

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan - Chairman
 Cllr Paul Flowers
 Cllr Fred Markland
 Cllr Harry White

Zoe Raven – Acorn Early Years Foundation
 PC Andy Hipkin – Thames Valley Police

Ward Cllr David Hosking (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO (via zoom)

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Steve Gibson, Cllr Colin Jamieson, Cllr Richard Logsdail and Ward Councillors Peter Geary and Keith McLean.

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 7th September 2021. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th September 2021 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

- 3.851 **Acorn Early Years proposal** – A site visit to Emberton School had been undertaken prior to the meeting. Ms Raven confirmed that MKC and the VSF had reached an agreement subject to planning consent – planning consent was now required for change of use because (following recent changes to the planning system) use as a school and use as a nursery now fall in different planning use classes. There would be two leases: a headlease between MKC and the VSF and then a sub-lease between the VSF and Acorn Early Years Foundation. The planning application would be submitted shortly. There were plans for a car park on the field with access to the back of the school. Cllr Duncan stated that she was reassured to hear that staff would be parking in the car park and not around the clock tower. A question was raised whether there could be a planning condition attached to the permission that only under 2s and disabled persons could use access at the front of the school. Cllr Duncan asked if there would be an electric vehicle charging point. Ms Raven stated that this had not been considered but was a good idea. Ms Raven stated that there would be a secure gate (double and single) which would be closed at night but there would be times when the village would be able to use the parking outside of the nursery hours (on request). There would be 20 car parking spaces, 8 or 9 for staff parking; the rest would be drop off and pick up. Cllr Duncan asked whether the parking could be used for parking for those attending funerals in the Church. Ms Raven responded that this could be accommodated as funerals were unlikely to take place when parents were dropping off or collecting children. Ms Raven explained that there was an option to have fencing to keep children away from vehicles and she expected that highways would make comments to the planning application. Cllr Duncan reminded Ms Raven that there was a memorial tree planted in the field. Ms Raven responded that she was aware of this and more

trees would be planted for bio diversity. It was noted that the lighting in the shelters would be solar, to avoid light pollution. Cllr Markland made reference to the surface of the car park. Ms Raven stated that Acorn Early Years had spoken to the Parks Trust who used a plastic/metal type structure which allowed the grass to grow through it. The timescale would be early next year with children starting at Easter.

Ms Raven left the meeting at 7.15pm

- 1.2 **Public questions** – PC Andy Hipkin presented the crime statistics for Emberton. Cllr Duncan stated that she was hoping for the focus of discussions to be on rat running and speeding in Emberton. PC Hipkin stated that there had been two sessions to educate drivers. TVP drew up a leaflet in conjunction with the parish council to explain the traffic order which were handed out to drivers. Every car that turned off into the village were stopped. Anyone that did not have a legitimate reason for coming into the village was given a leaflet and turned around back onto the A509. PC Hipkin suggested the clerk getting in contact with PCSO Huckle to ask him to undertake another operation. During the enforcement in 2012 between 4pm and 5pm 26 vehicles were stopped and directed back onto the A509 and between 5pm and 6pm, 91 vehicles were turned around. Cllr Markland asked if this was the most effective measure of trying to control and prevent? PC Hipkin responded that this was not the most effective; a gate into the village was the only effective method but in terms of powers and the order, it was the best way to do it. There was no reason why the parish as a community group could not do it as well but there would be limitations with any drivers that were not compliant. Cllr White responded that it was likely that the percentage of non-compliant drivers would be very low. PC Hipkin stated that there were only 1 or 2 who questioned it. Cllr White asked if the volunteer could take the registration and let them go through and report it. PC Hipkin responded that a letter could be sent to them based on their registration. Cllr Flowers commented that if the village were to do it, would we be able to have a PCSO for anyone that might be objectionable. PC Hipkin stated that only one PCSO was required.

Speeding – PC Hipkin stated that he was unaware of the current situation with SIDs but he could ask PCSO Huckle about them. Ward Cllr Hosking stated that they were moved around the villages. The clerk commented that they had not been in operation for 18 months. MKC owned 10 of them, some of them were faulty. Parishes were moving now on to Speed Watch. Speed Watch was owned by TVP but run by community groups. It was agreed to ask MKC about SID and ask for volunteers in the W & T for volunteers for Speed Watch. **Action: KG**

PC Hipkin left the meeting at 7.30pm

- 1.3 **Risk – Flooding at Petsoe End, Anglian Water pumping station in Harvey Drive** – The clerk to put as much information as possible on the template that the flood team at MKC provided so that it could be accessible on the parish council website. **Action: KG**

Anglian Water pumping station in Harvey Drive – Cllr Markland reported that Anglian Water had undertaken all the work that was expected of them.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTIONS

2.1 Ward Cllrs' Report

Rat running – Ward Cllr McLean had been contacted by residents of the village to say that they saw one of the No 21 buses taking a short cut through the village with no passengers on

board. It was noted that this had been reported to Stuart Simmonds (passenger transport) at MKC.

Acorn (MK) Nurseries housing – Ward Cllr Hosking stated that there were a couple of amendments to the design and access statement. Cllr Duncan stated that there was a change to the mix for affordable housing. Ward Cllr Hosking suggested that the parish council check with the case officer for the two changes. It was noted that MKC highways had objected to the planning application. Cllr Duncan commented that the highways report highlighted the site's lack of connections to footpath and cycle routes but put little focus on the pedestrian crossing on the A509.

PLUG meeting – Ward Cllr Hosking's view was that a push from officers was needed to change the objectives of the country park into more of an ecological purpose.

Rat running – Ward Cllr Hosking stated that from his experience, it would be a good idea to contact Inspector Lee Brace regarding this issue.

Electric charge points – Cllrs Flowers asked about the MKC press release on electric charge points. Ward Cllr Hosking stated that he was not aware of this. The clerk to send Cllr Hosking the information. **Action: KG**

MK Connect – Cllr Duncan made reference to the meeting being held on the 6th October. Ward Cllr McLean was attending the meeting and would no doubt report on it at the next parish council meeting.

Devolved services – Cllr Markland asked about landscaping devolvement. Ward Cllr Hosking reported that it would happen but not sure about timescales. Ward Cllr Hosking suggested that the parish council should go to the Parishes Forum and get updates on what was going on.

34 Gravel Walk – The clerk made reference to the planning application for 34 Gravel Walk that had been in pipeline since June and no decision made. The clerk to email the case officer and copy in the Ward Cllrs. **Action: KG**

7 Westpits – Cllr White stated the window at 7 Westpits was boarded up. The clerk to drop Ward Cllr Hosking an email regarding this. **Action: KG**

Ward Cllr Hosking left the meeting at 8pm.

Parishes Forum – Cllr Duncan reported that PCSO David Huckle was talking on the subject of the Thames Valley Alert messaging system and Neighbourhood Watch. The bus service improvement plan as part of the National Bus Strategy was discussed but this did not match up with MK Connect. NPTC made a presentation on the devolvement of 74 ha of Bury Fields from MKC, taken on as common land and there were general discussions around parishes taking on devolved services. Cllr White stated that this was looked at a few years back and it turned out not to be cost effective. The clerk commented that it was the administration of the contracts that made it not cost effective. MKC had put together costings. The clerk to circulate these. **Action: KG.** Cllr Duncan commented that MKC was claiming that if smaller companies were chosen to carry out the services, they might be a cheaper solution. There would be a workshop on devolvement (via Teams) on Tuesday 19th October. Cllr Duncan to attend. **Action: MD**

2.2 **Dates for Diaries** – these were noted.

2.4 **Clerk's Report**

2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Cllr White stated that there was a letter on the gate from MKC to ask walkers to seek the landowners' permission to go over the land through the farmyard. The clerk to take this up with MKC. **Action: KG**

2.1.24 **Weed spraying** – Spraying undertaken on the 25th September.

2.1.82 **Resident's parking – Hulton Drive** – Consultation on the resident parking scheme will be concluded on the 8th October.

2.1.95 **Milestone (A509 north)** – The clerk reported the milestone to MKC on the 23rd September as requiring attention. Response received as follows: Thank you for your Missing or Damaged Bollard Report. Thanks for letting us know about this issue. We'd like to carry out more repairs and maintenance on our highway network but as we have limited resources, we have to prioritise all our work. We do this by using safety criteria and carry out emergency repairs first. This particular problem does not yet require an immediate emergency repair but we'll keep monitoring it in case this changed. We may also schedule in the necessary repairs as part of our ongoing maintenance programme.

2.1.109 **Ash tree (junction of Petsoe End)** – Nothing to report.

2.1.111 **Harvey Drive nameplate** – Update from MKC as follows: MKC have very recently purchased a machine which can produce text to overlay onto existing street name plates. We plan to use this where street name plates have faded text.

Similarly, we can use the machine to transfer images such as 'no through road' at the end of an existing street name plate such as Harvey Drive. This is a much cheaper and more environmentally friendly option than getting a quote from the company that manufactures the SNP and having to install a brand new one for you.

Staff are currently undertaking training on how to use the machine and we are waiting for some templates to be produced. Once we have the templates we will have a better idea of costing, the software provides pretty accurate costs of the printing, which, as mentioned, is likely to be cheaper than having to send it off to the current supplier.

Unfortunately, I don't have a timescale of when all of this will happen, but I'm hopeful it will be in the next few months. If you are in no rush for this, please bear with us and I will provide a quote as soon as I'm able to.

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Reported on above.

3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – See update under item 2.1.82.

3.6.30 **Allotments** – MKC have agreed to transfer the allotments over to EPC and this is with the estates and property team to progress. MKC have requested help with marking up the map to show the area to be transferred. Cllr Duncan asked if the parish council wanted to claim more land for the allotments as it was being transferred. Cllr White stated that creating more plots would be costly and it would only be two plots. The clerk commented that there was no

one on the waiting list. Cllr Duncan stated that if we owned the area, we did not necessarily need to turn it over for allotments although it would have to be maintained. The area in question was land to the right of the allotments before the bank. Cllr Markland asked when the allotment plots were last advertised. The clerk commented that they were only advertised when there was a vacant plot. Cllr Duncan stated that MKC had asked for a red line for a plan as to what the parish council wanted. Cllr White commented that he maintained the pathway between the allotments and MKC did the flat area and the bank. Cllr Markland suggested advertising the fact that there could be the potential for further allotments.

- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report. Cllr Markland looking into grant funding.
- 3.6.109 **Newton Road** – Awaiting outcome of Acorn Nurseries planning application.
- 3.6.110 **Gritting at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.112 **Dead trees Newton Road (to right of triangle)** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.113 **Bench in Olney Road (by bus shelter)** – The clerk to obtain an estimate for a bench. Cllr Flowers stated that a composite one would be less maintenance.
- 3.6.114 **Litter bin for Olney Road (by bus shelter)** – The clerk to obtain an estimate for a litter bin.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Cllr White reported that there had been a walkabout of the park.
- 3.23 **Bell & Bear Public House** – It was noted that there was a fire inspection and drills taking place on the 5th October.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Dates circulated for the next meeting. Possible date of meeting for the 26th October.
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Duncan wrote a letter to the VSF regarding the School House Fund and stated that they should work with the Charities Commission.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – The clerk reported that the fencing in the car park was going to be replaced. ESSC were looking at the changing rooms. Cllr Logsdail made reference to the possibility of the SRC and ESSC having joint meetings.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – Email sent to Martin Ellison for update; no response received. The clerk to chase again. **Action: KG**
- 3.106 **BP Pulse – electric vehicle charge points** – It was a case of watching the space with regard to this issue.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – It was noted that there were no applications coming forward.

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

previous applications status

- 4.309 **21/01130/FUL** – Erection of one dwelling with attached single garage (re-submission of 20/00483/FUL) at 34 Gravel Walk – **pending**
- 4.316 **21/00999/OUTEIS** – Hybrid planning application – **pending**.
- 4.317 **21/01869/FUL** – Two storey side extension, first floor side and two storey rear extension, new front entrance, replacement pool enclosure with link to house, dormer windows to front elevation, replacement windows and internal alterations (re-submission of 20/00077/FUL) at Springside Pasture, Petsoe End – **pending**
- 4.319 **21/01921/OUT** – Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for the residential redevelopment of the Acorn (MK) Nurseries site for up to 41 dwellings including affordable housing. Also, access and additional off-site highway improvements following all demolition and removal work of existing structures and hard-standing from site at Acorn MK Nurseries, Newton Road. Cllr Duncan to proof read the design and access and see if there were any changes that needed to be commented on. **Action: MD.** It was noted that the mix of affordable housing had been altered.
- 4.320 **21/02479/FUL & 21/02480/LBC** – **pending**.
- 4.321 **21/02632/FUL** – Replacement of windows and glazed façade and 2 external doors at The Barn, 4 Manor Court – **pending**
- 4.322 **21/02632/FUL** - Demolition of garage/outbuildings and erection of new garage and single storey rear extension adjoining existing house incorporating altered former brewhouse (resubmission of 21/00394/FUL) at Grange Farm, Petsoe End – **pending**.

New applications

- 4.236 **119/00993/FUL** – partial removal of wall and gates to re-instate previous vehicular access to front garden; installation of new gates at 2 Gravel Walk – **refused**. It was noted that an email had been received from a resident. It was noted that comments had been received from a resident noting that the wall had been demolished and the rubble cleared from the site. The resident felt that the enlarged vehicle entrance was potentially a traffic hazard being so near the corner. It was noted that the works have been done despite it being refused by the planning department. Cllr White commented that the enforcement officer visited site years ago and stated the changes should be left as it was. Cllr Markland asked if it was down to the parish council to discuss. It was agreed that the resident to be advised how to complain to the enforcement team. **Action: KG**
- 4.323 **21/02718/TCA** – Works to (T1) variegated Acer – crown reduction by 0.5m to 1 metre & removal of inner crown reverted stems; & (T2) Hawthorn – crown reduction by 0.5m at Home Farm Court. It was agreed that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations made by MKC's tree officer with regard to this application.
- 4.324 **21/02745/DISCON** – Approval of details required by conditions 3 (Levels) and 8 (Stone samples) of permission 20/00822/FUL at land adjacent to West Lane House – no objections.

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 5th October 2021** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Flowers that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr White to approve the payments. **Action: HW**
- 5.2 **Fixed Asset Register – valuation of fixed assets** – The clerk reported that there was a Government Agency that undertook asset evaluations and she would find out the fee. **Action: KG**
- 5.3 **Review of Councillors' allowances survey by MKC** – This was completed by Cllr Duncan.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Rat running (volunteers required), allotments, dog fouling.
 - 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns**
Cllr White stated that there had been an increase in dog fouling in Hulton Drive.
Cllr White commented that the sign for the tennis court had been removed. The clerk to take this back to the SRC. **Action: KG**
- 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – confirmed as Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm