

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair
 Cllr Paul Flowers
 Cllr Colin Jamieson
 Cllr Angela Laval
 Cllr Fred Markland
 Cllr Guy Palmer
 Cllr Harry White

Mr Ralph Mynn

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

To accept Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Ward Cllrs Keith McLean, David Hosking, and Peter Geary

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

Parish Councillor Vacancy – Cllr Angela Laval was welcomed to the meeting and duly signed the Register of Members' Interest.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on the 9th March 2023 and 13th March 2023. The Minutes of the Meetings held on the 9th March 2023 and 13th March 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – The Chair addressed Mr Mynn and thanked him for attending the meeting to share his views on cycling links in the parish and to Olney and Sherington. Mr Mynn responded that the report put forward by MKCC was very comprehensive but was not out for discussion for another two months. Cllr Markland commented that the response submitted by the parish council seemed to have been ignored. Mr Mynn stated that the difficulties were the park entrance/exit and the journey into Olney by the bridge. Cllr Markland responded that Mr Mynn's points were very valid and all the parish council could do was to remind MKCC that the parish had a voice in the community regarding a sustainable community. Mr Mynn stated that the report issued by MKCC covered a 30-year period. He went on to state that there needed to be a separation of walkers and cyclists going through Emberton Park. Cllr Markland suggested that Mr Mynn list out all the improvements which Mr Mynn thought could feasibly be made, and send these to the parish council for consideration, with a view to the parish council pressing for upgrades where opportunities arose.
- 1.3 **Risk** – Nothing to report.
2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION**
- 2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – nothing to report.

- 2.2 **Thames Valley Police** – nothing to report.
- 2.3 **Parishes Forum** (meeting held 16th March) – Cllr Duncan reported that there was a presentation from Bucks Fire & Rescue Service: the new 34 storey building going up in CMK would require new working practices and longer ladders; poor parking could block fire engines – the fire service could help with signage where this was a problem; fires caused by lithium batteries in E-scooters and E-bikes were a growing concern, as were wildfires from Summer barbeques; the character of Milton Keynes City did not create any unique problems from their perspective, and the grid roads were useful for traffic diversions; high speed roads were problem everywhere for collisions; youths racing was an issue in Milton Keynes. For education they targeted Year 6 in schools as the most receptive age. : A representative from the National Energy Foundation provided information on Better Housing Better Health. The clerk to put this in the Well & Towers. **Action: KG.** A presentation was made by MKCC on the Carbon Offset Fund and the availability of 50% funding for energy efficiency improvements to public buildings. MKCC have a new committee management system. There had been complaints that parish councils had not been invited to discussions held by MKCC on the New City Plan (the revision to Plan:MK). The response was that there would be more consultations on this soon.
- 2.4 **Annual Assembly** – It was noted the Annual Assembly was poorly attended and more publicity about what could be expected should be noted for next year.
- 2.5 **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.
- 2.1.50 **Pothole, Olney Road** – The pothole has now been marked for repair.
- 2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – Awaiting installation of HGV sign for Newport Road.
- 2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Awaiting feedback from highways. Update requested on 31st January. Need to review this scheme in July 2023 to ask for feedback from residents.
- 2.1.116 **Parking on grass verges** – It was noted that the information had been shared in the Well & Towers.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – Awaiting to hear back from MKCC's legal department regarding insurance liability.
- 3.5.50 **Dog waste bins** – Correspondence received from Marcus Young Landscapes stating that the cost of emptying the dog waste bins would not be increased from 1st April, which is when the contract was renewed.
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – frequent collision issues** – nothing to report.

- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Update requested from Ward Cllr Geary.
- 3.6.113 **Oak tree at rear of Pavilion** – The branch had now fallen in the wind and was waiting to be removed by MKCC. MKCC had closed the file and it was therefore agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – The handrail was installed on the 31st March but outside the property of number 3 High Street rather than number 5, the residents of which had made the original request. The clerk queried this with Rachel Munday, MKCC highways and was advised that this was the most suitable location.
- 3.6.116 **No HGV's - Newport Road** – Awaiting installation of signage.
- 2.7 **Parish council elections** – The clerk reported that she would be taking the nomination papers to MKCC on Thursday. Cllr Markland commented that he would not be seeking nomination. Cllr Duncan thanked Cllr Markland for his time on the parish council particularly his help with conservation advice.
- 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**
- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – It was noted that no meeting had taken place but notice given that the gates would be closed by the rally field and the sailing club to prevent vehicles driving around the whole of the park; thought needed to be given to emergency access.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Article 15 Submission of the Neighbourhood Plan closed on the 21st April. It was noted that David Blandamer was looking for an examiner.
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – It was believed that some funding had been used to promote Emberton School on MKFM radio prior to its closure and that questions should be asked what the School House Fund has been used for. It was noted that only the interest from the fund could be spent and not the capital. Cllr Duncan reported that the parish council had put together a history of data from the minutes. There were two different registered charities with different governing documents, with one document not having been accounted for as MKCC legal department had not been able to locate it. Cllr Laval commented that the VSF should have the governing document. The clerk to approach the VSF. **Action: KG.**
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – No meeting held but Cllr Palmer reported that one of the neighbours with a gate on to the field had complained about a goal post being left near the gate. Cllr Duncan commented that Sherington also had experienced issues with gates from gardens opening on to their recreation grounds. The second issue was regarding the Sunday adults' team with a complaint of a player urinating on the field and the general use of foul language. The cleaner had also commented that muddy boots were being cleaned off in the showers. These issues to be addressed at the next SRC meeting.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – The clerk received an update from Martin Ellison that reviews were under way for four parishes and the consultations would go out at the same time, July 2023.

- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton/cycle links from Emberton to Olney and Sherington** – This was previously discussed. Cllr Duncan commented that the government was re-introducing a deadline for registering footpaths and bridleways on the definitive map, this time the deadline would be 1st January 2031.
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – Cllr Duncan reported that Ward Cllr McLean had commented that several villagers had raised concerns regarding the No 21 bus route running through the village. Cllr Duncan suggested keeping a record of the sightings, as this would help counter the claim from Red Rose that their buses could not get through the village due to bad parking.
- 3.113 **Climate Change** – It was agreed to include the information from the Parishes Forum in the Well & Towers. **Action: KG.** The meeting discussed weed spraying and it was agreed to look at the environmentally friendly options available for this and to cost this for consideration in next year's budget.
- 3.115 **Grit bins** – Cllr White commented that he needed to undertake some repairs. Cllr Laval raised the question of an additional grit bin for Olney Road. The clerk to make enquiries with MKCC highways to ascertain cost, apply to the Solar Farm Fund for a grant, seek permission from highways to site the bin. **Action: KG.**

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Nothing to report.
- 4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Nothing to report.

previous applications status

- 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 – **pending**
- 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**
- 4.350 **23/00061/DISON** – Approval of details required by condition 6 (windows and doors) of permission ref 22/01058/FUL at The Coach House, 19A High Street – **permitted**
- 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 – It was proposed by Cllr Flowers and seconded by Cllr Palmer that a more detailed letter of objection be submitted to MKCC. **Action: MD/KG.**
- 4.353 **23/00121/HOU** – Single storey rear extension to create new bedroom with ensuite wet room and alteration to the flat roof area on the front elevation to a pitched roof at 1 Harvey Drive – **pending**

- 4.354 **23/00286/HOU** – The erection of a single storey side extension. Partial removal of hedgerow and widening of existing driveway at Old Paddock, West Lane – **pending**

New applications

- 4.355 **23/00531/DISCON** – Approval of details required by conditions 4 (Roof materials samples) and 5 (stonework sample) of permission ref 22/00771/LBC at The Coach House, 19A High Street – no objection.

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 3rd April 2023** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Palmer that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.**

- 5.2 Confidential item

- 6. CORRESPONDENCE** – No correspondence received.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Bins on Tour, parish council elections, information from Parishes Forum. **Action: KG**

- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr Flowers commented that Acorn Early Years had cleared out the pond in the school playing field and it was understood that a great crested newt had been spotted. The clerk to write to Acorn Early Years to thank them. **Action: KG.**

Cllr Jamieson commented that the recently planted trees for the Queen's platinum jubilee were coming into blossom. Cllr Laval offered to take a photo for the next cover of the parish magazine.

Cllr Duncan referred to the volunteers' day for the Coronation on the 8th May and suggested that the parish council had a table. The Chair and clerk to be present. **Action: MD and KG.**

Cllr Laval referred to potholes in the village. The clerk to investigate this. **Action: KG.**

Cllr White commented on the recent report on the patient list closing for Cobbs Garden Surgery and the proposed new premises in East Street. It was agreed to write to Cobbs Garden Surgery to seek reassurance that the new surgery would be able to accommodate residents living in Emberton and that they would still fall within the catchment area. **Action: KG.**

Cllr Duncan commented that there was still no news on the insurance position for the allotments. The clerk to chase. **Action: KG.**

Cllr Markland referred to the planting in Field 13 and questioned whether it was part of the plans for the park itself. Cllr White responded that he had been told at the PLUG meeting that it was not part of the park. The clerk to ask MKCC estates. **Action: KG**

Cllr Flowers commented on the mains water flooding by the school as the water was constant and clear. The clerk to raise this with MKCC. **Action: KG.**

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 15th May 2023 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

DRAFT