

Emberton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 4th February 2020

Present:

Councillor Victoria McLean (Chairman)
 Councillor Stephen Gibson (Vice Chairman)
 Councillor Paul Flowers
 Councillor Soo Hall
 Councillor Richard Logsdail

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

Ward Councillor David Hosking (part meeting)
 Ward Councillor Keith McLean (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Apologies for Absence - Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor White and Ward Cllr Peter Geary.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – There were no Declarations of Interest.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 7th January 2020. These were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
- 1.3 **Dates for Commitment** – these were noted. Cllr Hosking asked if the Parishes Forum was well attended. Cllr Gibson commented that it was mostly the larger parish councils that attended rather than those from the rural area.
- 1.4 **Risk – to identify and action where necessary.** Nothing to report.
- 1.5 **Councillor vacancy – to Co-opt Councillor** – It was noted that there were two applicants for the councillor vacancy with both candidates having expertise which would be useful to the parish council. However, it was agreed that having a representative from Petsoe End was beneficial. It was proposed by Cllr V McLean, seconded by Cllr Hall and unanimously agreed that Melanie Duncan be appointed as councillor. The clerk to advise both candidates accordingly. **Action: KG** Cllr McLean commented that she would be resigning as a parish councillor following the Annual Assembly to concentrate on the pavilion and asked whether a vacancy could be advertised in advance of her resignation. The clerk to speak to MKC. **Action KG**

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

Olney Ward Forum – Cllr V McLean reported that the main agenda item was recycling and that after the meeting, she had followed up with MKC regarding an article for the Well & Towers and was making enquiries regarding a visit for residents to the recycling plant.

The customer services platform at MKC was also discussed and how MKC could get this fit for purpose. The biggest complaint was the way officer's did not reply or respond.

Parishes Forum – Cllr Gibson commented that MK Futures 2050 was discussed. By 2050, there would be 500,000 residents in Milton Keynes including the Aylesbury Vale and there would be at least another 41,000–46,000 homes. There were 6 projects within the consultation document 1. Growth & Strategy, 2. MK U – a new University for MK, 3. Learning 2050, 4. Smart, shared and sustainable mobility, 5. Renaissance CMK, 6. The creative and cultured city. **Devolved assets** – The forum also discussed land transfer and the on going process. **Clean up fund** – equipment available to lend. **MK Mapping Service** – mapping service for land areas and what class they were. **VE75** – Friday 8th May 2020.

Ward Councillors Report – Cllr Hosking commented that every single parish that the three Ward Councillors represented would be affected by MK2050. There would be a meeting in Olney next Wednesday although the Ward Councillors had requested that it was put back a month. **Budget** – MKC have an extra £9m to spend by virtue of additional grants; this would be highlighted in The Phonebox next month. **Emberton Park – Café** – Still trying to get to the bottom of its closure. **PLUG** – had always been the responsibility of officers to Minute and Chair. There had been some changes in the environmental team. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Had some comments from some residents that the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan was not on the website. The number of properties for the Acorn Nurseries site needed to be justified. Mr Laval responded that if the earlier draft of the plan was on the website, it would show the preferred site as the school field. Cllr Hosking responded that the steering group was coming to the end of the plan and site allocation should be driven by what the village wanted.

- 1.2 **Public questions, comments or representations** – Mr Handler addressed the meeting and stated that the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny and Sub Committee was held on the 30th January. Mr Handler thanked the parish council for its help and report preparation. The meeting focused on the survey that had been undertaken in the village which identified 44 children in the village under the age of 7, with 96% of these parents stating that they wanted to be able to use a good school in the village. The survey was enough to dissuade Councillor Nolan, the decision maker, that she ought to consider the data and she therefore deferred her decision. Mr Handler stated that he had met tonight with Mr Simon Sims who had prepared the committee report and his response to the information provided was that he did not agree with it in respect of it translating to numbers at the school and the history of the school. Mr Handler stated that he made the point that the people surveyed were new people and would not necessarily be swayed by the previous history of the school. The next step would be to get in touch with the parents of the children under the age of 7 in the village and ask them to come to a meeting. Cllr Flowers asked the views of the Federation. Mr Handler responded that the Federation was represented at the meeting as they requested the consultation on the closure of the school. Two members of the governing body supported the closure during the consultation. The question had been raised of how to get the school in a position where parents wanted to use it. Cllr Flowers commented that when he and Cllr V McLean were on the governing body, when the school passed to the federation, they were charged with finding an alternative use for the school or how to maintain it as a school. Mr Handler responded that he had questioned an alternative use and it was stated that an alternative use couldn’t be considered until the school was formally closed. The federation were however considering other uses such as a pre-school. Cllr Logsdail stated that Mr Sims was looking at historical data and there were now new families that had moved into the village. Cllr V McLean thanked Mr Handler for attending the meeting and for taking up the fight to keep the school. Ward Cllr McLean commented that one of the key points that Cllr Nolan and her team made was that it cost each child £10,000 to be schooled at Emberton. A resident found some information which showed this was clearly not the case. Simon Sims was asked for information relating to the area pupils came from to get to Newton Blossomville School to

ascertain how many would pass Emberton. Simon Sims would provide this information by Thursday evening and hopefully this would help with the analysis.

3.74 Emberton Neighbourhood Plan – Mr Laval stated that the steering group had the final plan and requested that the previous draft be moved from the website. **Action KG.** The plan was to be submitted to MKC under Article 15 with a six week consultation but MKC have said that because the main site for development has been switched, that the plan would need to go back out to consultation under Article 14. The steering group was recommending that the plan would go out on the website, some hard copies produced and advertised by way of a flyer, on the noticeboard and Emberton Echo what's app group. Drop in sessions would also be held at the pavilion. The flyer would state the reason why the group were consulting again: 1. The school field was not available for development and the Acorn Nurseries site came forward which would enable affordable housing to be built. 2. Although MKC stated that the school field was not available, they asked that it be considered. The group could not do this as a decision on the school had not been made. The flyer would also state that if there was to be development on the school field, it would only be part of the field so that the school could be used in the future. The flyer would make reference to the section in the plan which indicated how the steering group came up with the number of houses at 42. Cllr Logsdail responded that he thought that MKC had stated that Emberton only had to have 1 house. Mr Laval stated that MKC had identified 1000 houses in the rural area but didn't specify the village. Neighbourhood Plan examiners have stated that a village couldn't have a neighbourhood plan that didn't identify any housing. Cllr V McLean stated that it needed to be emphasised that when the steering group were writing the neighbourhood plan, the closure of the school was being considered and community organisations were short of volunteers as there were no new people moving into the village. Mr Laval stated that the plan would be finalised this week and the flyer would also be written, ready for printing and distribution. Mr Laval stated that the earliest date for the examination would be the middle of May which avoided having a referendum on local election day. It was expected that the consultation process would start on the 17th February.

2. Clerk's Report

- 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** – Old bench has been re-sited in playing field. Awaiting date from contractor for the installation of the new bench. The clerk sent the invoice to MKC (supplementary fund application) for the purchase of the bench.
- 2.1.105 **Newport Road (speed limit)** – Awaiting new speed limit order. Email sent to MKC officer for update on 2/1/20 and 29/1/20.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Request for speed van to visit Olney Road during the rat run sent to TVP on 29/1/20.
- 3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – Nothing to report. The clerk followed this up on 2/1/20 and 29/1/20.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – The clerk contacted Fred Markland who has agreed to inspect the well.

- 3.6.88 **Leylandii trees (13/15 Gravel Walk)** – during the site visit with MKC’s housing officer on the 2nd December, reference was made to the two leylandii trees at the end of Gravel Walk, blocking the light for the solar panels at 20 Gravel Walk and the mess made by nesting pigeons. The housing officer stated that he would report this to the landscape team. The clerk reported this on MKC’s “Report it” system on 29.1.20 under reference FS170991998 and a response was received on the 30th January stating that MKC was not responsible for the land. Ward Cllr McLean to follow this up. **Action: KMc**
- 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. The clerk followed this up on 29/1/20.
- 3.6.107 **Street lighting – Prospect Place (column 1)** – nothing to report.
- 3.6.109 **Newton Road** – awaiting feedback from Davina Millership, Head of Highways at MKC.
- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Previously reported on under Ward Councillor’s report.
- 3.23 **Bell & Bear Public House** – Cllr Logsdail reported that a meeting was held in January to which all the people that had put in pledges were invited. The Community Interest Company had put in an offer to the pub company to purchase the freehold of The Bell & Bear. The criteria had been met by the CIC so that it could be demonstrated that the community had a desire to buy the property as a pub. The pub company had acknowledged receipt of the letter. The six month period expires on the 13th February. Cllr Gibson asked if the pub company did nothing, could the Community Right to Bid be extended? Cllr Logsdail responded that there was no legal obligation for the owner of the property to sell it. There was now a 12 month period, after which if nothing had happened, the parish council could apply for another Community Right to Bid.
- 3.85 **Emberton School** – Reported on previously under item 1.2.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr Hall reported that because of the amount of rain recently, an argument had arisen over cancelling football games. It was agreed last year that the referee had the final decision as to whether or not the match went ahead. The clerk had suggested that if the grounds men felt that the ground was not playable, in the first instance they should advise her. The clerk would then advise the football team who would arrange to meet the referee prior to the game being played. It was noted that confirmation had been received from Olney Town Colts that this arrangement was acceptable.
- 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**
- 3.5 “Together We Can” MKC consultation on working with parishes – the clerk to circulate this for comments. **Action: KG**
- 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**
- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – nothing to report
- 4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr Hall reported that the committee had met earlier that evening and had awarded two grants. The first was for an aerator for the playing

field and the second was a grant to the Bell & Bear at Community Interest Company for printing documents and valuation of the Bell & Bear.

previous applications status

- 4.225 Airsoft site at West Farm Way, Mr Carlos Williams – nothing to report.
- 4.256 **19/03127/FUL** – Hip to gable roof extension and erection of new dormer structure at 73 Olney Road for Gemma Gallen – **permitted**
- 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 – **permitted**
- 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 – **permitted**. The clerk commented that there could possibly be a further application for tree works at West Lane House. It was agreed that there would be no objections to a further application for tree works relating to this application.

New applications

- 4.260 **20/00077/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 (resubmission of 19/01828/FUL) at Springside Pasture, Petsoe End for Mr C MacGregor. There were no objections to this application.
- 4.261 **20/00164/TCA** – Notification of intention for minor pruning to 1 x Bramley Apple Tree (T1) shape and maintain health of tree, shaping of tree (crown reduction) to 1 x Holly tree (T2) at April Cottage, 27 Olney Road for Mrs M Handler. There were no objections to this application.
- 4.262 **20/00236/FUL** – Erection of detached timber framed study in rear garden at 20 High Street for Mr J Brown. There were no objections to this application.

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 4th February 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. **Action: SH** It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr Hall that payment for the

aerator invoice for the playing field could be approved for payment when received provided it was for the amount specified on the estimate.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 Confidential item

7. **PARISH RELATED MATTERS**

7.1 **Village publicity** – Cllr V McLean commented that she had spoken to the administrator of the Emberton Echo and she was quite happy for the parish council to put out messages that required timely intervention such as had been the case with the school. For Well & Towers – Annual Assembly, MK50, Neighbourhood Plan (Richard Laval). Cllr V McLean to speak to Chris Handler about something for the school. **Action: VMc/KG**

7.2 **Councillors' concerns**

Cllr Logsdail asked if there were any dog bins in Emberton Park. It was noted that there were not specific bins in Emberton Park for dog waste and that this could be put in the large black bins.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – confirmed as Tuesday 10th March 2020

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.