

**Emberton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Virtual Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday 12th May 2020 at 7pm**

**Present:**

Councillor Victoria McLean  
Councillor Steve Gibson  
Councillor Melanie Duncan  
Councillor Paul Flowers  
Councillor Richard Logsdail  
Councillor Harry White

Mr David Barton (resident)  
Mr Colin White (resident)  
Mr Ian Whiting (resident)

Ward Councillor Peter Geary  
Ward Councillor Keith McLean

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

**Election of Chairman** – Councillor V McLean stated that she was prepared to continue with the parish council provided that she was not part of the committee for the neighbourhood plan and provided that someone else took over the playing field. It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr Flowers that Cllr V McLean be elected Chairman. Cllr McLean accepted the nomination. The Acceptance of Office to be signed by the Chairman in due course.

**Election of Vice Chairman** - It was proposed by Cllr V McLean and seconded by Cllr Flowers that Cllr Gibson be elected Vice Chairman. Cllr Gibson accepted the Nomination. The Acceptance of Office to be signed by the Vice Chairman in due course.

**Update of Register of Members' Interests** – To be carried forward to next face to face meeting.

**Election of Parish Council representative to the Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr Logsdail was nominated as a parish council representative to the Sports & Recreation Committee.

**Election of one Parish Council representative to the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee** – Cllr White was nominated as a parish council representative to the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee.

**Election of three Parish Council representatives to the Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee** – Cllrs Flowers, Logsdail and White were nominated as parish council representatives to the Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee.

**Election of one Parish Council representative to the Emberton Park Liaison User's Group** – Cllrs Flowers and White were nominated as parish council representatives to the PLUG.

**Nominate Parish Council representatives to attend Parishes Forum (2 representatives)** - The clerk commented that it was normally the Chair and Vice Chair that attended this meeting. Cllrs McLean and Gibson to attend this meeting.

**Nominate Parish Council representatives to attend the Olney Ward Forum** – Cllr V McLean was nominated as the parish council representative for the Olney Ward Forum. Cllr V McLean recommended that councillors read the agenda for the meeting and joined in should they wish to listen to a topic of interest. Cllr Duncan commented that she was happy to act as a back up should Cllr V McLean be unable to attend.

**Nominate Parish Council representative to attend Olney Ward Community Forum** – The clerk was nominated as the parish council representative for the Olney Ward Community Forum.

**Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies for absence. Cllr V McLean reported that Mike Horton, a stalwart supporter of the parish council had recently passed away.

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

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020. These were confirmed and will be signed by the Chairman when the next face to face meeting takes place.

1.2 **Public questions** – Mr Barton stated that he had noted that the MK Futures 2050 consultation was going to be discussed and he wanted to make a comment regarding a by pass for Olney. Mr Barton stated that the eastern route would be preferable as the western route would cause noise pollution for the whole of the village. The eastern route would support development as outlined in the neighbourhood plan and would not impact on Emberton Park. Cllr V McLean suggested that Mr Barton submitted his comments independently. Mr Barton also commented that he had not received notification of the next date for the PLUG meeting. Cllr V McLean commented that Cllrs Flowers and White were the representatives for the PLUG meetings and would ask them to follow this up with MKC.  
**Action PF/HW**

Mr White and Mr Whiting stated that they were at the meeting to listen in and did not wish to make comment.

1.3 **Risk – Covid 19 update** – Councillor V McLean commented that there were no further updates regarding Covid 19 and the Emberton Cares group were doing an excellent job.

1.4 **Councillor Vacancy** – Cllr V McLean commented that three residents had applied for the councillor vacancy and requested that the councillors present at the meeting indicated via email to the Chair, their preferred choice. Cllr V McLean reported that Fred Markland had received the majority vote and would therefore be elected. Cllr V McLean reported that it was felt that the other two candidates would be an asset for the parish council and hoped that they would be able to help on other committees such as the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group or the Sports and Recreation Committee and that they could join the parish council meetings as observers. The clerk to email Fred Markland, Joe Walker and Colin Jamieson.  
**Action KG**

1.5 **Clerk's sabbatical** – Cllr V McLean commented that she would discuss this with the clerk and Cllr Gibson.

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

**Household Waste and Recycling Centres** – Cllr K McLean commented that the HWRCs would be opening on the 18<sup>th</sup> May and that appointments needed to be booked by telephone in advance.

**Planned works** – Cllr K McLean commented that planned works were being brought forward as there was less traffic on the road.

**MK Futures 2050** – Cllr Geary commented that since the consultation was originally discussed, the world had moved on massively to where we were now in terms of Covid 19. Everything in the document would be changed in the coming months and years. Cllr V McLean stated that there was funding from government for greener transport to give a real impetus as a part of their recovery initiative. Cllr K McLean commented that he had had sight of an email regarding widening pavements and cycle ways to allow for social distancing. Cllr Geary stated that we would have to wait and see what MKC came up with. Cllr Geary commented that the difficulty was that the western by pass route would cost £100,000,000 and there was no money identified to build that and it was unlikely to happen unless there was money from government to do it. MK Futures 2050 had identified 1500 homes for Olney; planning applications would come in when there wasn't the infrastructure of a by pass. Cllr Geary stated that the proposed transport system would be good for Emberton. Cllr White asked who was paying for the consultation. Cllr Geary responded that MKC were out of their central budget. Cllr White asked who was driving it. Cllr Geary responded that it was the leader of the Council and was a vision for MK for the next 30 years. Cllr White stated that it seemed that MK was being created as a mega city to compete with cities such as London and Birmingham. Cllr V McLean commented that the response to MK Futures 2050 would be updated and circulated for clerk. **Action KG**

## 2. Clerk's Report

2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.

2.1.95 **Milestone (A509 north)** – Awaiting painting of lettering; contractor working on a template to repaint text properly.

2.1.105 **Newport Road (speed limit)** – Awaiting new speed limit order.

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

3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – Nothing to report.

3.6.50 **Dog waste bins** – A request had been received from a resident for a dog waste bin at the start of the three shires way at the top of West Lane following a number of complaints about high levels of dog mess and abandoned dog waste bags. **Note** – closest bin was opposite Alison Fraser Walk. 3 shires way was private land and permission would have to be sought from the land owner to site the bin and for the waste to be collected every week. **Cost:** Bin supply and installation £144 + vat. Emptying £145.60 per year + vat. It was proposed by Cllr V McLean and seconded by Cllr Logsdail that the proposal go ahead. **Action KG**

3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Update from Fred Markland as per his email of 3<sup>rd</sup> May “The well structure, which is most probably local limestone quarried from the field behind it, has been severely compromised by a fairly large tree that is growing immediately on top of the arched covering to the well enclosure. The stonework forming the arch has spalled and is disrupted to a point that daylight can be seen at the junction between the back wall. There is no doubt

that great care will need to be exercised when the tree is removed and for this I would suggest that a timber arch former is wedged to the underside of the stonework arch in order to hold it in place during the process. Once the tree has been removed and the top of the stone arch cleared of all growth, it would then require further inspection in order to determine the full extent of repairs.

It would be worth propping the arch with the above mentioned former so as not to lose the profile and historic stonework prior to repair. Existing stone mortars appear very hard and may have caused the relatively soft local limestone to spall once pressure was applied by the vegetation. It is therefore a recommendation that any further repairs are carried out in an appropriate lime mortar in order that they become sacrificial and flexible against the stone used. Once the tree growth is removed, it may be possible through grouting from above, to retain insitu existing stone and sufficient to hold it in place for the former to be taken away and repairs completed from below.

It might be beneficial to get a contractor on board that could both carry out the stone repair and propping works in advance of the tree removal so that the profile of the arch is not lost for eventual repairs afterwards.

I would be more than happy to meet with a stonemason in order to talk through with him this exercise and get costs for the overall repairs if required? We recently used an operative called Tim Mason from Bedfordshire down at the museum in Olney for a boundary wall repair and found him fair and reasonable as well as understanding the materials and sensitivity required for this type of work.

I hope that helps to set out what I believe to be the correct methodology and solution in this instance and please do contact me should the Council require further input from me towards eventual repairs etc.”

- 3.6.88 **Leylandii trees (13/15 Gravel Walk)** – Site visit to be arranged.
- 3.6.106 **Farm traffic sign for junction of Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.107 **Street lighting – Prospect Place (column 1)** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.109 **Newton Road** – Awaiting feedback from Davina Millership, Head of Highways at MKC.
- 3.6.110 **Erosion of grass verges in Olney Road (15, 17, 19)** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.111 **Bench (The Forge)** – It was noted that the bench in The Forge was in need of replacement. The bench was installed by the Dyer family in memory of their mother, Lavinia. The clerk to contact Mrs Garvey (Mrs Dyer’s daughter). The clerk to arrange for the shrubbery around the bench to be cut back. Message received from Mrs Garvey stating that she would be delighted for the bench to be replaced at her expense (letter to follow). Cllr Logsdail commented that on closer inspection, the bench was in need of a clean up and treating rather than repair. The clerk to arrange. **Action KG**
- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – It was noted that the park had been shut to cars since the Covid 19 lockdown. Cllr White stated that the parish council needed to be pro active and push for a PLUG meeting to see what the plans for the park were. It was noted that the officer at MKC responsible for the park, Maurice Barnes had resigned. Cllr Geary stated that he would send an email regarding the PLUG meeting. **Action PG**

- 3.23 **Bell & Bear Public House** – Cllr Logsdail reported that nothing had happened since the last parish council meeting.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr V McLean reported that after the last parish council meeting, it was agreed to halt the process. A discussion was held between the ward councillor, a member of the steering group, a representative of the parish council and the planning consultant to agree the way forward. Cllr V McLean went on to say that she would like to re-start the steering group; there had been 5 people who had expressed an interest to reform the committee including Cllr Duncan. Cllr V McLean stated that she hoped that Cllr Duncan would pick up on the work that had already been done and identify what should be done going forward. Cllr Duncan responded that she was happy to take this up. **Action: KG** to arrange a NPSGM
- 3.85 **Emberton School** – Nothing to report.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr V McLean commented that she was so pleased that Cllr Logsdail had agreed to join the Sports & Recreation Committee and that the only topic for discussion was whether or not to open the tennis court. A discussion took place regarding the current government guidelines and it was agreed to open the court and put up a notice regarding responsibility and that users of the tennis court played at their own risk. **Action: KG** to put together a notice.

### 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.96 **MK Futures 2050** – Previously reported on. **Action:** The clerk to circulate draft response for comment.

### 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White reported that there hadn't been a meeting but he had spoken to the clerk and there had been some confusion regarding an application from EUC. Cllr White had personally tried to resolve the issue with EUC but the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund members were not supportive of the application. Cllr White stated that he wanted to ascertain the make up of the committee and how it was set up. Cllr Geary stated that this was within his remit and requested that Cllr White sent him the information. Cllr K McLean asked if the committee got an up to date statement of accounts. **Action: HW/PG**
- 4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White to approach Cllr Hall for a hand over of paperwork. **Action: HW**

#### previous applications status

- 4.225 Airsoft site at West Farm Way, Mr Carlos Williams – It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda. Cllr White commented that he believed that live stock were being put on the field.
- 4.257 **19/03142/FUL** – Retrospective permission for the demolition of an existing stone barn, its rebuild, extension and conversion into a two bedroom residential dwelling at Mounts House, West Lane for Mr D J Soul and Dr Diane Soul – **decision deferred**

- 4.264 **20/00483/FUL** – Erection of one dwelling and double garage within the garden of No 34 at 34 Gravel Walk for Mr J Green - **refused**. The clerk commented that the words “within the garden” had been removed from this application before it was decided and that the officer at MKC had commented in her report that the land was paddock and not garden.
- 4.265 **20/00638/TCA** – Notification of intention to remove 1 x Acacia tree to ground level at West Lane House, West Lane for Mrs Ellis – **no objection**
- 4.266 **20/00822/FUL** – New 2 bedroom single storey dwelling with attic accommodation and associated garden and amenity space on land West of West Lane (former orchard) at West Lane House, West Lane for Mr J Shurey - **pending**
- 4.267 **20/00833/TCA** – Replace existing trees on the rear boundary with 8 x Pleached Carpinus trees. The removal of the following trees are required: 1 Cotoneaster, 2 Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), 1 Weeping Birch (*Betula pendula*), 1 Flowering Cherry (*Prunus c. “Nigeria”*) at 3 West Farm Way – **pending**

#### **new applications**

- 4.268 **20/00991/FUL** – Single storey rear extension to dwelling and former garage (hobby room). Installation of window to front elevation of former garage (hobby room) and driveway works. Re-submission of 19/03231/FUL at 24 Gravel Walk. There were no objections to this application.
- 4.269 **20/01061/TCA** – Notification of intention to fell to ground 3 Lawson Cypress (G1) closely set together. Too close to property, causing excessive shading to owner’s garden and neighbours. These trees have grown too large for their current environment at 28 Olney Road. There were no objections to this application.
- 4.270 **20/01021/NOTTEL** – Installation of a 10m high light carrier pole for wired telecommunications. Telecommunications Pole, Gravel Walk for Open Reach – **information only**

Ward Councillors Peter Geary and Keith McLean left the meeting at 8.20pm

#### **5. ACCOUNTS**

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 12<sup>th</sup> May and approve payments.** The RFO’s Report was received. Cllr V McLean commented that a refund would be required to be made to Groundworks for the unspent grant for the neighbourhood plan and that a new application would have to be made. It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr Logsdail that the payments be approved as per the RFO’s Report. Cllr Logsdail to approve the payments online. **Action: RL**
- 5.2 **To approve the report from the internal auditor** – to be carried forward to next meeting
- 5.3 **Approval of accounts** – to be carried forward to next meeting

#### **6. CORRESPONDENCE** - nothing to report.

#### **7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS**

7.1 **Village publicity** – Meetings via zoom, committee responsibilities, neighbourhood plan, refuse sacks left out overnight. **Action: KG**

7.2 **Councillors' concerns** – nothing to report.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – confirmed as Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The meeting closed at 8.40pm