

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

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair
 Cllr Colin Jamieson
 Cllr Fred Markland
 Cllr Harry White

Ward Cllr Keith McLean

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

To accept Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Flowers, Cllr Palmer and Ward Cllrs Peter Geary and David Hosking.

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

Parish Councillor Vacancy – It was noted that the vacancy notification had appeared on the noticeboard and parish council website but the Well & Towers had not yet been distributed. One resident had put their name forward and further details were awaited.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 9th January 2023. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th January 2023 were agreed and 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**

Health Centre – There was a rumour on social media that the health centre for Olney was not going ahead. This was untrue but the decision was with the Minister of Health. Cllr Markland asked if there were any contingencies in the short term? Ward Cllr McLean commented that it was with the Health Minister and there was nothing MKCC could do in the short term. Cllr Duncan asked about the access to the new medical centre and whether it would be changed, as access along East Street is already difficult and then the private road to the Olney youth club is very narrow. Ward Cllr McLean responded that the same access had been indicated on the plans for the new medical centre. Cllr Markland stated that he had raised issues relating to the health centre and local schools at the last meeting, as Cobbs Garden Surgery had closed its list to new registrations and there were long waiting lists for Ousedale School. Ward Cllr McLean responded that he was unsure what the situation was but would write to the schools' admission team for an update on primary, junior and senior places in the Olney Ward area. **Action: KM**

Bus 41 - Discussions have taken place with a contractor who had put forward the suggestion of a 2 hour service between Northampton and Bedford and if approval was received, the plan would be to start operation in April, but it would need to be used as it was a commercial service.

Aldi – The application was still in progress for a new Aldi in Warrington Road but there were some issues with archaeology which had still to be resolved.

Litter picking – MKCC have been out and litter picked between Newport Pagnell and Chicheley with the next stage being to pick between Chicheley and Olney but this would require traffic management.

Community litter picks – Ward Cllr McLean undertook a litter pick with residents in Weston Underwood and an expression of interest had been received from Olney. It was agreed to suggest an Emberton community litter pick in the Well & Towers.

Waste & Recycling – Suez will be taking over the waste & recycling contract in September which will allow MKCC to undertake more landscaping projects. From the information sessions held recently, it was noted that if properties did not have suitable access for the wheelie bins there would be black, blue and red sacks but there would be a post code checker coming out soon to see which properties would be eligible for the sacks.

Ward based budget – The application from Emberton for the Ward based budget had been noted and would be assessed next month.

Bus 21 – Cllr Duncan made reference to the 21 bus service which no longer came through Emberton and that the pc were planning to go the MKCC Cabinet meeting on the 22nd February to raise questions on it. Ward Cllr McLean responded that residents should be asked to sit in the public gallery and it was not necessary to stay for the whole of the meeting. Ward Cllr McLean suggested asking Red Rose how much the yearly subsidy would be to reinstate the service to how it was prior to April 2021. **Action: KG**

Well at Petsoe End – Ward Cllr Geary had sent an update via Ward Cllr McLean stating that he was hoping to meet an officer on site later this week or early next week. Cllr Markland responded that according to Ward Cllr Geary, the well at Petsoe End was a highways structure. Cllr Duncan reported that she had received complaints from residents in Petsoe End regarding the state of the well.

2.2 **Thames Valley Police** – Nothing to report.

2.3 **North East Rural Community Forum (18th January)** – The clerk reported that the forum had not received any communication from the head of highways, Graham Cox, since his attendance at the June meeting. There was a new sergeant for the rural area, PS Tom Montgomery. The Police Station at Newport Pagnell would be opening at the beginning of February. The clerk asked about borrowing the SIDs and was advised that there was an issue with the batteries which made the SIDs unreliable. It was noted that groups undertaking SpeedWatch could request the presence of a PCSO but the PCSO would not be able to take part.

2.4 **PLUG (19th January)** – Cllr White reported that there had been a considerable amount of tree works and there was a lot of clearing up to be done. The new “Love Exploring” app was working well. Management was hoping that there would not be any owners giving up their

static caravans this year as there had not been any new applications. Cllr Duncan commented that the Terms of Reference for PLUG had been circulated showing the correct channels for raising issues.

- 2.5 **Sports & Recreation Committee (2nd February)** – It was agreed that the clerk would send an email to the football teams to remind them of the terms of their agreement stating that the field and pavilion should be left in a tidy state and that payment terms was 30 days. The Asset Register would be updated following the purchase of a Honda Mower and notification sent to the insurance company. A discussion took place regarding ground staff and it was noted that one of the groundsmen had been unwell and would not be expected to do as much in the future. Reassurance was given that the remaining ground staff would be able to cope with the maintenance of the field going forward.
- 2.6 **Dates for Diaries** – The dates for diaries were noted.
- 2.7 **Clerk's Report**
- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Update requested from Rights of Way on 31st January. Response received on 2nd February as follows: We are still liaising with the external specialist consultant who is working on the case on our behalf. When we have a substantive update to provide, I'll make sure I contact you. Given the complexity of the matter it is important to recognise these matters do take time and it's vital we don't rush anything to ensure we are in the best prepared position for the Planning Inspectorate.
- 2.1.50 **Pothole, Olney Road** – The clerk reported the large pothole opposite 67 Olney Road to MKCC on 30th January – reference FS482311348.
- 2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – nothing to report.
- 2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Awaiting feedback from highways. Update requested on 31st January.
- 2.1.115 **Pump in pump field** – Confirmation received from Nick Crank that the pump in the pump field had now been added to the HER as record MK7961. Cllr Markland suggested that the feature be photographed for future reference. Cllr Jamieson had taken the photographs that were requested and stated that there weren't any markings on the pump. It was agreed to send the information to the History Society. **Action: KG**
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Keith Wheeler (Head of highways, MKCC) advised that MKCC no longer owned any SIDs. Following discussions at the Rural North Community Forum, it was noted that the SID batteries were only lasting 3 days. Cllr Jamieson commented that CSW was carried out last Thursday and there was only one vehicle exceeding the speed limit at 32mph. It was planned to do some more CSW in the near future.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – Email sent to Stuart Proffit on 1st February asking who at MKCC was dealing with Neil Hanley's case load following his resignation. It was noted that the parish council's insurers had advised that as the parish council did not own the land, it was not covered for public liability. The clerk to email MKCC's legal department to ascertain if their insurance covered the liability. **Action: KG. Wave** – Cllr White carried out a water leak test and found no issues and also read the meter. The clerk forwarded this information to

Wave and was advised that a refund would be issued following a discrepancy in the meter readings. Refund due in the sum of £47.73.

- 3.6.50 **Dog waste bins** – The clerk made a request to Marcus Young Landscapes to receive the data on the usage of the dog waste bins in Emberton.
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – frequent collision issues** – Highways arranged for a speed count to be carried out on the Newton Road. The count was carried out on the 25th January for 7 ways. Results would follow in two weeks. Cllr Duncan commented that the vehicle collisions at the junction seemed to be happening because of the poor road layout, not because of undue speed – vehicles tended to slow for the corner anyway.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Reported on previously.
- 3.6.113 **Oak tree at rear of Pavilion** – (FS419409972) MKCC have advised that they had investigated this enquiry and would be arranging works with their contractor based on what they had found on site.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – Update requested from highways on 31st January as to when installation could be expected.
- 3.6.115 **Village questionnaire** – No further comments have been received.
- 3.6.116 **No HGV's - Newport Road** – Email received from highways on 26th January stating that they had carried out a 7 day, 24 hour study at the junction and there was only one HGV observed in this period which drove out onto the main road and one bus was observed entering off of the main road. Highways were proposing for a sign to be installed on the A509 advising HGV drivers that this road was unsuitable. Sign to be installed before the end of March. **Note:** the clerk advised the Newport Road resident of the findings who responded that during the monitoring, Newport Road was closed in both directions (except for residents) by Anglian Water for 3 weeks due to a burst water main. The clerk advised highways of this.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Reported on previously.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Markland stated that the steering group, following advice from David Blandamer, had agreed to take out the site allocation at the top of Gravel Walk. Cllr White asked if the Gravel Walk site could be used as part of windfall? Cllr Duncan stated that this needed to be followed up with Chris Akrill. **Action: MD.** The meeting agreed that the draft Neighbourhood Plan should be submitted, with the removal of the Gravel Walk plan allocation site as advised by Chris Akrill, and making reference to the consented site at Gravel Walk as previous development as Chris Akrill thought appropriate.
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – The question was raised whether it would help if someone went to a trustees' meeting. It was noted that although the trustees were still putting together the current accounts, a request should be made for a set of the last published accounts. **Action: KG.** It was noted that the trustees should be made aware that this agenda item would not be removed until it was resolved. The clerk to advise. **Action: KG.** It was also agreed to write to the head of legal at MKCC as the parish council now had documents to hand which

stated that MKC were involved in the transaction of paying over funds from the sale of School House to be placed in a charitable trust for the benefit of the pupils of Emberton School.
Action: KG

The clerk to email Cllr Flowers regarding the lights in the school playing field. **Action: KG/PF**

- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Previously reported on.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – No update from MKCC.
- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton/cycle links from Emberton to Olney and Sherington** – The clerk wrote to both Olney and Sherington to ascertain if any S106 funds could be released to improve cycle links between Olney and Sherington. Olney advised that this would be an agenda item for their next meeting. No response received from Sherington. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan previously circulated was noted but it was agreed this was still in the draft stage. Ward Cllr McLean responded that he had not seen this. The clerk to forward to KMc. **Action: KG**
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – Reported on previously.
- 3.112 **Planning Application Validation Requirements** – Awaiting the results of the consultation. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.113 **Climate Change** – The clerk reported that she had contacted the Chair of the ESSC with the suggestion of applying to the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee for a grant to provide a battery for the photovoltaic panels on the pavilion roof. The Chair of the ESSC advised that she would pass this to one of the committee members to look into.
- 3.114 **Parish Councils Partnership with MKCC Rights of Way Section** – Nothing to report.
- 3.115 **Grit bins** – Following a recent spell of cold weather causing black ice, a discussion took place regarding the grit bins in the village and whose responsibility it was for maintenance. It was noted that MKCC owned all the grit bins and they were filled once per year. If they required replacing, this would be down to the parish council who would then have the responsibility of replacing the salt. Ward Cllr McLean commented that Sherington were looking at grit bins at a cost of £214. Cllr Palmer had undertaken an inspection of the bins and reported that the lid of the bin in West Farm Way was not fitting correctly and letting water in and the bin in Stone Court was misshapen and located on a slant. Cllr White to look at the two bins with a view to adding a fastening to the lid of the bin in West Farm Way and to correcting the angle of the Stone Court bin. **Action: HW**

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – A discussion took place regarding a potential application to the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund for solar powered vehicle activated speeding signs. The clerk to make enquiries with the Chair of the fund. **Action: KG**
- 4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Nothing to report.

previous applications status

- 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 – It was noted that there was a hearing date for this of the 29th April and that the parish council should reiterate previous comments. **Action: KG**
- 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 – It was noted that there was a hearing date for this of the 29th April and that the parish council should reiterate any previous comments if made. **Action: KG**
- 4.344 **22/02310/TCA** – The pruning back all over by no more than 2m of a Copper Beech (T1) to maintain good shape and health of tree. The reduction of 3 small conifers (T3) to 2m above hedge in front, and the reduction by 4m of one large conifer (T3) at Holcombe House, Olney Road. It was noted that a revised site plan had been submitted – **no objections**
- 4.346 **22/02980/TCA** – The removal as close to ground level as possible of 1 x Silver Birch (T1) at The Coach House, 19A High Street – **no objections**
- 4.348 **22/02999/TCA** – Crown reduction in height and spread by approximately 1.5-2 metres of Swedish Whitebeam (T1) tree to remove the sections overhanging the driveway of no. 19a at 19 High Street – **no objections**
- 4.349 **22/03026/CLUP** – Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed demolition of the existing rear extension and the erection of a new single storey rear extension at 28 Olney Road – **approved**

New applications

- 4.350 **23/00061/DISON** – Approval of details required by condition 6 (windows and doors) of permission ref 22/01058/FUL at The Coach House, 19A High Street. It was agreed that there were no objections to this application. The clerk to respond. **Action: KG**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 6th February 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.**

- 6. CORRESPONDENCE** – It was noted that a thank you had been received from Mr Gibson for the card and monetary gift from Councillors and the clerk.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Community Speed Watch (volunteers), 21 bus service, Annual Assembly 20th March, Wheelie Bin Information session, litter picks **Action: KG**

- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – **Cllr Jamieson** raised the question as to whether or not parking was permitted on grass verges as an informal complaint had been received. The clerk to ascertain this. **Action: KG**

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 13th March 2023 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

DRAFT