

Emberton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting – 11th January 2016

Present:

Councillor Vicki McLean – Vice Chairman
 Councillor Cynthia Cheney
 Councillor Paul Flowers
 Councillor Soo Hall
 Councillor Harry White

Ward Councillor Keith McLean
 Ward Councillor Peter Geary (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Gibson, Councillor Horton and Ward Councillor David Hosking

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 7th December 2015 were agreed and initialled by the Vice Chairman.

2.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

254 - Dates for Commitment – The dates for meetings were noted.

254 - Clerk's Report - The Clerk's report was previously circulated.

215 – Olney Ward Forum – Meeting held 9/12/15 – This was not attended.

127 – Parishes Forum – Meeting held 10/12/15 – No update.

210 – PLUG – Meeting held 17/12/15 – Councillor K McLean commented that the option of yurts to rent to holiday makers was discussed. The group were looking at a 3-5 year plan but more ideas were needed. The suggestion of re-forming a Steering Group was discussed. Councillor K McLean suggested the parish council asked for a meeting with officers to discuss the future of the park. It was agreed that the clerk should write to Andy Hudson to endorse the re-forming of a Steering Group and to ask to be made aware of any meetings and to also ask that the parish council be involved in the tender of the café.

KG

Update from Ward Councillor

Highways – Councillor McLean reported that there were new people in highways and Public Realm; Kim Hills and Tony Toynton.

Emberton Park Café – Councillor McLean reported that the café was being

decided at procurement on the 12th January although there was only one bidder who would have to put forward money to refurbish the kitchen.

Ward Budget – Councillor McLean commented that Ward Councillors would be writing to parishes in the second week of February to ask for suggestions of how to spend the Ward Budget. Each Ward Councillor was able to spend £1,000.

Plan:MK – Councillor McLean stated that the Sherington meeting to discuss Plan:MK was not very well attended and that the consultation finished on the 6th April. Councillor McLean suggested organising a public meeting, as individuals should be encouraged to respond to the consultation. A drop in session had been arranged in Olney on the 24th February.

Olney Library – Councillor McLean touched on the subject of hours being cut at Olney Library. This is further reported on under item 6.1.

MKC Budget – Councillor Geary reported that the consultation on MKC Budget would finish on the 30th January. The Kitchener Centre in Olney was currently proposed for closure, play areas across MK might close, revenue has been cut for PPF grants and applications could only be for capital projects, £20,000 will be saved by taking out street furniture, possibility of replacing pink sacks with reusable bags, charge for garden waste collection (£36 per year), reduction in bus subsidies but these won't affect Emberton. Councillor Geary commented that he would write a brief note regarding the budget on how the parishes might be affected and circulate it.

2.1 **Councillor's Concerns from previous Minutes**

2.1.1 **Village Design Statement/Village Questionnaire** – Councillor Cheney reported that she had located the file and would sort it out for the next meeting. Councillor V McLean commented that she was booked on a Neighbourhood Plan training course.

CC

2.1.17 **Footpath, Petsoe End** - Report had been received and was being reviewed by Andy Burton (MKC).

2.1.63 **Village name signs** – Awaiting design from History Society.

2.1.73 **Confidential item**

2.1.85 **Kerb stones, West Lane** – Councillor Hall commented that the kerbstones that were repaired four weeks ago were dislodged again two weeks later and that there was little point in reporting them if this was going to happen. It was agreed that a more permanent solution needed to be looked into such as cutting away the grass verge re-profiling the entrance opposite the cottages and also at the entrance to Home Farm Court. Ward Councillor McLean reported that the Ward Councillors and officers from MKC highways would shortly be conducting a village walkabout and the clerk should request that these areas were looked at.

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2.1.86 **Directional signage to Emberton Country Park** – The clerk confirmed that Mr Wibaut was willing to put the sign up during the summer months. It was agreed that this item could be removed from the Agenda.

