

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 11th November 2024 at 7pm

Present:

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

Ward Cllr Keith McLean (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 and Ward Councillors Peter Geary 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. Cllr Laval declared an interest in item 4.391 as she was a friend of the applicant.

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 7th October 2024. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th October 2024 were agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – There were no members of the public present.
- 1.3 **Risk** – Councillor Laval commented that those responsible for putting up the Christmas tree would need to sign a copy of the documents regarding the ladder. **Action: KG.** The clerk thanked Cllr Laval for providing the supporting documents to add to the risk assessment for the clock tower. The chair and clerk signed two copies of the clock tower risk assessment. The clerk to send a copy to Mr Harris to sign together with the relevant documents. **Action: KG.**
2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION**
- 2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – Ward Cllr McLean reported as follows:-

MK Connect – The contract was going to change in April 2025. The latest brief was that it was going to be budget led and unlikely to be as extensive as current; probably not a Sunday service and might stop earlier in the evening (possibly 8.30pm). It will go to a delegated decision and then out to tender with bids coming in and a new contractor appointed before April. Cllr Duncan responded that she had taken part in an online session with officers from MKCC who could not confirm that we would not have a zonal system again.

New City Plan – Consultation ended on the 9th October and officers were now considering the 670 responses and will draft 19 consultation before the final version is submitted to the Inspector.

Flooding – One of the residents in Olney Road had been in contact who was concerned about the impact of flooding on properties 69-75. MKCC were contacted and provided sand bags during the recent heavy rainfall but the amount of rain was unprecedented. Cllr Duncan commented that flooding was also an issue in Petsoe End and asked whether MKCC would do anything regarding this? Cllr McLean responded that Cllr Geary was more informed on this issue although MKCC were likely to put resources to areas where the number of houses flooded was higher. The LLFA has a duty to provide a Section 19 flood investigation report. Cllr Duncan commented that there could be opportunity in Petsoe End to dig out balancing ponds, although this would be expensive. Cllr Walker asked what progress there had been regarding the flood plans for Lavendon. Cllr McLean responded that there was some work undertaken in 2016 and 2020 but a business case had still not been prepared.

Petsoe End Windfarm Fund – Mike Hughes who was running the committee invited several people to a meeting on the 16th November. It was noted that a few parishes did not have representatives on the committee. The officers from MKCC had provided some information on the fund.

- 2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police** – Crime statistics between 4/10/24 and 1/11/24 was as follows: burglary business – assault x 2, criminal damage x 1 and public order x 1.
- 2.3 **PLUG (17/10/24)** – Cllr White reported that some tree work had taken place and that there were more static caravans on site. The road in the caravan park had also been resurfaced. The subject of parking in the village was raised again but this does not fall within the PLUG remit. There was a suggestion of working with the café to provide a discount if vehicles accessed the park but not possible as the café was a separate business.
- 2.4 **North East Community Forum (28/10/24)** – Cllr Duncan commented that the meeting focused on speeding.
- 2.5 **ESSC** – In the absence of Cllr Flowers, the clerk reported that a contractor would be coming out to look at the bi fold doors; not under warranty as this was down to wear and tear. There was no significant expenditure due. The first aid kits had been updated and risk assessments were being investigated. Bookings in general were very good with Panto and a wedding booked for 2025. The quotations for the changing room were coming in at around £60,000 so thought needed to be given on how to move this forward. Cllr Laval commented that the lamps in the main hall had been left plugged in and were not PAT tested. The clerk to take this back to the committee. **Action: KG.**
- 2.6 **Dates for Diaries** – These were noted. The clerk to include the date for the Annual Assembly. **Action: KG.**
- 2.7 **Clerk's Report**
- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.

- 2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.83 **Manhole cover outside Stonepits House** – The area around the manhole cover has been marked for repair.
- 2.1.86 **Home Farm Court (lighting)** – Awaiting further response from Joanne Payne.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – Awaiting MKCC’s legal team to respond to EPC’s solicitor.
- Grass cutting** – It was noted that the area at the top of the allotments had recently been cut but not the bottom. The clerk to query this with MKCC. **Action: KG.**
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – Nothing to report.
- 3.107 **Tree planting** – Photos and “what3words” locations of newly planted trees have been sent to MKCC as requested by the tree officer, advising that one of the trees was dead.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Reported on previously.
- 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)** – Cllr Walker reported that the current trustees have refused to do a whole transfer of the fund to the EUC and would still wish for only one member of the EUC to become a trustee. It had been agreed that Cllr Walker would write to the trustees in a helpful capacity which he had done but no response had been received despite chasing 4 or 5 times. Cllr Walker followed this up with quite an assertive email stating that EPC was really concerned that there had been no response and that the EPC would prefer to deal with the issue locally rather than get the Charities Commission involved. A response was received the same day as follows; “In our meeting with yourself and Andy, we felt reassured that the offer of support was genuine and the subsequent suggestion of providing help with advertising the fund to local young people will prove very helpful.

For background, the state in which we inherited the fund (with virtually zero handover from the previous trustees) has meant that gaining full control of the accounts in which the money is invested has proved incredibly difficult. Furthermore, bureaucracy surrounding the security of the accounts both tedious and time-consuming despite having added both myself and Matt listed on the accounts. Unfortunately, at this time, we remain unable to withdraw money and therefore cannot fulfil any grant giving.

We continue to try and resolve this matter and are making slow progress. Once we are in a position to award grants, we will certainly take you up on your offer to help find suitable candidates for the fund to support.”

It was noted that the best option would be to get hold of the accounts. The plan was to open the dialogue with the trustees and to ask for the accounts in a private capacity. A suggestion was made to contact one of the previous trustees. **Action: JW.**

- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr Palmer reported that the football seemed to be going well and that a donation had been promised from some players who use the tennis court to purchase a new net. No progress had been made on a booking system for the court. Noted that Olney Tennis Club use the Lawn Tennis Association. A suggestion was made regarding putting an article in the Well & Towers asking for donations towards the net. The committee spoke of a contingency plan if the weather had been wet for the fete; with the Chair of the Sports & Recreation Committee agreeing to take this up with the organisers.
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service) and double yellow lines** – Nothing to report, as MK Connect had already been discussed during the Ward Councillor’s report. The clerk followed up the position regarding changing the double yellow lines in the centre of the village with Paul Harrison. Response awaited.
- 3.113 **Climate Change** – Nothing to report.
- 3.118 **New City Plan** – Reported on previously.
- 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. Agreed that this item could be removed from the agenda.
- 3.125 **Flooding and water management – maintenance of pumping station, flooding at lower Petsoe End and Olney Road, EPC’s role in flood management** – Ward Cllr McLean suggested that EPC might like to draw up a flood plan and to write to the local MP. The clerk to send Cllr Laval a copy of Ravenstone’s flood plan. **Action: KG.** 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** – Reported on previously.
- 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 – **no objections**

New applications

- 4.388 **24/01987/HOU** - The erection of a single storey rear extension with roof lights replacing the existing conservatory. The conversion of the garage into living accommodation with window to replace the shutter and rear door to replace the window and associated alterations. New rear balcony with railings at 4 stone court – Councillors agreed that access for neighbours during building works should be taken into consideration and that any external lighting should not be intrusive. The clerk to respond accordingly. **Action: KG.**
- 4.389 **PLN/2024/2224** – To remove to ground level T1 (Goat Willow) due to tree split at base posing a high risk of failure. To reduce height by approx. 30-40%, equating to approx. 5m from height of T2 (Western Red Cedar) due to proximity to neighbouring house (approx. 3m from trunk) at All Saints' Church, Church Lane. It was recommended to respond that EPC would agree with the recommendations of MKCC's tree officer. The clerk to respond and ascertain whether there was a tree planting programme for the church. **Action: KG.**
- 4.390 **PLN/2024/2254** – The erection of two storey front extension with two gable dormers and front porch at Hill Farm, Petsoe End, Emberton - Councillors agreed that access for neighbours during building works should be taken into consideration and that any external lighting should not be intrusive. The clerk to respond accordingly. **Action: KG.**
- 4.391 **PLN/2024/2314** – Demolition of existing pergola and the erection of a pergola to the rear at 19 High Street, Emberton – Councillors agreed that they would respect the decision of the conservation officer and if permission were granted, external lighting should be kept to a minimum. The clerk to respond accordingly. **Action: KG.**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 11th November 2024** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Jamieson 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 needed further investigation.
- 5.3 **Draft budget and consideration of clerk's review** – The draft budget was discussed. Cllr Laval advised that she would approach the Bell & Bear to see if they would sponsor the hanging baskets. **Action: AL.** The clerk advised purchasing a ladder stop. It was proposed by Cllr Laval and seconded by Cllr Palmer that this be purchased. **Action: KG.** The clerk to share details of the NALC recommended salary scales. **Action: KG.** Cllr Palmer commented that the SRC had made good progress on the maintenance grant, saving £600 on the previous year.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Flooding, tennis court, dog fouling – **Action: KG.**
- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Leaves on footpath (West Lane & Olney Road). The clerk to report. **Action: KG.** Gritting path outside Pavilion for hirers. The clerk to take this back to the ESSC. **Action: KG.** Dog fouling getting worse despite the high number of bins in the village. Parking issue in Olney Road, restricting footpath. Dead tree at Petsoe End opposite Three Ways. The clerk to report. **Action: KG.**
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as the parish council meeting on Monday 9th December 2024 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm.