

Emberton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 3rd December 2019

Present:

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

Ward Councillor Keith McLean (part meeting)

Mr C Handler – resident (part meeting)
 Mr D J Soul – resident
 Dr D Soul – resident

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 5th November 2019. These were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

1.2 **Public questions, comments or representations**

19/03142/FUL – Mr Soul stated that hopefully all the information for the new planning application was on the portal and he was attending the meeting to see if councillors had any questions. Mr Soul stated that the barn had become unsafe during building works and remedial action had to be taken. Cllr V McLean asked if there were any changes to the second application. Both Mr Soul and Dr Soul stated that there were not. Dr Soul commented that planning enforcement had been very good and that no enforcement action would be taken.

Emberton School – Mr Handler stated that he had the required signatures (45) to call in the decision made by MKC to close Emberton School. The decision to close the school was taken by MKC on the 12th November and published on the 15th November. The call in request had to be made within 5 days. Mr Handler made the request and heard nothing. Mr Handler had a call from Simon Heap to say that the call in request had only come to his attention on Wednesday of last week (27th). Mr Heap spoke to Councillor Nolan and as there was no evidence of Mr Handler's request, he had to reject it. Mr Handler ascertained via email with Mr Heap that the request had been received in time and said that there was no reason to doubt that and he would process the call in request. The first stage of the request was normally a mediation meeting between Mr Handler, Councillor Nolan and Councillor Carr. Due to the election, this meeting would be scheduled the week beginning 16th December. At the meeting as well as Councillors Nolan and Carr, there would also be a handful of key representatives, totalling at least 7 named people. Mr Handler stated that the decision was to be implemented on the 1st January and he would send an email about that. Mr Handler has been advised that he would be able to bring a colleague to the mediation meeting and he felt it would be better to have someone that did not have all the background history. Mr Handler stated that he had only been in the village for a short time and saw the

decision to close the school based on insufficient evidence and logic. Cllr McLean commented that it was absolutely right about someone not going to the meeting with a lot of history. Cllr Gibson asked whether Mr Handler had ascertained the number of children who could potentially attend the school. Mr Handler stated that it was not many and if there had been a significant number he would have highlighted this in his submission although MKC had not considered migratory effects. Cllr Gibson commented that one of the reasons that triggered the fall in numbers was that the head that was put in didn't generate a good reputation and this led to children going out to other schools and you couldn't guarantee you wouldn't have the same situation again. Mr Handler stated that the projections were only looked at until 2021. The decision to close the school did not take into account the environment and transport or consideration as to what would happen with the site. Was Emberton School the right school to close? If a point could be made about due process being followed, there might be more time. Cllr V McLean commented that the parish council would support Mr Handler in any way it could and suggested that Mr Handler spoke to Cllr Geary. Mr Handler questioned whether attending the mediation meeting would jeopardise his chance of becoming a governor. Cllr V McLean responded that it was the organisation of Emberton School that was being closed down so that they don't get an Ofsted Inspection. Mr Handler asked what the situation was regarding the building and the fund for the children of Emberton. Cllr V McLean responded that the building and the field belonged to MKC. The School House Fund was held in a trust for the children of Emberton. The Federation was in the process of changing trustees.

Mr Handler left the meeting at 8.03pm

- 1.3 **Dates for Commitment** – It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting would not be going ahead on the 4th December.
- 1.4 **Risk – to identify and action where necessary** – Nothing to report.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTIONS

Ward Councillors – Cllr K McLean reported that there was not much to report due to the General Election. The HIF bid for £94.5m would be decided in January. The Planning Inspector had allowed two applications at appeal as MKC did not have a five year land supply and then the same inspector refused a planning application. There would be a High Court judicial review on whether MKC has a five year land supply. Cllr V McLean asked how many more weeks the road works were taking place in Olney. Cllr K McLean responded that it would be two weeks. Cllr V McLean stated that the signage was awful and that car drivers had to know the area. An officer from MKC visiting Emberton had followed the diversion not knowing that he was able to access Emberton. Cllr K McLean suggested that the clerk advised Davina Millership, Head of highways. **Action: KG**

Clerk's Report

- 2.1.94 **Dog bin (West Lane)** – Awaiting replacement by Marcus Young Landscapes.
- 2.1.95 **Milestone (A509 north)** – Awaiting painting of lettering.
- 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.

- 2.1.106 **Westpits parking bays** – The fencing has now been removed. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 2.1.107 **Westpits highways** – It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – Nothing to report. The clerk to chase this.
- 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.
- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – It was noted that the PLUG meeting had been cancelled.
- 3.23 **Bell & Bear Public House** – Cllr Gibson reported that he had attended the meeting on the 28th November to update the village on the community proposal to put in an offer to buy the pub. Between £350,000 and £450,000 would be needed to be raised through pledges. The minimum pledge was £250 with the maximum being £100,000. A Community Interest Company had been set up which would operate to provide a benefit to the community. A business plan had been written which included work to the roof and rewiring. The Wellington Pub Company was advertising the pub for tenancy at £32,000 per year. The CIC needed to demonstrate that they could put an offer on the table by the 13th February. The Wellington Pub Company would have difficulty in getting planning permission for a house as the community had demonstrated that they wanted the pub to remain open. If Wellington Pub Company do find a tenant, the CIC would like to put a Community Right to Bid back in place. If the CIC do not get all the money, it would look to secure safe loans.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr V McLean reported that she had obtained a grant for the Neighbourhood Plan in the sum of £8,970.00. Cllr Hall requested that thanks to Cllr McLean be recorded.
- 3.85 **Emberton School** – Reported on previously.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr V McLean reported that a meeting would take place under the newly named Sports & Recreation Committee on the 18th December. It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr White that the power to agree the Standing Orders and Terms of Reference for the Sports & Recreation Committee were delegated to the new committee members.
- 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**
- 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**
- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – The clerk to speak to Cllr Horton regarding a representative for this.

- 4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr Gibson asked how often the committee met. Cllr Hall responded that the committee met when they had received an application.
- 4.3 **Conservation area review programme** – No comment.

previous applications status

- 4.206 **17/03386/FUL** – public airsoft events scheduled for once every two weeks throughout the year (with a break in Winter of variable length according to weather conditions). Occasional private bookings (retrospective) at Hollington Wood, Newport Road for Mr C Williams – **appeal dismissed**. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 4.225 Airsoft site at West Farm Way, Mr Carlos Williams. A letter was read out from a resident following a recent event with photographs demonstrating the problems with parking and lack of disregard to residents. Cllr Hall commented that the parish council were assured that West Farm Way would not be affected by parking. The clerk to take this back to MKC. **Action: KG**
- 4.248 **19/02482/TCA** – Notification of intention to reduce & reshape the Walnut tree in the back garden by 40% targeting heavy limbs to reduce risk of branch loss. Remove the deadwood and lowest limb reduce back by 50% at Dower House, 19 Olney Road – **no objection**
- 4.249 **19/02565/TCA** – Notification of intention to reduce Sycamore tree by 5m in height & 3m from sides. Tree is overhanging from pub garden onto neighbouring flats at The Bell & Bear, 12 High Street – **no objection**
- 4.250 **19/02512/TCA** – Tree - Thuja Plicata – remove to ground level. Cherry – crown lift to 3m to allow light under the crown, any branches growing over the boundary are to be appropriately pruned back to prevent it from sprawling in that direction. T7 – cypress – remove to ground level at 3 Battle Close for Mr Adams – **no objection**
- 4.251 **19/02589/LBC** – Listed building consent for single storey oak framed garden room extension to rear at Long Barn, 1 Honey Hill for Mrs K Pickwick – **refused**
- 4.252 **19/02618/FUL** – Single storey oak framed garden room extension to rear at Long Barn, 1 Honey Hill for Mrs K Pickwick – **refused**

new applications

- 4.254 **19/02932/FUL** – Single storey front extension at 30 Gravel Walk for Mrs L Dench. There were no objections to this application. The clerk to respond accordingly.
- 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 for Mr & Mrs Sparks. There were no objections to this application. The clerk to respond accordingly.
- 4.256 **19/03127/FUL** – Hip to gable roof extension and erection of new dormer structure at 73 Olney Road for Gemma Gallen. There were no objections to this application. The clerk to respond accordingly.
- 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. There were no comments to this application. The clerk to respond accordingly.

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 3rd December 2019 and approve payments.** The RFO's Report was received. It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr Hall that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr Hall to approve the payments online.
- 5.2 **Co-operative account – change of signatories.** This form was completed. The clerk to obtain Cllr Horton's signature. **Action: KG**
- 5.3 **Draft budget** – It was proposed by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr V McLean that the parish council no longer needed to pay for hire of the pavilion. Cllr McLean to take this back to the next ESSC meeting. **Action: VMc** It was agreed to approve the budget at the January meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Confidential item
- 6.2 Highways issues – Newton Road. An email had been received from a Petsoe resident regarding the bend on Newton Road which was used by large trucks and the danger to road users and pedestrians. Cllr K McLean suggested that the clerk refer the matter to MKC highways. **Action: KG**

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – No magazine in January.
- 7.2 **Councillors' concerns**

Cllr V McLean stated that she would write a letter to thank Councillor Horton following his resignation.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – confirmed as Tuesday 7th January 2020

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.