

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

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair
 Cllr Harry White
 Cllr Angela Laval
 Cllr Guy Palmer

Ward Cllr Peter Geary (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Welcome – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllrs Flowers, Jamieson, and Walker and Ward Councillors Keith McLean and Debbie Whitworth.

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr Duncan declared an interest in item 2.1.17. In the interests of transparency, Cllr Duncan also declared a connection although not a financial interest in land at Hardmead submitted for consideration in the New City Plan.

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 2nd September 2024. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd September 2024 were agreed and duly signed by the Chair.

To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** held on the 23rd September 2024. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd September 2024 were agreed and duly signed by the Chair.

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

- 1.3 **Risk** – the risk assessment for the clock tower was discussed. Cllr Laval commented that the ladder needed checking every month and details noted in a ladder inspection record. The Working at Heights regulations and risk assessment should be signed by the volunteer. Cllr Laval to check the lone working policy. **Action: AL.** Cllr Laval to send details of a stop block for the ladder to the clerk. **Action: AL.** The clerk to make a diary note for the 5-year warranty of the Arresta harness. **Action: KG.** The clerk to amend the risk assessment for the next meeting. **Action: KG.**

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

- 2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – Ward Cllr Geary reported as follows:-

New City Plan – consultation ends on the 9th October.

Flooding – properties were flooded in Emberton, Petsoe End, Lavendon and Clifton Reynes and there had been significant flooding elsewhere in the Ward but not necessarily into

properties. There was heavy rainfall on the Sunday with 7” of rain falling in 3 days. Properties in Petsoe End were affected where 3 areas of streams or groundwater formed into 1 area. Lavendon PC have called a village meeting to discuss the issues they had. It would be reasonable to request a flood prevention scheme for Petsoe End but it would be difficult to obtain as the floods were very localised. Ravenstone have a flood plan and have put in place assets that mean people can protect their properties. Surface water flooding was very difficult to predict. Someone did a good job of diverting the water in Olney Road to prevent properties flooding. Cllr Duncan referred to the fact that no one now had landlines and mobile phone signals were unreliable - the emergency services had no way of contacting residents in flooding properties. It was noted that the pumping station in Harvey Drive failed to cope with the large amount of surface water leading to drain covers in the rear of properties in Olney Road popping up and overflowing.

New town proposal – There was a proposal from government for 40 new towns across the country and as part of that there could be a new town for Milton Keynes; this would more than likely be along the M1 corridor surrounding MK. The Ward councillors were aware of the proposal but there was no information on it. (New towns were classed as more than 10,000 homes).

MK Connect – the pilot for MK Connect had now ended but plans were in place for a franchise system but no further details were available.

- 2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police** – Crime statistics between 25/8/24 and 4/10/24 was as follows: burglary business – country park.
- 2.3 **Parish Forum (12/9/24)** – Cllr Duncan reported that a presentation had been given on producing local flood plans. Cllr Laval to look at this and talk to the local MP. **Action: AL.** It was noted that MKCC have their own GIS mapping system.
- 2.4 **Dates for Diaries** – These were noted.
- 2.5 **Clerk’s Report**
- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – The clerk had responded to MKCC stating that there had been adequate consultation regarding the legal orders.
- 2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.83 **Manhole cover outside Stonepits House** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.86 **Home Farm Court (lighting)** – Awaiting further response from Joanne Payne.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – The jubilee clips had now been purchased.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – Awaiting MKCC’s legal team to respond to EPC’s solicitor.

Grass cutting – Email received from MKCC on 5/9/24 as follows: We have reviewed the change of cut frequency at this location with our contractor, but due to the severity of the bank and the safety implications the grass in that section will remain as 2 cut grass. Cllr White asked if the flat area at the top and bottom of the bank could be cut more frequently. The clerk to raise this with MKCC. **Action: KG.**

- 3.6.48 **Alison Fraser Walk** – nothing to report. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.107 **Tree planting** – Cllr Jamieson had received an estimate of £200 for replacing the dead cherry tree in the High Street. The clerk to look at grants. **Action: KG.**
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – Nothing to report.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Cllr White reported that there had not been a PLUG meeting since the last parish council meeting but the burglary at the café was noted as well as the increase in number of static caravans.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Nothing to report but noted that consideration must be given to the policies in the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan when the parish council looked at planning applications and that consistency was key
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Nothing to report.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr Palmer reported that the next meeting was on the 25th October but he had been asked to raise something regarding the gang mower. A grant application to the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund had been unsuccessful and the ground staff wanted to go ahead with the purchase whilst the price was still competitive but a cash flow issue would leave funds short to cover the Vat element. The SRC would therefore like to request a loan for the Vat element of £1080 from the parish council which would be repaid in May 2025. It was proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr White and agreed by Cllr Duncan that this request be approved.
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service) and double yellow lines** – Nothing to report. The clerk followed this up with Paul Harrison. Response awaited.
- 3.113 **Climate Change** – Nothing to report.
- 3.118 **New City Plan** – A submission to Regulation 18 consultation had been made and it was agreed to further respond under the section “Our objectives” responding to the question “Do you agree with our ambition and objectives for growth?” as follows – No - Emberton Parish Council believes it is wrong to be too ambitious with development when climate change is impacting the city from recent flooding. **Action: KG.**
- 3.121 **Consideration of proposals to extend the restrictions on street trading by mobile vendors throughout Milton Keynes** – Decision notice from Regulatory Committee meeting on 25th September as follows: That Olney Road and High Street in Emberton be redesignated from Prohibited Streets to Consent Streets. That these designations be implemented via a further ‘Public Notice’ to be published in a local newspaper, detailing an amended Street Trading resolution and schedules.
- 3.122 **Local Government Boundary Commission for England electoral review of Milton Keynes City Council** – It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

- 3.123 **Alcohol Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)** – Noted that the extension to the PSPO had been granted to include Great Linford. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.124 **MKCC Housing Allocation Scheme** – It was noted that there was general agreement with the consultation. The clerk to respond accordingly making the additional comments that consideration should be given to a lack of public transport and the inability of being able to register with a GP when placing tenants in social housing in Emberton. **Action: KG.**
- 3.125 **Flooding and water management – maintenance of pumping station, flooding at lower Petsoe End and Olney Road, EPC’s role in flood management** – Previous discussions revolved around better flood prevention for Olney Road and Petsoe End. The clerk to lodge a formal complaint with Anglian Water regarding the state of repair of the pumping station. **Action: KG.**

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White reported that a meeting had taken place and a grant approved for Olney Rugby Club in the sum of £14,750 for solar panels and battery storage with £36, 558.97 now left in the account. The clerk shared a letter from the Ward Cllrs regarding appointed representatives on the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee. The clerk to respond that Cllr White was the EPC representative. **Action: KG.**
- 4.382 **24/01645/TCA** – The removal of Blue Spruce (6m tall) to ground level at 3 Home Farm Court – **no objections**
- 4.383 **24/01646/TCA** – The reduction by 1m (from 6m to 5m tall) of Japanese Maple (1), by 1m (from 4m to 3m tall) of Irish Yew (2), by 3m (from 10m to 7m tall) of Variegated Maple (3), and by 2m (from 5m to 3m tall) of Hawthorn (4) at 4 Home Farm Court – **no objections**
- 4.384 **24/01688/HOU** – Erection of single storey porch extension to front, and the conversion of the loft with associated alterations at Hartoft, West Lane - **pending**
- 4.385 **24/01791/TCA** – The removal of T1 (Box Elder Maple), pruning of T2 (Box Elder Maple) and reduce height to 6m and spread to 4m and pruning of T3 (Robina Frisia – false acacia) to remove dead branches to prevent disease at The Barn, 4 Manor Court, Olney Road - **pending**
- 4.386 **24/01807/TCA** – The reduction in height by up to 1.5m and sides by up to 1m of 2x Copper Beach trees (T1, T2), reduction in height by 3m and sides by 1.5m of Sorbus tree (T3) and reduction in height by 1.5 and sides by 1m of Judas tree (T4) at 4 Gravel Walk - **pending**
- 4.387 **24/01899/TCA** -The removal of dead Rowan (1) and Ornamental Pear (3), and reduction of silver birch from 8-9m to 6-7m tall (2) at 1A Church Lane - **pending**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 7th October 2024** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Palmer that the payments be approved. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.**

- 5.2 **Co-operative Bank – application for Sports & Recreation Committee** – The clerk reported that this was in hand.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity – Flooding – Action: KG.**

- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – No concerns.

- 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as the parish council meeting on Monday 11th November 2024 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.