

Emberton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting – Monday 4th February 2019

Present:

Councillor Victoria McLean (Chairman)
 Councillor Soo Hall
 Councillor Michael Horton
 Councillor Richard Laval
 Councillor Harry White

Mr Jake Green Resident

Mr Noel Sibbald Chair of Finance Village School
 Federation Governing Board

Mr Simon Sims Strategic Lead, Milton Keynes Council

Mrs Marie-Clare Parsons Executive Head

Ms Lisa Humphries Staff Governor for Federation

Ward Councillor Keith McLean

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Apologies for Absence - Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Gibson and Ward Councillors David Hosking and Peter Geary.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – There were no Declarations of Interest.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 7th January were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

Dates for Commitment – The dates for commitment were noted. Neighbourhood Plan Meeting – Wednesday 20th March. The clerk to notify Councillors of the agenda items for the Parishes Forum Meeting so a decision could be made as to whether or not to attend. ESSC – Meeting to be held Tuesday 12th February.

- 1.2 **Public questions, comments or representations** – Mr Jake Green introduced himself and stated that he had lived at 34 Gravel Walk for two years. Mr Green stated that he currently had a stable at the top of Gravel Walk which needed knocking down. Mr Green commented that he would like to put in a summer house with a bathroom and kitchen and he might need to apply for permission as an annexe. Mr Green commented that his intention was to build the summer house in keeping with the stable; black cladding, dark grey tiles and would want to keep it to a single storey with two bedrooms (keeping it as an annexe rather than a new dwelling). Mr Green stated that pre application advice would be his next step.

Councillor Hall asked why Mr Green wanted a bedroom in a summer house. Mr Green responded that he had a lot of family visiting and that his intention was to speak to the residents of number 17 and 32 Gravel Walk. Councillor Hall stated that pre application advice would be a sensible way forward. Mr Green commented that there were some trees that would need to be cut back and he was not sure of ownership. It was suggested that Mr Green spoke to Mrs Ellis and Mr

John Frost.

Mr Green left the meeting at 7.45pm

- 1.3 **Frequency of parish council meetings** – Councillor V McLean reported that she had circulated a note to Councillors about the frequency of meetings and had had an opportunity to speak to the clerk about it. There were positive responses from four Councillors, one who agreed in principle and one no show. Councillor Laval commented that planning applications would have to be given consideration. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of setting up a sub-committee to deal with finance and planning issues, which would meet once a month and a parish council meeting every quarter. Councillor Laval suggested a parish council meeting every two months. Councillor V McLean and the clerk to look into this further.
2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1 Clerk’s Report
- 2.1.24 **Weed spraying** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.103 **WW1 Commemorative bench** - Decision of grant application awaited.
- 2.1.104 **WW1 Commemorative bin** – Purchase of bin allocated in budget.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – The SID data had been circulated which showed a maximum speed of 42mph in the High Street and 52mph in Olney Road. The reduced maximum speed from the previous deployment in Olney Road seemed to be attributed to the parking restrictions not currently being in force.
- 3.6.16 **Clock tower damage** – Date received of week commencing 4th February for repair (weather dependant).
- 3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – Councillor Laval stated that a drop in the speed of vehicles in the winter was evident because of parked vehicles and questioned whether the parish council needed to look at the parking restrictions for the summer months. The clerk to make contact with MKC to enter into discussions regarding this issue. Councillor V McLean commented that the parish council didn’t seem to be making progress in getting the message across regarding speeding in the village and there did not seem to be the resources from the Police. Councillor V McLean went on to state that time had come to get someone out from MKC to see what they could do.
- 3.85 **Emberton School – Consultation on proposal to close Emberton School** – Introductions were made. Mr Sims commented that the first drop in session was held at the school today. In terms of the consultation, MKC was looking to close Emberton School which would be no great surprise to the local community. The number of children had been declining and there were more places across the local area than there were children and Emberton had not been a popular choice. There were staffing liabilities but no children. If the school closed, the Governors would retain responsibility for the premises and would then have to consider what the school could be used for. Mr Sims explained that the consultation was out for 8

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weeks and would finish in March and it would then require a political decision to be made requiring a statutory notice of 4 weeks. The final decision would lie with MKC and not the Department for Education. The time line would either be the end of this academic year or the start of the next one. Councillor Laval asked whether there would be any change in the position of closing the school. Mr Sims stated that it appeared strongly in favour of closing the school. Councillor Horton asked if the federation wanted to use the school, would this be charged to the federation? Mr Sims responded that the premises and cost of running the premises would then be a liability to the federation's governors but the opportunities that could go with it could be greater. The governor's would have first refusal to do something with the school as an asset. Councillor Laval asked what would happen if the Cabinet Member did not accept the closure of the school. Ward Councillor McLean commented that the Cabinet Member would do as they had been told. Councillor Laval commented that on the assumption that the decision was made to close the school, how long would the governors have on the first refusal to decide what they wanted to do? Mr Sims responded that it was dependant upon how long the governors could continue with the school as a liability without pushing it as an asset and how quickly they could implement it. Mrs Parsons stated that the governors were gathering ideas at the moment as to the potential use of the school; nursery, art centre, using it for the community. Mr Sibbald commented that any option would have to be checked from a viability point of view. Councillor V McLean commented that Yardley Hastings School had become an arts centre. Mrs Parsons stated that she was trying to use the school as an office a couple of times a week. Councillor Laval commented that the parish council were going out to consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Emberton and suggested housing on the school field. Mr Sims responded that this would need to be a federation decision. Mrs Parsons stated that the downside of this would be that you then needed a school. Councillor V McLean stated that there was a lot of development in Lavendon in Olney and for many years, Emberton had taken the overspill but Olney School were now struggling with numbers. Mrs Parsons commented that Olney had reduced their intake from 90 to 60 but Olney could increase again. Mr Sims commented that he had seen the draft Emberton Neighbourhood Plan and had noted that people were relatively against new housing development and over 50% of respondents of the questionnaire wanted up to 10 houses in the village. Councillor V McLean asked about the school house fund. Mrs Parsons stated that it was sitting in the bank and the governors were trying to contact the trustees and the trustees that set it up were the original trustees and the governors needed to put it in their name to protect it. Councillor V McLean commented that the original purpose of setting up the School House Fund was for the purpose of the children of Emberton. The residents of Emberton would have a strong view on the school fund and it would hope that the spirit of the original fund would in some way be able to be continued. Mrs Parsons responded that it was hoped that the fund would be put in the governor's names so that it was safe. Ms Humphries commented that Emberton children went to some of the other federation schools.

Mr Sibbald, Mr Sims, Mrs Parsons and Ms Humphries left the meeting at 8.20pm

2.2 **To receive reports from meetings attended**

EPFC/ESSC – Meeting held 15/1/19. Councillor Hall reported that unfortunately, she could not go to the meeting on the 15th and there were no Minutes because of a personal problem. EPFC and ESSC Committee had split and they were now going to be two separate committees. The EPFC meeting was being held on the 4th

February and the next ESSC Committee meeting was being held on the 12th February. Councillor Hall commented that the clerk had made reference to the EPFC 2018/2019 maintenance grant and a £750 contingency for a spiral roller and stated that the recently donated equipment from Peter Geary was a spiker and entirely different from what was required.

The clerk made reference to an email received from the Chairman of EPFC/ESSC and the information provided to Councillors by the clerk. Councillor V McLean stated that she had spoken to the Chairman and the feeling was that the two separate constitutions were set up to deliver a playing field facility and at that time they were appropriate. Much had changed since the initial constitutions were set up and the time was now right to see if they remained fit for purpose. Looking to the future, if the Institute ceased as a meeting point, then a lot more was coming to the pavilion. Councillor Horton commented that EPFC was a registered charity. The clerk responded that EPFC was not compliant with the Charities Commission or the constitution. Councillor V McLean stated that the committee have agreed that they would look at areas where they know they are not compliant, establish where there is a risk and establish what action to take around that risk. Trustees were not entirely certain what they were signing up for.

2.3 Update from Ward Councillors

Road works – Road works will be starting in Wellingborough road on the 16th February.

Budget – MKC’s budget will be decided on the 20th February – community groups may still be allocated funding such as Scout groups for rental of buildings.

Milton Keynes East Local Stakeholder Group – The group have been discussing traffic but no figures are being provided up to 2031. A suggestion was that another crossing would come in somewhere near Willen. There was still talk of the Olney by pass but there wouldn’t be enough land to build on to be sustainable.

Ward Councillor’s Budget – Ward Councillor McLean suggested that the clerk put forward the recommendation for funding towards a litter bin in writing.

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3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 **Emberton Park** – The clerk to ascertain when the consultation document will be produced.

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3.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – Nothing to report.

3.39 **Neighbourhood Plans – North Crawley and Stantonbury** – no comment.

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Councillor Horton congratulated those involved in the production of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor V McLean thanked Councillor Laval for putting the plan together. Councillor Laval responded that it was a joint effort with the Steering Group and TPS. It was noted that the consultation period for the draft Neighbourhood Plan had started on the 4th February for six weeks and would finish on the 18th March. Councillor V McLean commented that two open sessions would be held on Friday 22nd February 6.30pm

to 8pm and Saturday 23rd February 10am to 12 noon where there would be information for residents to view and parish councillors and Steering Group Committee members to answer questions.

3.93 **Milton Keynes East Local Stakeholder Group** – Previously reported on under item 2.3.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS & ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.1 **To note planning decisions** – The planning decisions spread sheet was noted and was reported on under the items below.

4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Councillor Horton reported that the next meeting would be held in March when an application for LED lighting for the Olney Centre would be discussed. Councillor Hall enquired about the application for the chiller at the pavilion. Councillor V McLean responded that she would re-submit it. Vm

4.109 **Solar Farm & Community Benefit Fund** – Councillor Hall reported that the Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee had met on the 4th February and had approved two grants; one for the History Society for screens and lighting and the other for Emberton Toddler Group for toys and equipment. Councillor Hall commented that there was just over £5,000 left in the fund.

4.210 **18/00643/FUL** – Conversion and extension of an existing stone barn to a two bedroom residential property at barn set back from West Farm Way for Mr D J Soul – **permitted**. Councillor V McLean stated that she felt, following the letter sent to Mr Bracey, that he had taken a degree of responsibility and had taken on board the point about ownership. The clerk to chase for a further response from Mr Bracey before the next meeting. KG

4.230 **18/03015/FUL** – Erection of a single storey timber outbuilding for use as a garden room at 7 West Farm Way for Mr Sparks – **pending**

4.231 **18/00369/DISCON** – Details submitted pursuant to the discharge of condition 8 (biodiversity enhancement scheme) attached to planning permission 18/00643/FUL at Barn set back at West Farm Way for Mr D Soul – **pending**

4.232 **19/00063/TCA** – Notification of intention to remove one apple tree and pollard three sycamore and one horse chestnut 4m above ground level and remove side branches at 16 Olney Road for Mr A Palmer. There were no objections to this application.

4.233 19/00085/FUL – Replacement of two existing Velux windows with Velux windows at The Barn, 4 Manor Court for Mr M Chambers. There were no objections to this application.

5. ACCOUNTS

5.1 **RFO's Report** – The RFO's Report for the 4th February 2019 was accepted. It was proposed by Councillor Horton, seconded by Councillor Laval and unanimously agreed that the below payments be approved.

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| EUC – electric for defibrillator | £10.00 |
| Orchard Press – printing of Neighbourhood Plan | £922.00 |
| ESSC – hire of pavilion for NP open days | £30.00 |
| Marcus Young Landscapes – emptying dog waste bins | £918.00 |
| Smith of Derby – service of Clock Tower | £273.60 |
| Mrs K Goss – clerk’s January salary | £385.50 |
| Mrs K Goss – clerk’s January computer/telephone/expenses | £66.04 |

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing to report.

7. **PARISH RELATED MATTERS**

7.1 **Village Publicity** – The clerk to draft. Update on Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund, Annual Assembly including last opportunity to discuss Neighbourhood Plan, parish council elections

7.2 **Councillors’ Concerns** – there were no Councillors’ concerns

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is confirmed as Monday 4th March 2019 at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm