

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 7th November 2022 at 7pm

Present:

Melanie Duncan - Chairman
 Cllr Paul Flowers
 Cllr Fred Markland
 Cllr Guy Palmer
 Cllr Harry White

Ward Cllr David Hosking

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Helen Knight – resident
 2 other residents

To accept Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gibson, Cllr Jamieson and Ward Cllrs Keith McLean and Peter Geary.

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 10th October 2022. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th October 2022 were confirmed as correct and signed by Cllr White who chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – A resident commented that she was not in favour of CCTV in the village. She also made reference to the defibrillator at The Institute and stated that the battery warning light had been flashing. The clerk reported that the defibrillator had recently been recalled for a software update and it had been highlighted that the battery had between 6 and 15% of life left and that a replacement had been ordered.

A second resident commented that he had seen the comments on social media regarding CCTV for the village and he did not support it as he did not think it would provide what was required as it would not deter the rat running or speeding. The resident referred to the rat running and the restricted access which the parish council did not appear to be enforcing and that there should be speed humps. The school was now open and parents were parking in Olney Road to drop children off and collect. The resident urged the parish council to do something rather than just discussing the issue.

Helen Knight stated that she agreed that there was an issue with regard to the traffic situation in the village and that consideration needed to be given to the situation such as a priority change or speed ramp as the police did not have the capacity to enforce the restricted access. The important thing was to slow down the traffic.

Helen reported that from a crime point of view, she did not believe that there was a case for CCTV. Some of the most vulnerable houses were in Gravel Walk and having CCTV on the

clock tower would not protect these properties. The clock tower was a war memorial and a heritage building and it did not feel appropriate to have CCTV cameras mounted on it. There were also issues of the registration around the equipment and compliance with GDPR. Helen commented that if the parish council were concerned about crime in the village other things could be done such as the promotion of ring video door bells. Cllr Palmer asked about CCTV cameras for vulnerable properties as a deterrent. Helen responded that cameras were not a deterrent, it would only make it easier to work out the situation once something had occurred. Cllr Markland commented that Newport Pagnell Police Station would soon be opening and this might help response times and suggested that an officer be invited to a meeting to provide advice on security for residents. Cllr Flowers commented that the parish council had not looked at CCTV in isolation as other villages had also been looking at it. It was proposed by Cllr Flowers, seconded by Cllr Markland and unanimously agreed that CCTV for the village would no longer be discussed. It was agreed to remove the item from the agenda.

1.3 **Risk CCTV** – this had previously been covered.

Football goal posts - it was noted that the four goal post socket covers had been removed.

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

2.1 **Ward Councillors** – Ward Cllr Hosking reported that the CLUE for Acorn Nurseries at Newton Road had been approved [post meeting note: so Acorn Nurseries are now classed as a wholesale garden centre rather than a plant nursery] and it was now deemed a brownfield site which would increase the chance of planning permission for residential being granted but it didn't take away the traffic and highways issues. It was noted that the officer's report had stated that there were no objections to the CLUE which was incorrect as the parish council had submitted an extensive response and there were third party representations from the village. Cllr Hosking suggested that the clerk took this up with Paul Thomas, Director of Planning. **Action: KG.** Cllr Geary was still chasing the well at Petsoe End so there was no update on this. The High Street in Olney would be closed Monday 14th November to Friday 18th November with a 24-hour closure. Tyringham Bridge would be closed until the 25th November. The parish council should have received an email from MKCC regarding the Cost of Living Grant. The clerk reported that this had been received. Cllr Duncan asked if residents would be able to access Emberton Park so that they could leave their vehicles in the parking bay by the ramp and walk into Olney.

2.2 **Parishes Forum (20/10/22)** – It was noted that there would be some minor amendments to the Code of Conduct; it would be written in the first person, reference made to intolerance to bullying, receipt of gifts limited to £50. Local elections were taking place next year, Emberton being one of them, and voter ID would be needed for the first time. A presentation on the wheeled bin scheme was made; online information sessions would take place in February.

2.3 **PLUG (20/10/22)** – Cllr Markland reported that Paul Trendell from Public Realm was in attendance. There was a presentation from Laura Clancy on the Green Flag management plan and how this could be achieved for the park. **Action: KG to follow up with LC for the report.** Cllr Markland reported that the park came out positive on some of the issues such as; a welcoming place, health and safety, secure environment. There were elements that needed work such as reduction in cars, improvements in parking and roads, play equipment nearing end of life, interact more with users, more volunteers. It was noted that 25 trees would be felled and 24 would be cut back; this included poplar trees which the parish council had raised

concerns about in the past. Cllr Markland stated that he had asked for the accounts for the park and the Chair of PLUG was quite positive about this although there were some figures which might need to be redacted. A second presentation was on the “Love Exploring” app from Dave Lewis which encouraged people to explore outdoors. It was promoted as a potential way to increase visitor numbers to the park from the underprivileged areas of Milton Keynes. Cllr Markland commented that this would be a struggle if there was no transport system to Emberton Park. The parks team were going to carry out more winter maintenance. Cllr Duncan asked if more reasonable charges for short term parking was raised. Cllr Markland responded that he raised it at every meeting. Cllr White stated that every time short parking was raised, the subject moved to parking in the village. Cllr Duncan suggested that the season ticket for ECP could be advertised.

2.4 **Dates for Diaries** – The dates for diaries were noted.

2.6 **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** – no further correspondence.

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – a discussion took place regarding the installation of speed bumps in the village with it being noted that the issue had previously been discussed and considered unsuitable due to buses having to go over the bumps. Cllr Flowers commented that speed bumps were bad for noise and the environment. The resident who raised the issue, stated that he had not spoken to his neighbours about speed bumps and the noise associated with them. Cllr White stated that previously, residents in Olney Road were very much opposed to them. Ward Cllr Hosking stated that speed bumps were not popular; they seemed a great idea until they were installed and then people got woken up by them. A reduction in the speed limit within the main village to 20mph was raised but not supported. Ward Cllr Hosking suggested asking highways for a site visit. **Action: KG.**

3.6.30 **Allotments** – nothing to report on transfer. **Action: KG to chase this.** Allotment holders have been invoiced.

3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – pedestrian safety issues** – nothing to report.

3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – reported on under item 2.1.

3.6.80 **Defibrillator** – reported on under item 1.2.

3.6.110 **Gritting at Petsoe End** – MKCC had previously confirmed that it was not possible to grit the whole of Petsoe End because the gritters were too large for the narrow lanes and it was difficult for them to turn around. Cllr Duncan commented that for rubbish collection a smaller vehicle than standard was used for Petsoe End and asked whether it was not possible for a smaller gritter than standard to be used in Petsoe End.

3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – Awaiting works schedule.

- 3.6.115 **Village questionnaire** – Cllr Duncan reported that the questionnaire had now been “live” for 5 months and the responses should be looked at to make sure that the parish council had covered all the issues raised. **Action: KG.** Cllr Palmer suggested that the village should be asked their views on speed bumps. It was agreed to put together an article in the Well & Towers to provide residents with the results from the questionnaire. Cllr White suggested that instead of a further questionnaire, there should be an opportunity for residents to “Have your say”. **Action: KG.**
- 3.6.116 **No HGV’s - Newport Road** – awaiting signage by highways.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Reported on under item 2.3.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Markland reported that a further grant for the production of the Neighbourhood Plan had been applied for. The consultant was waiting for the grant to come through before submitting the plan (Stage 15) to MKCC to be checked by them. Once MKCC had made comments, the plan would be sent back to the consultant.
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Duncan reported that she had submitted a letter of complaint to the Charity Commission and asked the clerk to put together the emails relating to the requests for information from the Trustees as a PDF document. **Action: KG.** It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Trustees to request a copy of the accounts and to advise them that a formal complaint had been made to the Charities Commission. **Action: KG.**
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – nothing to report.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – the clerk reported that the conservation officer, Martin Ellison had undertaken a walkabout of the village and commented that he had found difficulty in establishing the development boundary. The clerk to send the map to ME from the neighbourhood plan. **Action: KG.** Cllr Duncan commented that there were fields that needed protecting as well.
- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton** – it was noted that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation concluded on the 19th July. The clerk to ascertain whether there was an update on the comments received. **Action: KG.** A discussion took place regarding the permissive path linking Emberton Country Park to the playing field and whether it required an upgrade. It was agreed not to progress this as there could be a maintenance issue.
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – Ward Cllr Hosking stated that MK Connect worked well in the urban areas but not in rural areas. It was agreed that the clerk should put together a letter of complaint to MKCC and write to the MP Ben Everitt. **Action: KG.**
- 3.106 **Electric vehicle charge points** – an email had been received from MKCC asking if the parish council wished to have electric vehicle charge points in the village. Whilst it was considered an excellent idea; there was a stipulation that the village would need to provide 8 parking bays for the charge points. Councillors agreed that at this time, it was not the right solution.

- 3.112 **Planning Application Validation Requirements** – the clerk to forward councillors the comments that Andy McGrandle had made on this subject. **Action: KG.**

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – confidential item.
- 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 – it was noted that there was an update from the agents regarding the neighbourhood plan. Cllr Markland commented that the application did not sit within the settlement boundary that was outlined in the neighbourhood plan. It was agreed that no further comment would be made with regard to this application.
- 4.330 **22/00539/CLUE** – Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use as a wholesale garden centre – class (E(a) at Acorn MK Nurseries, Newton Road – Permitted. It was noted that the comments submitted by the parish council did not appear in the Officer’s Report. The clerk to take this up with MKCC. **Action: KG.** It was noted that the planning officer had previously advised that any enforcement action would not be taken until the current application had been decided. It was agreed that the clerk should report a breach in the conditions of the 2013 planning consent for a polytunnel which was not actually carried out until some point between September 2018 and May 2020. The planning condition stated that the polytunnel should be erected within 3 years of planning consent. **Action: KG.**
- 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 – the clerk to look at the planning inspectorate’s website for an update on this case. **Action: KG.**
- 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 - **pending**
- 4.342 **22/01923/HOU** -The proposed installation of photovoltaic panels inset into the new garage roof at Hartoft. West Lane – **permitted**

New applications

- 4.343 **22/02524/TCA** – Reduction in height by 50% (from 10m to 5m) of T1 – Corkscrew Willow at 13 High Street. The clerk to respond that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations of MKCC’s tree officer. **Action: KG to respond.**
- 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. The clerk to respond that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations of MKCC's tree officer. **Action: KG to respond.**

- 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. It was queried why this item had appeared on the agenda. The clerk reported that this agenda item was for notification rather than comment.

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 7th November 2022** 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. Post meeting note** – Cllr Palmer was unable to approve the payments due to the Co-operative Bank token not working. Therefore, Cllr White approved the payments.
- 5.2 **Review of fixed assets** – The clerk reported that she had undertaken a review of the fixed assets. It was noted that the flower troughs required extensive repair and consideration should be given to the cost involved. It was agreed to seek the views of residents. **Action: KG.**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – email from Newport Pagnell Lions regarding Mr Gerald Mann. An email had been received from Newport Pagnell Lions regarding a commemorative bench for Mr Gerald Mann. It was proposed by Cllr Duncan and seconded by Cllr Flowers that a donation in the sum of £200 should be sent towards a bench to be placed at the Emberton playing field.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – flower troughs, CCTV, questionnaire results, EV charge points update, Emberton Park permit, volunteers and Love Exploring APP, dog fouling in AFW, 21 and 41 bus services.
- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr White commented that the bin lorries were leaking oil on the roads in the village.

Cllr White commented that there were two dislodged bricks on the footpath in Olney Road. The clerk to report this. **Action: KG.**

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 5th December 2022 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm