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – nothing to report, except for the damaged water pipe at Olney Road previously discussed.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 12th February 2024 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.19pm

DRAFT