

**Emberton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm**

**Present:**

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

Ward Councillor Peter Geary (part meeting)

2 residents

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

**Welcome by the Chair** – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**To accept apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillor Joe 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 and item 4.376 as a close friend of the applicant.

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were agreed and duly signed by the Chair.

1.2 **Public questions**

1.3 **Risk** – It was noted that the paving slabs outside the pavilion were uneven. The clerk to take this back to the SRC. **Action: KG.**

**Risk assessment progress** – Noted that the risk assessment for the Christmas tree was complete. Cllr Laval to look at the risk assessment for the clock tower. **Action: AL.** A discussion took place regarding the D Day Beacon lighting and it was agreed to take this back to the Sports and Recreation Committee to undertake a risk assessment.

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

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

**MK Connect** – Changes started today; no problems reported. The aim was to make more capacity on MK Connect.

**Bridge from Olney to Clifton Reynes** – This was supposed to be repaired over Easter but remains closed.

**New City Plan** – No update on this. The sites that have been rejected were supposed to have been published about a month ago and would now likely be published at the same time as the consultation in June. The first meeting of the parishes will not happen until June. There would be a plan for where the sites and infrastructure were going to be. The consultation will run for 12 weeks over the summer. MKCC will then analyse the information, with a further consultation in early January 2025. Then there would be a public enquiry. Cllr Jamieson asked if the plan would include Emberton. Cllr Geary responded that it would be the whole of Milton Keynes. 80 houses had been put forward for Emberton.

**Water in Olney Road outside Acorn Early Years** – It was noted that the drain had been jetted and Ward Cllr Geary would obtain the findings of the CCTV survey.

**Midsummer festival** – Cllr Duncan referred to the premises licence for a midsummer festival in Emberton Park. Ward Cllr Geary commented that this would be discussed at PLUG.

**Grass cutting around the allotments** – Cllr White reported that the grass bank around the allotment had not been cut. Ward Cllr Geary responded that it might have been too wet; but should be reported to Nick Hannon. **Action: KG.**

- 2.2 **Parishes Forum (14/3/24)** – Cllr White referred to the discussion on the carbon offset fund and green roofs.
- 2.3 **ESSC AGM (18/3/24)** – Cllr Flowers reported that the ESSC were looking at replacing 4 external doors.
- 2.4 **Annual Assembly (18/3/24)** – Cllr Duncan commented that the Annual Assembly was not very well supported. The parish council had changed the format to be more resident-led, rather than the parish council giving a formal report, but this had simply shifted the focus to the ward councillors' report.
- 2.5 **Dates for Diaries** – These 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** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.83 **Manhole cover outside Stonepits House** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.84 **Tractor warning sign** – Email received on 19/3/24 stating that a job had been raised regarding the missing sign at Petsoe End.
- 2.1.86 **Home Farm Court (lighting)** - The clerk sought advice from MKCC's conservation officer regarding outside lighting towards the pump field and church emanating from Home Farm Court. Awaiting response.
- 2.1.87 **Litter on A509** – The clerk reported the litter on the A509 to MKCC on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Reference MKCC594730927.

2.1.117 **Surface water drain outside Acorn Early Years** – Reported on by Ward Cllr Geary.

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.

3.6.30 **Allotments** – Waiting to hear from Rushford & McCarville.

3.6.50 **Dog fouling** – Nothing to report.

3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – frequent collision issues** – Nothing to report.

3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.

3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – Nothing to report.

### 3. **SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**

3.1 **Emberton Park – Premises Licence application** – A discussion took place regarding the premises licence application for the rally fields in Emberton Park for one day per year (June) for live music, recorded music, dancing, and the supply of alcohol. Councillors agreed that the licence was not supporting bio diversity in the park nor was it in keeping with quiet countryside activities which had been the parish council's stance following the meeting with Nicholas Hannon, MKCC in August 2018. Councillors felt that parking would impact the village, there would be an impact on the wildlife and the noise from the festival would be unwelcome by residents and visitors. It was proposed by Cllr Laval to write an objection to the application. Agreed by Cllrs Duncan, Jamieson, Palmer and White. Cllr Flowers abstained from voting. **Action: KG.**

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Duncan stated that the policies in the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan should be taken into consideration by the parish council when commenting on planning applications as consultee. MKCC should also take these policies into account when making planning decisions

3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker sent an email to the trustee of the school house fund on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April providing proposals on the way forward.

3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr Palmer reported that bookings for the summer were coming in for cricket. The poor weather had led to football cancellations and had created more maintenance work on the large pitch. The grant from the FA for pitch maintenance had not been approved nor had those from other parish councils. The groundsman would submit another pitch inspection report to engage with the FA. A quote had been received from a contractor but it was felt that volunteers were not quite yet at the stage of needing help. Cllr Laval asked if it was worth trying to take off some of the jobs. Cllr Palmer responded that a volunteer approach had been tried. Cllr Palmer reported that Andy Letts had a folder of risk assessments and this would be looked at during the next meeting.

3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – The clerk emailed Martin Ellison for an update. Response awaited.

3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service) and double yellow lines** – nothing to report.

- 3.113 **Climate Change** – Cllr Flowers reported he had raised the proposal of a hydroelectric project at the Olney weir with the EA, MKCC and OTC so had done as much as he could on that.
- 3.116 **Access to playing field from residential properties and general access** – Cllr Duncan reported that she would look at this for the next meeting. One of the residents attending the meeting asked if there was an issue as this affected her property. Cllr Duncan explained that the matter had been raised because a resident with a gate on to the playing field had asked for goal posts on the playing field to be moved to a different position. Olney Town Council had recently looked at the matter of a private gate opened on to their sports grounds and had decided to close it off because of liability issues, such as injuries caused by failure to maintain the access properly. Unlike Olney Town Council, EPC was not currently minded to close off the private gates on to the playing field, but EPC did have a duty to protect the EPC public land from individuals acquiring private rights and from other liability, such as trespass on to the private properties through these gates, so far as they could. Accordingly, EPC would be looking at sending another letter to the residents with private gates reinforcing the letter sent out recently by a subcommittee.
- 3.118 **New City Plan (Historic Areas of Attractive Landscape)** – Noted that there were no current consultations.
- 3.121 **Consideration of proposals to extend the restrictions on street trading by mobile vendors throughout Milton Keynes** – Nothing to report.

#### 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White reported that no applications had been received but Ward Cllr McLean was trying to get in touch with the Chair of the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee.

#### previous applications status

- 4.370 **24/00057/TPO** – The removal of storm damaged branches to suitable growth points and reduction of overextended lateral branches by 2-3 metres of a Cedar tree (T001) protected by Milton Keynes Council Tree Preservation Order No. PS/540/15/331 at Manor House, 9 Olney Road – **no objection**
- 4.371 **24/00054/HOU** – Installation of flush PV panels into outbuilding slate roof at West Lane House, West Lane - **permitted**
- 4.372 **24/00022/LBC** – Listed Building Consent for the proposed installation of flush PV panels into outbuilding slate roof at West Lane House, West Lane – **permitted**
- 4.373 **24/00241/TCA** – The crown reduction by 1.5-2 metres all round of 1 x Walnut tree (T1) and 1 x Beech tree (T2), the crown reduction by 2m of 3 x silver Birch trees (T3, T4, T5) and the crown thinning by 20% and removal of dead wood of 1 x Lime tree (T6) at Chaff Barn, 2 Manor Court, Olney Road – **no objection**
- 4.374 **24/00401/TCA** – Crown reduction by 2-3m of overhanging branches back to the boundary on Horse Chestnut at 26 Gravel Walk – **no objection**

## New applications

- 4.376 **24/00537/HOU** – Demolition of existing detached pool house and erection of a single storey rear extension with solar panels to the roof. Single storey front and side extensions to include alterations to the roof, garage conversion, new doors and windows and additional roof lights, new external render/cladding. Erection of a detached double garage with store above, and new boundary wall at Springside Pasture, Petsoe End. Cllr Duncan left the meeting for this item, with Cllr White taking the Chair. A discussion took place regarding the application and the potential disruption to residents during the building work and the possibility of damage being caused to the single-track road and well at Petsoe End should the application be permitted. It was noted that the application was a re-submission, considering the comments made by the planning officer when determining the previous application and it would be difficult to object to the application if all the points had been covered. The clerk to respond accordingly. **Action: KG.**
- 4.377 **24/00580/TCA** – The reduction in height (around 4 to 5 metres) of the silver Birch tree approximately 10m to 12m in height at 29 Olney Road. The clerk to respond that the parish council would agree with the recommendations made by MKCC’s tree officer regarding this application. **Action: KG.**

## 5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Jamieson that the payments be approved. Cllr Palmer to approve the payments. **Action: GP.** It was proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Jamieson to transfer £500 from the deposit account to the current account.
- 5.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – The clerk reported that the application to the CIF for a SID had been approved.
- 5.3 **Raising funds – sponsorship and open gardens** – The clerk reported that the ESSC had agreed to sponsor the two dog waste bins on the playing field on a yearly basis at a cost of £360 per year. Cllr Laval stated that she had spoken to the pub regarding sponsoring the hanging baskets and asked if they would be responsible for maintaining them. It was noted that this was not the case.

There had only been one resident interested in the open gardens.

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

## 7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – New City Plan, MK Connect, Open gardens. **Action: KG.**
- 7.2 **Cllrs’ concerns**

**Cherry tree (High Street)** – Cllr Flowers reported that one of the recently planted trees in the High Street had died. The clerk to investigate further funding and Cllr Jamieson to speak to Acorn Plant Nursery. **Action: KG/CJ**

**Allotment noticeboard** – Cllr White reported that the post of the noticeboard at the allotment was rotten. The clerk commented that it was not listed as a parish council asset. Cllr White to take the noticeboard down and dispose of it. **Action: HW.**

**Chain link fencing at playing field end of Alison Fraser Walk** – Cllr Palmer reported that the chain link fence at the end of Alison Fraser Walk needed repair. A resident attending the meeting reported that he had spoken to the individual believed to own adjoining land regarding the removal of some overhanging branches. It was agreed that the clerk would take photographs of the tree and try to establish ownership of the land. **Action: KG.**

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.