- 2.1.91 **Damaged fence around Field 13** – The clerk to arrange a site visit with Andy Hudson and John Price. It was felt that if the damaged fence was part of the tenancy agreement for leasing Field 13, it should be reported. **KG**
- 2.1.93 **Tree overhanging West Lane from Stone Court** – The clerk to speak to the resident concerned.
- 2.2 **High Street, resurfacing** – The clerk commented that the latest update was that the High Street would be resurfaced in the 2016/2017 financial year.
- 3.0 SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**
- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Nothing further to report.
- 3.2 **234** – Local Government – It was agreed that this item could be taken off the agenda.
- 3.6 **Parish Related**
- 3.6.1 **Website** – Estimate received for building website from It'seeze who host Lavendon Parish Council's website in the sum of £400 plus £45 per month plus vat. They provide training on the updating side which is undertaken by the parish council. They also provide up to 5 email addresses and look after the domain name, the renewal of which is included in the £45 (+vat) per month. Councillor V McLean commented that she had compared all three estimates received and that the all round service offered by It'eeze was more professional. It was proposed by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Cheney and unanimously agreed that It'seeze be appointed to provide the website. Councillor V McLean commented that the contract needed to be reviewed to progress to the next phase. **VM
KG**
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.16 **Clock tower – upgrade of time side** – The clerk to progress this with Smiths of Derby and an electrician. **KG**
- 3.6.96 **Footpath between Emberton Playing Field and Emberton Park** – The clerk made enquiries as to whether the parish council were able to upgrade the footpath which runs from the playing field to Emberton Park. Response received that the tenant of the field (Mr Reynolds of Hungary Hall Farm, Weston Underwood) was responsible for maintaining both the fence and the footpath. Councillor V McLean commented that the parish council would not be able to pursue this issue.
- 3.6.97 **Clean for the Queen** – Councillor V McLean commented that all was needed was a bit of cleaning and a few bulbs planting and that a steering group would be a good way to take this forward.
- 3.23 **Localism Bill and Community Right to Bid** – It was proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor V McLean and unanimously agreed that the clerk write to MKC to register an interest in leasing both Field 13 and the field next to it. Councillor Flowers to take this back to the playing field committee. **KG
PF**
- 3.62 **Plan:MK** – Councillor V McLean stated that Plan:MK was an important consultation and that a leaflet drop informing residents of this should be done and a

drop in session arranged. The clerk to arrange the drop in session for Saturday 27th February at the pavilion and advertise this in the Well & Towers.

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Ward Councillor Geary and left the meeting at 9pm.

- 3.68 **MKC Budget Consultation 2016/2017** – The clerk to await the report from Councillor Geary and draft a response.

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4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Councillor Flowers reported that the playing field committee had now received a grant for £6,000 for solar panels.
- 4.109 **14/00407/FUL** – Solar Farm and Community Benefit Fund. Councillor Hall commented that the Committee approved three grants; one for the tennis courts in the sum of £1,500, Well & Towers £1,000 and ESSC £929.40. A fourth application had been received but it was decided that this did not fit the criteria of being for the benefit of Emberton and was therefore rejected.
- 4.158 **15/02660/MMAM** – Minor material amendments to planning permission 15/01709/FUL for revision of approved plans regarding rebuilding of southern end of existing property, changes to materials and fenestration, surface water drainage and bicycle parking at 32 Gravel Walk - **permitted**
- 4.161 **15/02862/DISCON** – Details submitted pursuant to discharge of conditions 1 (ground conditions) attached to planning permission 15/00734/FUL at Rectory Farm, Newton Road - **pending**
- 4.162 **15/02789/NMA** – Non material amendment to application 14/00407/FUL for changes and reduction to footprint and scale at Emberton Solar Park, Newton Road – **pending**
- 4.163 **15/02900/FUL** – Proposed first floor side and rear two storey extension, new front entrance, new side conservatory, introduction of dormer windows and roof light to front elevation, new replacement windows, internal alterations and alterations to rear elevation, new pool link, re-cladding of the existing swimming pool enclosure and new glazed doors to the existing swimming pool enclosure at Springside Pasture, Petsoe End. There were no objections to the application, provided materials were as specified and there were no objections from neighbouring properties.
- 4.164 **15/03149/TCA** – Notification of intention to fell 4 x conifer trees (B, C, D and E) and reduce in height by 1 metre 3 x conifer trees (H, I, J) at 35 Olney Road for Mr R Laval. The parish council to comment that it would be in agreement with the recommendation made by MKC's tree officer.
5. **ACCOUNTS** – to agree payments and items, as listed below
- 5.1 **RFO's Report and discuss banking arrangements with National Westminster Bank.** The RFO's report for the 11th January was accepted. Councillor K McLean reported that Metro Bank was looking at electronic banking for parish councils. The clerk reported that National Westminster Bank was not able to communicate with her because she was not a signatory to the account and miscommunication with the Chairman, meant that the application had been cancelled. It was proposed by

Councillor V McLean, seconded by Councillor Flowers and unanimously agreed that a second current account be set up with the Co-operative Bank for the Community Benefit Fund from the Solar Farm. The clerk to arrange this.

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5.2 **Fixed Rate Deposit Account with Cooperative Bank** – The clerk reported that the account had been set up. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

5.3 **A H Contracts** – Payment for emptying dog waste bins for the month of December in the sum of £64.56. Payment proposed by Councillor Flowers, seconded by Councillor White and unanimously agreed by all those present.

5.4 **Anglian Water** – Payment for supply at allotments in the sum of £13.36. Payment proposed by Councillor Flowers, seconded by Councillor White and unanimously agreed by all those present.

5.5 **Mrs S Soul** – Payment for grant from Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund in the sum of £1,500.00. Payment proposed by Councillor Flowers, seconded by Councillor White and unanimously agreed by all those present.

5.6 **Well & Towers** – Payment for grant from Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund in the sum of £1,000.00. Payment proposed by Councillor Flowers, seconded by Councillor White and unanimously agreed by all those present.

5.7 **Emberton Sports and Social Club** – Payment for grant from Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund in the sum of £929.40. Payment proposed by Councillor Flowers, seconded by Councillor White and unanimously agreed by all those present.

5.8 **Antrams Payroll Services** – Payment for quarterly payroll in the sum of £39.00. Payment proposed by Councillor Flowers, seconded by Councillor White and unanimously agreed by all those present.

5.9 **EUC** – Payment for hire of Institute in the sum of £43.40. Payment proposed by Councillor Flowers, seconded by Councillor White and unanimously agreed by all those present.

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5.10 **Mrs K Goss** – Payment for clerk's December salary in the sum of £344.22. Payment proposed by Councillor Flowers, seconded by Councillor White and unanimously agreed by all those present.

5.11 **Mrs K Goss** – Payment for clerk's telephone/computer and expenses for December in the sum of £20.78. Payment proposed by Councillor Flowers, seconded by Councillor White and unanimously agreed by all those present.

5.12 **Pension Scheme for Clerk** – The clerk to seek advice.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE – is now listed in the Wallet**

6.1 **Olney Library** – The clerk read out a letter from Olney Town Council which stated that in February 2015, MKC launched a Community and Cultural Services Review which aimed to identify savings of nearly £0.5m over three years in the Library Service. As part of the savings proposal, MKC was looking to upgrade their IT infra structure but in order to do so were proposing to reduce the hours at Olney library

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by 8 hours per week. As a result of this, OTC was looking to fund the 8 hours for one year using their own funds and funds from other parishes whose residents use the library. It was proposed by Councillor V McLean, seconded by Councillor Hall and unanimously agreed that the parish council make a pro rata payment of £249.28.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

7.1 **Village publicity** – Solar farm community fund, Precept, Plan:MK, Olney Library

7.2 **Councillors' Concerns**

Councillor Hall raised a concern regarding the kerbstones in West Lane which is covered under item 2.1.85.

8.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is confirmed as Monday 1st February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of the Institute. The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

All