

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 9th October 2023 at 7pm

Present:

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

Ward Councillor Keith McLean (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 Cllr Flowers, Cllr Laval and Ward Cllrs Peter Geary and Debbie Whitworth.

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr Duncan declared an interest in item 2.1.17 and item 4.368.

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 4th September 2023 – The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th September 2023 were agreed and duly 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** – report from Ward Cllr McLean as follows:

Closure of the A509 – The A509 to J14 of the M1 would be closed for 18 months with a couple of short breaks. Had very little reports of any major disruption.

Bus 21 – The No 21 was one of seven service routes announced by MKCC in late September as at risk of being cut. The service currently was on a “use it or lose it” basis. Cllr McLean thought quantitative data was being collected. The closure at Turvey was causing some disruption to the No 41 service. It was noted that there had not been any incidents lately regarding the 21-bus service missing the village.

Wheelie bins – Emberton had not been too badly affected after week 3. There were still some bins to be delivered in Olney. It should now be easier to report on the MKCC portal which bin had not been collected, rather than all the bins.

Petsoe End triangle – Cllr McLean met one of the highway’s officers at the triangle at Petsoe End with a local resident who had witnessed some near misses involving his tractor and trailer. The officer was going to go away and think what could be done to improve road safety at this junction. Officers did not think that the idea of having a coloured area of tarmac on the highway, suggesting that drivers needed to be more careful, was a good one. Cllr Duncan commented that families waiting for the school bus stood on the Petsoe road by the raised triangle, using it as a shelter from the traffic.

Street trading – Ward Cllr McLean referred to a consultation on the consideration of proposals to extend the restrictions on street trading by mobile vendors throughout MK; the consultation had been arranged to categorise new streets built in Milton Keynes. Following a short discussion, it was agreed to contact the MKCC licencing department requesting that out of date street trading provisions be removed as applicable. **Action: KG.**

20mph speed limit for Olney – Noted that this exercise had now moved to data gathering with a formal consultation following later this year. Cllr Duncan questioned whether it made vehicle emissions worse if they were travelling at 20mph. There were differing views on this.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – Work on this was undertaken in October last year but as there had been so much negativity regarding the schemes for Olney, these were unlikely to proceed.

EV charging – Cllr Duncan commented that Olney was a total blackspot for “rapid” EV chargers (ie. greater than 25kW) – the ones in Olney were all only 7kW which were no good for anyone wanting to recharge their car quickly to continue a journey, as the 7kW chargers could take several hours to charge. Could future developers in Olney be required to put in more useful EV chargers? Ward Cllr McLean responded that he was unaware of any obligations to instal any higher energy chargers than 7kW – also, it was questionable whether the energy infrastructure in certain places could cope with the rapid EV chargers of 50kw.

2.2 **Parishes Forum (meeting held 14/9/23)** – Cllr Duncan reported that there were the following presentations:

Milton Keynes Play Association – The aims of this Association were: To ensure all children have access to indoor and outdoor facilities. Materials were available to families, nurseries, schools and all other childcare providers to support learning through play. Education and training, including paediatric first aid and safeguarding was available to ensure the safe provision of play for all children. Cllr Duncan stated that the MKPA could offer play sessions to parish councils during the summer. The clerk responded that the previous take up for this type of scheme had been very poor from Emberton residents with more interest coming from Olney.

Housing Service for MK Tenants – The presentation described the steps which could be taken by the Housing Service for MK tenants to address antisocial behaviour relating to their housing stock.

Community Speed Watch – A presentation was made by PC Lee Turnham who headed up community speed watch (CSW) in which he explained that speeding notified to him by CSW volunteers triggered a letter to the offender, and that 90% of people who received a first letter did not go on to receive a second letter in 12 months. People who received over 3 letters became “targets” with further speeding receiving a court summons rather than licence points or a speed awareness course. A vehicle travelling at 50% above the speed limit would trigger

an additional letter to the registered keeper. If the vehicle was travelling at more than 100% of the speed limit, police would visit the registered keeper within 72 hours. A representative from Astwood & Hardmead Parish Council confirmed that their CSW scheme had been successful in reducing speeding in Astwood.

Cllr Duncan reported that CSW equipment was apparently now free to volunteer groups. Ward Cllr McLean confirmed that, if this proved to be the case, the policy was that the grant previously given for the purchase of CSW equipment would not need to be returned by EPC, as the amount of money to be returned was not worth the administration costs of returning it.

- 2.3 **Thames Valley Police** – The report from PCSO Huckle was noted. The clerk advised that PCSO Huckle would be leaving TVP at the end of October. Ward Cllr McLean added that PCSO Huckle was joining MKCC.
- 2.4 **Dates for Diaries** – It was noted that the next Parishes Forum would be on line. Ward Cllr McLean commented that MK Can was being held at Campbell Park on the 16th October on behalf of the Food Bank.
- 2.5 **Clerk's Report**
- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.24 **Weed spraying** – Awaiting information from MKCC regarding weed spraying schedule.
- 2.1.50 **Pothole, Olney Road** – Pothole in Gravel Walk reported to MKCC.
- 2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – To be raised in questionnaire.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – awaiting transfer.
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – frequent collision issues** – It was noted that there was a tree by the junction obstructing the highway. The clerk checked on the 27th September and was unable to locate it. It was agreed that this had probably been removed.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – The clerk had written to Shane Downer at MKCC who advised that his role was supporting museums, Archives and Cultural Heritage whereas HER and listed sites and buildings was the Conservation and Archaeology Team. Shane Downer had suggested his colleague, Paul Freeman, as the Estates Asset Manager, would be best placed to advise on any MKCC funds or not as the case might be and which team was ultimately responsible for the well. It was doubtful that the well was a war memorial classification.

In terms of funding, the best hope of funds was the National Lottery Heritage Fund but they were closing their £3k - £10k community grant funds from 1/12/23 and reopening in January under their new 2033 Strategy. The minimum application would then be for £10,000 and they would only fund repairs if it was part of a larger project for residents and others (eg schools) to learn more about and engage with the history and heritage of the Well/Emberton. Locally, it was possible that MK Community Foundation might be interested. Their small

grants were up to £3,000 and again they would want to see wider community participation in the project.

An email had been received from Paul Freeman stating that he could not help as the well was not an asset, he was aware of and he did not get involved with grants either. Paul Freeman suggested the parish council follow up on a previous EPC intention to investigate grants available from other sources. Cllr Duncan commented that a resident who lived nearby had spoken to an English Heritage representative, who had advised that the hedge to the field behind the well needed to be dealt with before carrying out any repairs. It was agreed to raise this with Emberton United Charities, the owners of the field.

The clerk had queried whether the parish council should have the well listed on its asset register, and insured by the parish council, given it was now confirmed the well was owned by MKCC. It was agreed that, as the well was now known to be owned by MKCC, then EPC would not have an insurable interest in the well and it should be taken off the EPC asset schedule and no longer insured by EPC.

Action: It was agreed to ask EUC as owners of the field, to cut back the hedge behind the well. It was agreed to remove the well from the EPC asset schedule and from the EPC's Zurich insurance. **Action: KG.**

3.6.115 **Questionnaire** – In October issue of Well & Towers and on parish council website.

3.6.117 **Signage for Petsoe Manor Farm & Grange Farm** – It was noted that the sign was no longer obstructed by vegetation and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 **Emberton Park** – Cllr White reported that there was a sporting event over the previous weekend. The clerk commented that work had taken place on the trees as you entered the park on the left-hand side.

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – It was noted that MKCC had set a date for the Referendum of the 23rd November and made a statement showing that the maximum expenses were set at £2,392.98. The clerk to ascertain whether any of the expenses could be used by the parish council for publicising the referendum on an impartial basis. **Action: KG.** It was agreed to put out some impartial posters regarding the referendum, reminding residents to use their vote.

3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker reported that this was on his “to do” list. **Action: JW.**

3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Meeting to be held on the 30th October.

3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – The clerk sent a reminder but no response has been received.

3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton/cycle links from Emberton to Olney and Sherington** – Nothing to report.

3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – Covered in current questionnaire.

- 3.113 **Climate Change** – Cllr Flowers had emailed the Environmental Agency regarding the proposal for a hydropower scheme at Olney weir and a response was awaited.
- 3.115 **Grit bins** – Following Ward Cllr’s Whitworth email to highways, it had been noted that permission was granted for the parish council to site a grit bin on the highway where a bench had previously been located next to the bus shelter in Olney Road if the grit bin was green. The clerk to obtain estimates for a green grit bin and salt to apply for the Ward Councillors’ budget. **Action: KG.**
- 3.116 **Access to playing field from residential properties and general access** – Cllr Duncan had drafted a reply to an affected resident for Cllrs’ comments, and this letter was approved by the meeting. It was noted that the parish council still needed some further information regarding access to the playing field direct from residents’ properties and this issue should be looked at further.
- 3.117 **New wheelie bin service and parish council owned litter bins** – Cllr Jamieson reported that he had an issue with only one green wheelie bin being emptied but this has now been resolved with the help of Ward Cllr McLean. The clerk reported that Marcus Young Landscapes were now regularly emptying the litter bins owned by the parish council. It was agreed that this item could be removed from the agenda.
- 3.118 **New City Plan (meeting held 2/10/23)** – Cllr Duncan reported that the meeting held on 2nd October in the Civic Offices of MKCC was an introductory consultation meeting for parish councils regarding the replacement of Plan:MK by an updated version of the local authority plan to be known as the New City Plan. There had been a brief presentation by MKCC about the plan making procedure, which would include a new digital platform to make the process more transparent. Then there had been a Q & A session with the parish representatives and ward councillors, with some interesting questions asked. Ward Cllr Peter Geary had asked how many houses already counted, from 2022, against the target of c53,000 (this target was based on c1,900 new homes per year to 2050, using the current housing formula). The answer was that 20,000 homes were already being built or had been allocated, so that left c 30,000, although these figures could change. Ward Cllr Peter Geary also asked if the New City Plan would still be using key settlements? Woburn and Newport Pagnell had v little land left, so would MKCC be looking at Olney for a selected or key settlement? The answers were carefully given, along the lines of “Is there a factual opportunity for growth there? We can’t say now what the Plan will say about Woburn, Olney, Newport Pagnell or any of the villages.” “The strategy of the Plan would be informed by evidence and consultation It was possible the Plan could change the hierarchy to focus growth and give somewhere a new role.” A representative at the meeting had asked what had been done to analyse what was lacking in Plan:MK eg that there was nothing specific on the role of grid roads, density, heights of buildings, connectivity, impact on classic infrastructure, not preventing building on car parks? The answer was that MKCC analyse appeal decisions. The representative from Olney Town Council had asked how the New City Plan could help with infrastructure eg health centres, expansions of schools and transport impacts? The answer was that developments which had already gone ahead should be supported by s106 contributions to education and the NHS. At Plan level, that is a root and branch assessment for infrastructure. It was important to see in consultation what had worked or not worked. Planning for infrastructure needs should have been identified in the neighbourhood plan.” Cllr Duncan to email more detailed notes from the forum. **Action: MD.**

- 3.119 **Amended Local Enforcement Plan Consultation** - The consultation was noted and it was agreed to respond that the parish council would wish to be able for it be noted on any enforcement notification whether the response was on behalf of a resident. **Action: KG.**
- 3.120 **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** – Cllr Palmer commented that there was nothing in the plan connecting Olney to Emberton Park. The parish council was not in favour of the plans and the clerk was to respond to this effect. **Action: KG.**

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White responded that the wind farm had been sold to WPO and another £7,000 has been deposited into the fund which now stands at £44,950.

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.** As agreed at the previous meeting, the date of the neighbourhood plan referendum should be notified to the planning inspector. **Action: KG.**
- 4.360 **23/01621/HOU** – Replacement of windows from single glazed to tripe glazed UPVC and replacement of the existing utility door at Stone Court Cottage, West Lane - **permitted**
- 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. The clerk to draft a response. **Action: KG.**
- 4.362 **23/01502/FUL** – Erection of one dwelling with attached single garage at 34 Gravel Walk - **refused**
- 4.363 **23/01671/TCA** – The removal of diseased and dead wood from laburnum tree (T1), and the crown reduction by 1.5m in height and all around and crown lift by 1.0m of Prunus avium tree (T2) at West Farm Way – **no objections**
- 4.364 **23/01751/TCA** – The crown reduction by 1-1.5m of Himalayan Silver Birch (T1) and the selective crown reduction by up to 2m to reprofile crown of Silver Birch (T2) at The Old Rectory, Olney Road – **no objections**
- 4.365 **23/01770/TCA** – The reduction in height by approximately 2 metres and removal of excessive unvariegated branches of Maple Tree (T1) at Old Rectory Coach House – **no objections**
- 4.366 **23/01771/TPO** - The removal of one low lateral branch (approx. 7 metres in length and approx 1.5 metres above ground level) back to the main trunk of Atlas Cedar (T1) protected by Milton Keynes Council tree preservation order no. PS/540/15/331 – It was noted that the tree officer had suggested a reduced proposal to the agent of “the removal of one low lateral branch growing towards dwelling at the bifurcation of the main limb, retaining the portion of the limb nearest the wall, of Atlas Cedar (T1) protected by Milton Keynes Council tree preservation order no. PS/540/15/331” - **pending**

New applications

- 4.367 **23/02155/HOU** – The erection of a single storey front extension with integrated garage conversion to include new bay window and render. New doors and windows to all elevations. Barn conversion to annexe at Manor Croft, Olney Road. It was agreed to respond that the property including the Barn conversion should remain as a single-household or family dwelling and that external lighting should be kept to a minimum. **Action: KG.**
- 4.368 **23/02057/HOU** – Erection of a single storey rear extension with solar panels to the roof to replace existing outbuilding/pool enclosure. Single storey front and side extensions to include alterations to the roof, garage conversion, new doors and windows and additional roof lights, new external render/cladding. New double garage with study above and new boundary wall and improved vehicle access at Springside Pasture, Petsoe End. Cllr Duncan left the room for this agenda item. It was agreed to respond that Petsoe End was a single-track lane and the case officer should satisfy themselves that conditions were put in place regarding access and noise. There was a well along this lane (Emmots well) opposite Emmotswell Farmhouse which was listed on the HER. The parish council would like to ensure that no damage was caused to this feature during the building works, should they be permitted. **Action: KG.**
- 4.369 **23/01929/HOU** – Proposed installation of new back door to property retrospective at 3 Home Farm Court. It was agreed to respond that the parish council would agree with the recommendations made by MKCC’s conservation officer. **Action: KG.**
- 4.370 **23/02069/DISCON** – Approval of details required by condition 4 (Stonework sample), condition 6 (Roof materials) and condition 7 (Door details) of permission ref 21/01374/LBC at West Lane House, West Lane. There were no objections to this application. The clerk to respond. **Action: KG.**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 9th October 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 Palmer to approve the payments online. **Action: GP.**
- 5.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – The clerk reported that an application had been made in time for the closing date of the 31st August. The clerk was thanked.
- 5.3 **Co-operative bank – change of signatories** – Cllr Walker duly signed the change of signatory form. The clerk to send to the Co-operative Bank. **Action: KG.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing to report.

- 6.1 **D Day 80** – The clerk reported that an email had been received from NALC about D Day 80 on the 6th June 2024 with reference to lighting beacons. Cllr Palmer to take this forward to the SRC meeting. **Action: GP.**

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Neighbourhood Plan, using the 21 buses, more volunteers needed for Speedwatch.

7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr White questioned what was happening with the gate in Alison Fraser Walk. The clerk responded that she had contacted a local trade to put in a new post and would chase this. **Action: KG.**

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

The meeting closed at 9.01pm