

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 6th November 2023 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair
 Cllr Paul Flowers
 Cllr Colin Jamieson
 Cllr Angela Laval
 Cllr Harry White

Ward Councillor Peter Geary (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Welcome by the Chair – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Palmer, Cllr Walker, and Ward Cllrs Keith McLean and Debbie Whitworth.

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr Duncan declared an interest in item 2.1.17.

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 9th October 2023 – The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October 2023 were agreed and duly signed by the chair.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – There were no members of the public present.
- 1.3 **Risk** – nothing to report.
2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION**
- 2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – report from Ward Cllr Geary as follows:

Plan:MK – Ward Cllr Geary reported that the local development plan, Plan:MK, was to be replaced by the New City Plan, which was looking to deliver on MKCC's long-term vision, the Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050. These were the two proposals for the whole of MK. Local authorities had to have a local development plan of ten years in advance: Plan:MK runs out in 2032 so MKCC need to prepare a plan up to 2042 but have chosen to run this up to 2050. MKCC would need to build c 62,000 homes minimum between 2022 and 2050, 20,000 of which have already been allocated / given permission or were in the process of being built, leaving another c 42,000 homes to be found. The call for sites would be going out shortly with the New City Plan expected to be made by June 2025. Ward Cllr Geary stated that it was likely that the rural area would be impacted and, in his view, the best option would be for the parish councils within the Olney ward to meet collectively as a forum to discuss the plan, receive briefings and respond together and the parishes might want to hire professional support. There could be a divisive effect though from the rural parishes pushing for the new homes to be found elsewhere within the ward.

Emberton Neighbourhood Plan – The referendum for the neighbourhood plan would take place later this month, on 23 November 2023.

Acorn Appeal – The appeal for Acorn Nurseries garden centre was ongoing and at some point there would be a site inspection by the Planning Inspectorate; and one member of the parish council should be invited to attend, giving the opportunity to point out any areas where there were particular issues. Cllr Duncan added that MKCC had put out their statement on the application on the MKCC planning portal, which showed MKCC had intended to refuse the application back in May 2023, but before they confirmed the refusal, the applicants had appealed it for non-determination.

Wheelie bins – There were still some issues with wheelie bins and these should be passed to the Ward Councillors.

Report it – Grit bins that were not full or faulty street lights should be reported to MKCC on the “report it” system. Cllr Laval commented that the gutters had recently been cleared.

Climate change and carbon workshop – Cllr Duncan asked if there was any feedback from the climate change and carbon workshop for the New City Plan attended by the MKCC Councillors on 3rd November. Ward Cllr Geary had not been able to attend. Cllr Duncan commented that the climate change workshop run the same day for parish councillors had focused on emissions from Milton Keynes once built out and their ambition for the end product to be carbon negative, but seemed to ignore the carbon cost of building c 60,000 houses.

2.2 **PLUG (meeting held 19.10.23)** – Cllr White reported that the owners of the new café were at the meeting and wanted to raise the profile of the café and would now be able to take cash payments. The committee heard that black poplars were going to be planted. A plan was in place to try and tidy up the static caravan area, with some skips being put in. It was noted that some caravans had been abandoned. The consensus was that closing of the gates around the park was proving quite popular. Cllr Laval responded that some areas by the closed gates were quite muddy and this needed addressing. The state of field 13 was discussed (fence and general landscaping); it was noted that field 13 was not within the remit of Emberton Park. The clerk to email MKCC. **Action: KG.**

2.3 **Sports & Recreation Committee (meeting held 30.10.23)** – Cllr Palmer sent a report as follows: 1) D Day Beacon – the committee agreed to this and would ask Keith McLean. 2) Risk Assessments – noted that Andy Letts undertook a risk assessment on the field every 3 months and would send around his template to the committee. 3) Access to the field – Access to the field to enable residents to undertake tree works etc on their adjoining properties, would only be permitted between April and September, to avoid damage to the grass, and with prior permission.

2.4 **Thames Valley Police** – It was noted that PCSO Huckle who covered the Emberton area had now left TVP and it was not known who the PCSO would be for the area.

2.5 **Dates for Diaries** – These were noted.

2.6 **Clerk’s Report**

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

- 2.1.24 **Weed spraying** – Awaiting information from MKCC regarding weed spraying schedule. Post meeting note: information on “My Mapping” showed that street cleansing on hard surfaces took place every two months in Emberton.
- 2.1.50 **Pothole, Olney Road** – Pothole in Gravel Walk reported to MKCC.
- 2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Awaiting results of questionnaire. Agreed to put this out again on Emberton Echo. **Action: KG**
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – awaiting transfer. The clerk to chase this. **Action: KG**
- 3.6.50 **Dog fouling** – A discussion took place regarding the recent reports on Emberton Echo of dog fouling. The clerk to provide details in the Well & Towers of how to report dog fouling to MKCC. **Action: KG.**
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – frequent collision issues** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – EUC contacted Peter Geary to request that the hedge behind the well was cut back.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – A discussion took place regarding the hand rail in the High Street as it was noted that it was of no use in its current incorrect position to the residents of 5 High Street and it prohibited parking for the resident of 3 High Street. It was therefore agreed that the parish council should request that highways remove the hand rail. **Action: KG.**
- 3.6.115 **Questionnaire** – Reported on previously.
- 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**
- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Reported on previously.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Noted that the referendum would take place on the 23rd November and that this had been publicised on the Well & Towers, noticeboard and Emberton Echo.
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – It was noted that Cllr Walker was looking at this and had had a conversation with the Chair of the governors.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr White referred to the damaged solar panel on the pavilion roof. The clerk reported that an estimate had been received and she would arrange for it to be repaired with the cost being covered by Zurich, less the £100 excess. **Action: KG.**
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – The clerk sent a reminder but no response had been received.

- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton/cycle links from Emberton to Olney and Sherington** – It was still the wish of the parish council to improve public footpaths and cycle links to Emberton/Olney/Sherington but as there weren't any plans for the immediate future, it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – It was noted that there were still issues with MK Connect.
- 3.113 **Climate Change** – Cllr Duncan reported that she had attended the Climate change and carbon workshop run by MKCC and ARUP for parish councillors as part of the studies for the New City Plan. The study was looking at various forms of renewable energy – windfarms, solar, photovoltaics etc. Cllr Duncan had asked whether the river Great Ouse could potentially be used for hydropower. ARUP replied that hydropower was not in the remit of the study. A fellow councillor commented that a hydropower specialist had mentioned to him the whole of Milton Keynes could be run on hydropower. Cllr Duncan to ascertain more details. There was also the climate change and carbon questionnaire for the parish council to comment on. The meeting reviewed some comments already made. It was decided to put together a draft response for councillors to comment on by email, which could be submitted before the deadline. **Action: MD.** Cllr Flowers reported that the Environmental Agency had 20 days to come back to him regarding his proposal for a hydropower scheme at the Olney weir.
- 3.115 **Grit bins** – The clerk reported that she had obtained estimates for a grit bin and salt and would apply to the ward councillors for a grant. Cllr Duncan suggested that a risk assessment for residents to use grit bins should be published on the EPC website. **Action: KG.**
- 3.116 **Access to playing field from residential properties and general access** – The clerk to ascertain which properties had access to the playing field. **Action: KG.**
- 3.118 **New City Plan** - Previously reported on.
- 3.119 **Amended Local Enforcement Plan Consultation** - Nothing further to report. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.120 **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** – Noted that the provisional schemes for Olney would not go ahead. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.121 **Consideration of proposals to extend the restrictions on street trading by mobile vendors throughout Milton Keynes** – It was noted that the clerk had responded to the consultation stating that EPC would like Olney Road and High Street to be redesignated as consent streets.
- 3.122 **Milton Keynes City Council traffic sensitive streets review October 2023** – Cllr Duncan reported that traffic sensitive streets had restricted working hours for utility companies of 0930 – 1600 and that there were some proposed changes to these hours. The only change for Emberton was Olney Road 3pm – 6pm. There were no objections to these changes. The clerk to respond accordingly. **Action: KG.**

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White stated that there was a meeting on the 8th November.

previous applications status

- 4.352 **23/00342/OUT** – Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for the redevelopment of the Acorn (MK) Nurseries site for up to 29 no. dwellings including affordable housing, alongside access and other off-site highways improvements, following the demolition and removal of all existing structures and hardstanding from the site at Acorn MK Nurseries, Newton Road. The clerk reported that an objection letter had been sent as per the draft approved by councillors. It was noted that Olney Town Council had also sent in a letter of objection. The clerk to acknowledge. **Action: KG**

4.361 **23/00275/ENF** – Hollington Wood, Newport Road – Description of alleged breach Continued use of the ancient woodland for airsoft activities following refusal of planning permission. The clerk to respond as follows: 1. EPC is only in support of activities at Hollington Wood which are consistent with an independent professional management plan for ancient woodland, reflecting the Forestry Commission guidance for ancient woodland.

2. EPC does not support airsoft activities at Hollington Wood due to highways safety, resulting in an increase in traffic leaving and joining the A509 at the exit and entrance to the site.

3. EPC believes that airsoft activities in Hollington Wood, would adversely impact on biodiversity.

Action: KG

- 4.362 **23/01771/TPO** - The removal of one low lateral branch (approx. 7 metres in length and approx 1.5 metres above ground level) back to the main trunk of Atlas Cedar (T1) protected by Milton Keynes Council tree preservation order no. PS/540/15/331 at The Old Rectory, Olney Road – **permitted**
- 4.363 **23/02155/HOU** – The erection of a single storey front extension with integrated garage conversion to include new bay window and render. New doors and windows to all elevations. Barn conversion to annexe at Manor Croft, Olney Road – **pending**
- 4.364 **23/02057/HOU** – Erection of a single storey rear extension with solar panels to the roof to replace existing outbuilding/pool enclosure. Single storey front and side extensions to include alterations to the roof, garage conversion, new doors and windows and additional roof lights, new external render/cladding. New double garage with study above and new boundary wall and improved vehicle access at Springside Pasture – **pending**
- 4.365 **23/01929/HOU** – Proposed installation of new back door to property retrospective at 3 Home Farm Court – **pending**
- 4.366 **23/02069/DISCON** – Approval of details required by condition 4 (Stonework sample), condition 6 (Roof materials) and condition 7 (Door details) of permission ref 21/01374/LBC at West Lane House, West Lane – **pending**

- 4.367 **23/02176/FUL** – The erection of one dwelling with attached single garage at 34 Gravel Walk. It was agreed that as a previous application had been permitted by appeal that there were no objections to this revised application.
- 4.368 **23/02349/TCA** – The reduction in height of two cherry trees (1 and 2) by 1.5 metres, the reduction in height of a field maple (3) by 4-5 metres, the reduction in height of three silver birch trees (4, 5 and 6) by 2-3 metres and the reduction in height of a beech hedge (7) by 0.5 metres at 1 Home Farm Court. It was agreed that the parish council would agree with the recommendations made by MKCC’s tree officer.

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 6th November 2023** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Jamieson that the payments be approved as per the RFO’s Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.** It was noted that an application to MKCC for a winter grant had been approved in the sum of £500. It was agreed that EUC should receive £250 and All Saints’ Church £250. The clerk to advise both recipients. **Action: KG.**
- 5.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – The clerk reported that MKCC had requested sight of the residents’ questionnaire and the results regarding speeding. The clerk had forwarded this.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – dog fouling, grit bins, New City Plan, noisy vehicles.
- 7.2 **Cllrs’ concerns** – Cllr White reported that the gate post at the end of Alison Fraser Walk at the playing field end was rotting. The clerk to take this back to the SRC. **Action: KG**

Cllr Jamieson reported that the drain outside Acorn Early Years Nursery was totally blocked. The clerk to report this. **Action: KG**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 4th December 2023 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm