

**Emberton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7pm**

**Present:**

Harry White - Chairman  
 Cllr Paul Flowers  
 Cllr Colin Jamieson  
 Cllr Fred Markland

Cllr Duncan (part meeting via zoom)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

**To accept Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Duncan, Cllr Palmer, Cllr Gibson and Ward Cllr Keith McLean

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

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 5th September 2022. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – there were no members of the public present.
- 1.3 **Risk – CCTV** – A discussion took place regarding the popularity of CCTV but it was noted that this was when residents had been notified that the cost would be in the region of £9000 rather than the revised figure of £3000. It was agreed that the clerk would obtain a further estimate. **Action: KG**

**Risk – football goal posts** – the clerk reported that Olney Town FC had made the Sports and Recreation Committee aware that there were redundant football goal post sockets which had not been removed from the pitch and could be a potential hazard to players and also members of the public. It was noted that Olney would not use the pitch until this had been rectified. It was proposed by Cllr Flowers, seconded by Cllr Jamieson and unanimously agreed that the redundant posts should be removed as soon as possible. The clerk to take this back to the SRC. **Action: KG.**

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

- 2.1 **Ward Councillors** – Ward Cllr McLean had provided an update on the HGV situation at Newport Road/Prospect Place stating that highways had offered to install a “Not suitable for HGV’s” sign as an easier option which would hopefully deter drivers from using it. The clerk to follow this up with MKCC. **Action: KG.**
- 2.2 **Thames Valley Police** – A report had been received from PCSO Huckle with the crime figures

for the period 12/8/22 to 26/9/22 as follows: 2 x Concern for Safety, 1 x Suspicious Person, 1 x Suspicious Vehicle, 1 x Burglary Business, 1 x Unauthorised Encampment.

- 2.3 **PLUG (22/9/22)** – Cllr White commented that the day-to-day maintenance of the park was reported on and reference made to closing the gates; one by the over flow rally field and one by the boat house although it was noted that one of the gates needed replacing. Parking in the village was discussed but there wasn't any reference as to what the park was going to do to alleviate the problem. The question of security for the static caravans was raised as was the fact that there were quite a lot of old trees in the park and in the village and MKCC were going to be putting together a document to list them. Cllr Markland responded that not many trees in the park were that old. It was noted that there was a tree in Westpits which was 300 or 400 years old.

**Middlemarch** – Cllr Markland reported that the response email from Laura Clancy to the comments made by the parish council on the Middlemarch report were not fully answered in that consideration needed to be given to the land around Emberton Park. The report also made reference to using up open space which would restrict recreational activities and parking in the park which could possibly lead to more people parking in the village. It was felt that there were benches in the park which once sat on, overlooked unmanaged areas. It was also noted that there were areas which were completely overgrown which conflicted with recreational space. It had been reported that new hedges were going to be planted when existing hedge rows were not maintained. Cllr Markland commented that it was not reported at the meeting how funds were raised for the proposed projects nor income streams provided. Cllr Jamieson responded that at the moment there were quite a lot of grants for hedge planting in the agricultural sector but he was unsure whether these would apply to the park. Cllr Markland responded that this raised the point that some of the land came into the agriculture tendency and some of the land had historic worth. It was felt that the boardwalk by the otter pool was in need of some work and consideration should be given to how people were accessing it.

- 2.4 **North East Rural Community Forum (28/9/22)** – Cllr Flowers reported that speeding on the A509 was mentioned in conjunction with the proposed Traffic Order to reduce the speed limit. The forum discussed Speedwatch and Sentinel with the latter costing £1200. The rat running was commented on but Cllr Flowers was advised that there were not enough officers to enforce it. It was noted that the Police Station in Newport Pagnell would be open before Christmas. Cllr Markland asked if the Police Station would be staffed. Cllr Flowers reported that there would be the same amount of PCSO's but they would be based out of Newport Pagnell rather than Wolverton as currently was the case.

- 2.5 **Dates for Diaries** – A discussion took place regarding the day on which the parish council met as a councillor had explained that Mondays were not a good day. It was noted that Mondays and Fridays were the only days that the pavilion was available and that the meeting room at The Institute was too small and lacked a screen on which to share documents.

## 2.6 **Clerk's Report**

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

- 2.1.25 **Parking – The Forge** – It was hoped that following PCSO Huckle's intervention that the parking issues in The Forge had been resolved and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – nothing to report.

2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Ward Councillor McLean requested data for parking enforcement for September. Response received from MKCC that data had been requested and that it was worth noting that MKCC generally carried out a short period of enhanced enforcement when any new scheme was implemented, then eased off to allow the scheme to settle. Unfortunately, we do not have the resource to maintain such a high level of enforcement for one area and therefore, it was likely that the data would show fewer visits to Emberton than in the previous month.

It would be most helpful to understand whether there were particular days of the week, when the issue of unwanted parking was at its worst (ie weekends). This way we can focus on tactical deployment which was likely to have a much greater impact.

The clerk reported that the single yellow lines were not in force during the winter months which would allow users of Emberton Park to park within Emberton. However, the busier days for enforcing the residents parking scheme were Sundays. The clerk to notify MKCC.

**Action: KG.**

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Cllr Jamieson contacted Thames Valley Police (PS Samantha Pearce) to request enforcement of the restricted access. Response received as follows: “The issue of vehicles rat running through the village is unfortunately problematic for us to enforce at this time, our Police Constables are currently covering the response teams and will be for the coming months. I am only running the Neighbourhood team with PCSO’s alone which restricts what we can do in terms of powers. PCSO’s are unable to stop vehicles and therefore any vehicles using it as a rat run would be passing through and therefore would require stopping which the team are unable to do.

The team are aware of the location and the problems you are encountering but we are limited with what activities we can conduct at this time, that’s not to say we won’t be enforcing it at any time, we will of course endeavour to enforce the restrictions when possible but this is dependent on resourcing.

The RP team are aware of the issue and other reports/concerns we have received regarding speeding but I am unable to dictate what they enforce and they will of course be assessing each location to prioritise their activities.

Unfortunately, I am unaware of what PC Lee Turnham has been informed of but without the appropriate resources we are unable to even consider enforcing this restriction, unless he was referring to the community speed watch data where this is then disseminated to appropriate departments for enforcement.

I hope this has provided an element of clarification and although I doubt it is the response you would have hoped for, I can assure you that this area does remain on the patrol plan to at least provide a visible deterrent through patrols.”

Cllr White asked if Speedwatch volunteers could go to other villages to undertake enforcement so there was not a risk of being confronted by residents known to them. It was felt that this was an option.

3.6.30 **Allotments** – nothing to report.

- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – pedestrian safety issues** – Update received from MKCC highways as follows: I can confirm that our Road Safety Officer has visited the site. They will be suggesting further improvements to the signage and road markings so that approaching drivers are made more aware of the junction and the limited visibility around the bend. This work will be carried out when budgets allow.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Awaiting response from Ward Cllr Geary.
- 3.6.110 **Gritting at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – Awaiting works schedule.
- 3.6.115 **Village questionnaire** – 1 further response received.
- 3.6.116 **No HGV's - Newport Road** – An update had been received from Ward Cllr McLean stating that highways had agreed to a “Unsuitable for HGV’s” sign rather than a total ban as a softer approach in the hope that this would be a deterrent.

### 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Reported on under item 2.3.
- 3.9 **Olney By-pass** – An email had been received from a resident seeking information on the by-pass. It was noted that this issue was raised at Olney Town Council’s annual meeting in May 2022, with Ward Cllr McLean seeking clarity on any proposal from MKCC. The response from MKCC was as follows: “Major infrastructure requirements will be considered through preparation of the Local Plan, with transport modelling, mass rapid transit, climate and carbon, infrastructure planning, and growth options work all relating to this question. It will also be considered separately from (but linked to) the Local Plan via preparation of a new Local Transport Plan. We will be working hand in hand on both plans to ensure they are joined up.

The question of funding such major infrastructure projects will be a consideration for our infrastructure planning work, and potentially our work on growth delivery models.

In terms of timescale, I don’t think we will be able to arrive at a definitive view over the need for an Olney bypass until we are close to the final stages of key studies and preparing of the new Local Plan in 2023/24. Prior to this, we will be engaging with a range of stakeholders including town/parish councils and ward members on our infrastructure planning work and growth options, but I can’t give you a specific timetable as yet for this unfortunately as we are still in the early phase of scoping and commissioning much of this work.”

It was agreed that the clerk would feed this back to the resident that raised the issue. **Action: KG.**

- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Markland reported that following on from the recent meeting, the Neighbourhood Plan was now at a stage where it would go forward to Article 15 submission. At the meeting, a discussion took place regarding the pump field site that had come forward. It was agreed that it wouldn’t be considered as it had come forward on previous occasions and the plan was at a stage where it was felt that it should not be disrupted. One

member of the public came to the meeting and stated that the site location that had just been put forward would be advantageous to creating other links to land that had come forward previously.

- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Duncan had previously circulated a draft letter of complaint to the Charity Commission which needed to be submitted on line. It was agreed that the letter should be sent and that the legal department of MKCC should also be made aware of the situation. **Action: MD/KG.**
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – The notes of the SRC meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September had previously been circulated. One of the groundsmen had put forward a plan for a lock up garage in the car park to store loam. Cllr Markland suggested taking this back to the committee to see if there were other options. **Action: KG.**
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – Nothing to report.
- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton** – It was noted that brambles had encroached on the red way by Emberton School. The clerk to report this to MKCC. **Action: KG.**
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – It was noted that Red Rose had not responded to the email sent or telephone call made by the clerk. It was agreed to ask residents of their views regarding the 21 bus service via the Well & Towers. **Action: KG.**
- 3.106 **Electric vehicle charge points** – Nothing to report.
- 3.111 **Milton Keynes City Council (The Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes) (A509 (Part), Emberton) (40mph and 50mph Speed Restrictions) Order 2006) Variation Order 2022 –**

The effect of the above proposed Order will be to extend the existing 50mph speed limit restriction along A509 to include and beyond its junction with Sherington. The proposed new length for the 50mph restriction on A509 will be as follows: • From a point 113 metres south of its junction with the centreline of Newport Road, Emberton, for a distance of 973 metres in southerly direction, to point 60 metres south of its junction with the centreline of the unnamed road leading to High Street, Sherington. The proposed 50mph speed limit comes as a result of a number of collisions at its junction with the unnamed road leading to High Street, Sherington.

There were no objections from the parish council to the above Traffic Order although it was noted that the map was incorrect. The clerk to advise MKCC. **Action: KG.**

#### **4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Confidential item.
- 4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – It was noted that a grant application had been received from the Sports & Recreation Committee in the sum of £1000 for a defibrillator and cabinet for the playing field and that the full sum had been awarded, leaving £406.35 in the account.

#### **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 – **appeal lodged**
- 4.330 **22/00539/CLUE** – Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use as a wholesale garden centre – class (E(a) at Acorn MK Nurseries, Newton Road – **pending**.
- 4.336 **21/00249/COMPCH** – Appeal by Mr Philip Solt against an enforcement notice served for Without planning permission, the unauthorised change of use of part of the land and operational development **Land** at Hollington Wood, Newport – **pending**.
- 4.337 **21/00249/COMPCH** – Appeal by Special Ops HQ against an enforcement notice served for Without planning permission, the unauthorised change of use of part of the land and operational development **Land** at Hollington Wood, Newport Road – **pending**.
- 4.339 **22/01703/HOU** – The installation of solar photovoltaic arrays to the rear roof of the main dwellinghouse and to the flat roof of the detached garage at 13 High Street. It was felt that the application was not detrimental to the conservation area as the panels were at the rear of the property – **pending**
- 4.341 **22/02055/DISCON** - Approval of details required by conditions 4 (Landscaping and Boundary Treatment), 7 (Cycle parking details) and 10 (Biodiversity Enhancements) of permission ref. 20/00822/FUL At: West Lane House West Lane - **pending**
- 4.342 **22/01923/HOU** -The proposed installation of photovoltaic panels inset into the new garage roof at Hartoft. West Lane - **pending**

## 5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr Markland and seconded by Cllr White that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.**
- 5.2 **Review of fixed assets** – The clerk reported that she would be undertaking a review of the parish council's fixed assets so that any maintenance could be reflected in the 2023/2024 budget. **Action: KG.**

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

## 7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Bus 21, CCTV, work at nursery site. Update on neighbourhood plan from Jason Bevan. **Action: KG.**
- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – there were no councillors' concerns.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm