

# Emberton Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Present:**

Councillor Victoria McLean (Chairman)  
 Councillor Stephen Gibson (Vice Chairman)  
 Councillor Soo Hall  
 Councillor Richard Logsdail  
 Councillor Harry White

Mr Richard Laval – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (part meeting)  
 Mr Christopher Handler – resident (part meeting)

Ward Councillor Keith McLean (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

**Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for Absence were received from Ward Cllrs 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019. These were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Richard Laval stated that the parish council at its November meeting had delegated powers to the steering group to produce the final plan provided that there were no changes from the plan that was submitted to the parish council. The plan now has some policy changes and had some bits taken out to meet the examination stage based on Lavendon’s examination. The Emberton plan would be using the same examiner as the one for Lavendon and the examiner had worked with the consultant previously. The plan would be sent out to the parish council next week; once approved by the parish council, it would be sent to MKC’s neighbourhood planning officer for comment which would take a couple of weeks. Mr Laval stated that he would like to bring the plan to the February parish council meeting to formally agree it with whatever changes had been highlighted. There was however one major problem which was the neighbourhood planning officer at MKC had told the consultant that MKC’s regeneration department would be putting the school field forward for development. The school had not been closed yet and the decision to close the school had not been made. When the plans goes to examination there needed to be evidence that the land put forward for development would be available within a reasonable period of time and this evidence had not come forward. The issue was a timing one; if the school field came forward during the six week consultation process, MKC could object to the plan. If the school field was put forward, it would have to be considered and the plan would need to make sure that there was sufficient space on the school field so that any development did not restrict the school being used. Councillor V McLean responded that mediation had not worked in relation to the decision to close the school and Children’s services would be making the decision at the end of January. Mr Laval stated that MKC highways had already commented about the viability of the Acorn Nurseries site and it could be developed but would need the access moved further down and a crossing would have to be put in which would bring the other side of the A509 into the village. Councillor Logsdail commented that the school field was too big for the size of the school. Mr Laval responded

that the school field was leased to the Federation and not under MKC's control; only when the school closed did it go back to MKC. If the school field came up, it would significantly change the plan. If the plan came back from examination in such a state that it could not be supported, then there wouldn't be a plan and the village would lose control over where development might happen.

Mr Laval left the meeting at 8.05pm.

- 1.3 **Dates for Commitment** – this was noted.
- 1.4 **Risk – to identify and action where necessary.** The clerk commented that Sue Soul had advised the parish council that the surface of the tennis court was slippery. The clerk to put up a notice to that effect. **Action: KG**
- 1.5 **Councillor vacancy – to Co-opt Councillor** – Due to time constraints, it was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting.
- 1.2 **Public questions, comments or representations** – Mr Handler reported on the meeting he had attended with Zoe Nolan and Simon Sims regarding the decision to close Emberton school. Mr Handler was asked if he would like to withdraw the call in request and he responded “no”. Mr Handler stated that his next step would be to survey the village to actually establish whether there were enough families to support a school. MKC's recommendation was that the school was not viable because there was not sufficient demand. Emberton had three times more houses than Newton Blossomville. Councillor Logsdail suggested putting something on the Emberton Echo. Mr Handler asked whether it was worth getting in touch with the local MP; Councillor V McLean responded that it would be.

Mr Handler left the meeting at 8.45pm

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

**Ward Councillors** – Cllr K McLean reported that PCSO Ormston sent out a letter about Community Speed Watch and TVP would be getting a new device called Sentinel by the end of January. If the parish council wanted to use it in the village; it needed to get on the rota. Moulsoe, North Crawley and Lavendon were now sharing 2 ANPR cameras.

**HIF** – Ward Councillor McLean reported that the Supplementary Planning Document would be going to Cabinet on the 13<sup>th</sup> January which would provide details on the HIF bid and if approved, how it would be developed.

**School** – Ward Councillor McLean commented that Mr Handler would be permitted three supporters at the next meeting.

### Clerk's Report

- 2.1.94 **Dog bin (West Lane)** – The bin has now been replaced and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 2.1.95 **Milestone (A509 north)** – Awaiting painting of lettering; contractor working on a template to repaint text properly.

- 2.1.103 **WW1 commemorative bench** – New bench has now arrived. The clerk to arrange for removal of existing bench and re-site in playing field and for new bench to be installed.
- 2.1.105 **Newport Road (speed limit)** – Awaiting new speed limit order.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Recent SID deployment showed vehicle average of 26mph, 29.1% of vehicles exceeded the speed limit with 59mph being the highest recorded speed.
- 3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – Nothing to report. The clerk followed this up on 2/1/20.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – The clerk contacted Fred Markland who has agreed to inspect the well.
- 3.6.106 **Farm traffic sign for junction of Petsoe End** – MKC advised that they would be looking at the potential option of installing 2 farm traffic signs on existing posts along Newton Road and would advise the parish council once they have a drawing proposal.
- 3.6.107 **Street lighting – Prospect Place (column 1)** – nothing to report.
- 3.6.109 **Newton Road** – highways issue at triangle of Petsoe End – email received from resident regarding the safety of pedestrians and vehicles on Newton Road. The highway was within the national speed limit and was used by farm vehicles, lorries and other vehicles and was particularly busy during the rush hour. At the Petsoe triangle there was a sharp bend meaning that lorries and other large vehicles often crossed the central line. School children were picked up on this bend before school and were dropped off at the same place every evening; there was no footpath or hard standing. Any children living in Petsoe End or Honey Hill walked along the Newton Road to catch the bus with no footpath. The clerk emailed Davina Millership, Head of Highways on 4<sup>th</sup> December to ask when a safety audit was last undertaken. Response received from Ms Millership stating that she would arrange for a check on the accident records and a site visit. Ward Councillor McLean requested that a PC representative and a Ward Councillor be present for the site visit.
- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – It was noted that the PLUG meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> November had been cancelled and the Minutes from the 19<sup>th</sup> September meeting had not been circulated. It was also noted that Emberton Parish Council had heard that the café was closing through a café employee. Ward Councillor McLean commented that the clerk should write to Stuart Proffitt expressing concern that there was little liaison between the park management team and the parish council and ask that he attend a PLUG meeting. **Action: KG**
- 3.23 **Bell & Bear Public House** – Cllr Logsdail reported that at the beginning of December another public meeting was held where the business plan was disclosed and the group raised the issue of asking people to pledge money with a target of £450,000. So far, £280,000 has been raised. A meeting will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January to which people will only be invited if they had made a pledge. The group had been in conversation with the agent to gain access to the pub for the valuer's consultant.
- 3.85 **Emberton School** – Reported on previously.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr Hall reported that the committee met on the 18<sup>th</sup> December and it was a very positive meeting. An estimate had been received to replace 4 rollers on the roller at £800 each with a reconditioned roller being in the region of £3500. It

was agreed to replace the roller with a reconditioned one up to the value of £6000 with a grant being submitted to the Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund for 50% of the cost. An estimate had been received from George Browns in the sum of £2950 plus vat. It was proposed by Cllr V McLean and seconded by Cllr Gibson that the purchase be approved. **Action: KG to advise the groundsmen.**

### 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.2 Community Infrastructure Fund – It was agreed, that due to timescales, the parish council would not submit an application.

3.5 “Together We Can” MKC consultation on working with parishes – to be carried forward.

### 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White was appointed as the representative for this committee following Cllr Horton’s retirement. **Action: KG to advise the committee**

4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – The clerk reported that the representatives for this committee were Cllrs Hall, Logsdail and White.

#### previous applications status

4.225 Airsoft site at West Farm Way, Mr Carlos Williams – nothing to report.

4.254 **19/02932/FUL** – Single storey front extension at 30 Gravel Walk – **permitted**

4.255 **19/03000/FUL** – Single storey rear extension and insertion of new window to the side (west facing) elevation at 7 West Farm Way - **permitted**

4.256 **19/03127/FUL** – Hip to gable roof extension and erection of new dormer structure at 73 Olney Road for Gemma Gallen – **pending**

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 – **pending**

4.258 **19/03231/FUL** – Single storey rear extension to dwelling and internal alterations. Installation of window to front elevation of hobby room and driveway works at 24 Gravel Walk – **pending**

#### New applications

4.259 **19/0332/TCA** – T1 – Apple – Crown reduce by 1-2m (15%) and remove deadwood. T2 – Pear – Crown reduce by 1-2m (20%) and remove deadwood. T3 – Apple – strip ivy and prune from neighbours. T4 – Apple – Dismantle to ground level. T5 – Robinia – Crown reduce by 2-3m (20%), Crown lift over neighbours and remove deadwood. T6 – Walnut – Crown reduce by 2-3m (20%), Crown lift over neighbours and remove deadwood. T7 – Robinia – Crown reduce by 2-3m (20%), Crown lift and remove deadwood. T8 – Holly – Reduce height by 50%. T9- Holly by house – reduce to gutter height and shape at West Lane House, West Lane. There were no objections to this application.

Ward Councillor McLean left the meeting at 9.30pm

## 5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 7<sup>th</sup> January and approve payments.** The RFO's Report was received. It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr White that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online.
- 5.2 **Co-operative account – change of signatories.** The clerk reported that Cllr Horton's signature had been obtained to remove his name as signatory. It was agreed to await the appointment of a councillor before sending the change of signatory application.
- 5.3 **Draft budget** – It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Gibson that the draft budget be approved and the precept set at £18,000. Ward Councillors Budget – it was agreed to submit an application for £200 for plans to improve the clock tower.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Confidential item

## 7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity – Action: KG**
- 7.2 **Councillors' concerns**

**Cllr V McLean** stated that it had been shown that it was important to be able to get news out quickly to the village. It was proposed by Cllr V McLean and seconded by Cllr Gibson that an Emberton Parish Council facebook page be set up. Cllr V McLean to speak to the administrator of Emberton Echo regarding updates for the parish council. A village email list was also discussed.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – confirmed as Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The meeting closed at 9.48pm.