

Emberton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting – Monday 4th March 2019

Present:

Councillor Victoria McLean (Chairman)
 Councillor Steve Gibson (Vice Chairman)
 Councillor Soo Hall
 Councillor Michael Horton
 Councillor Richard Laval
 Councillor Harry White

Ward Councillor David Hosking
 Ward Councillor Keith McLean

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

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

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

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 4th February 2019 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

Dates for Commitment – The dates for commitment were noted.

- 1.2 **Public questions, comments or representations** – There were no questions from the public.
- 1.3 **Frequency of parish council meetings** – It was proposed by Councillor V McLean, seconded by Councillor Gibson and unanimously agreed that the parish council meeting dates be moved to a Tuesday evening with full parish council meetings being held alternate months and a Finance and Planning Committee Meeting being held in between the parish council meetings.
- 1.4 **Parish Council Elections** – The clerk had previously circulated the election papers to the present councillors. The clerk stated that she would collect all the nomination papers and take these to MKC to be checked.
- 1.5 **Annual Assembly** – It was agreed to keep the same format as previous years. The clerk to circulate the previous Chairman's report to Councillor V McLean.

KG

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING** – Nothing to report.

2.1 Clerk's Report

2.1.24 **Weed spraying** – Covered under item 3.2 (Clean up Fund).

2.1.103 **WW1 Commemorative bench** - Decision of grant application awaited.

2.1.104 **WW1 Commemorative bin** – Purchase of bin allocated in budget. Grant received

from Ward Councillors' budget in the sum of £298.00. Cost of litter bin £491 + vat + delivery.

- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.16 **Clock tower damage** – Awaiting repair.
- 3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – The clerk requested a site visit from MKC. Enquiry acknowledged but no further contact; the clerk to follow this up with MKC. **KG**
- 3.6.50 **Dog waste contract** – Correspondence received from Marcus Young Landscapes advising of increase in contract from April 2019. Current cost £2.50 per bin per week, increase to £2.80 per bin per week – increase of £93.60 per annum. A H Contracts no longer operate in the rural area. Warners of Bedford charge £3.00 per bin per week. It was proposed by Councillor Horton, seconded by Councillor Hall and unanimously agreed to accept the increase by Marcus Young Landscapes. The clerk to advise accordingly. **KG**
- 3.6.51 **Street lighting (ornamental lights)** – Pendants were removed from the four ornamental street lights on 14th February and replaced with LED lamp trays. The clerk reported this to MKC on the 18th February. Response received that there had been a delay as MKC were waiting specialist parts to complete the repair and Ringway had fitted a standard lantern to the column so the area was lit. Ringway will return and re-fit the heritage lantern when they had everything required to complete the work.
- 3.6.105 **Tree in Hulton Drive (10 Hulton Drive)** – The clerk reported the tree (left of number 10 Hulton Drive) as diseased/dying on the MKC website on 19/4/17. Response received on 26/2/19 from MKC that they were not responsible for the land and suggested contacting Land Registry to ascertain ownership. Councillor Hosking asked that the clerk forward him the details. **KG**
- 3.6.106 **Fly tipping in Prospect Place** – A resident reported that there was a large number of wine bottles in the ditch in Prospect Place. The clerk to report to MKC. **KG**
- 2.2 **To receive reports from meetings attended**
EPFC/ESSC – Meeting held 12/2/19. Councillor Hall reported that she had been unable to attend the meeting. Councillor V McLean reported that the committee had discussed fundraisers – Grand National Lunch and opening Sundays in the summer. A commitment had been made to do a monthly newsletter. Bookings – now have people running courses and events. The committee remains without a treasurer; the committee thought they had found a bookkeeper but she said it wasn't her sort of work. The playing field is going strong and are preparing for the cricket season and maintaining the pitches for the football. The biggest problem was the lack of a treasurer.
- Olney Ward Community Forum (previous NAG)** – Meeting held 13/2/19. Councillor V McLean reported that the group talked about speeding, SIDs and how the data was collected with TVP stating that they did use the data to identify hot spots. Truvelo strips were discussed; they measure speed, time and types of vehicles. Councillor V McLean commented that this might be worth investigating

further with the rat running through the village. There was an interesting discussion regarding fly tipping. Operation Drover was discussed.

2.3 Update from Ward Councillors

Recycling sacks – Ward Councillor Hosking stated that he was trying to get the decision reversed regarding being able to collect recycling sacks but it was proving difficult and he was looking into a click and collect service.

Budget – Ward Councillor McLean commented that there would be a 3% increase in the budget which was not supported by the Olney Ward Councillors.

20mph Speed Limit – Ward Councillor McLean commented that there was now going to be an option for the parishes in existence to apply for a 20mph speed limit if appropriate but this would have to be self-policing.

MKC Officers – Ward Councillor McLean reported that the head of highways (Debbie Taylor-Bond) who joined MKC in the middle of last year was leaving. The Director of Place left last month and had not been replaced. There will be a new structure of staff rolled out in the next few months with a £250,000 staff saving. Mr Blackburne-Maze, Director of Public Realm was also leaving.

Litter picking – Ward Councillor Hosking reported that a litter pick had been undertaken of the A509 between the Land Rover garage and Olney but some areas were missed. A total of 159 bags (480kg) of rubbish were collected. It was noted that the litter was picked every 8 weeks in this area.

Community litter picking – Ward Councillor McLean commented that there was a nationwide litter picking campaign over the next few weeks and he was aware that several years ago the parish council offered to litter pick in Emberton Park and was told it was not appropriate and Councillors might to consider doing this.

MK East – Ward Councillor McLean spoke regarding the HIF bid which would probably go forward in July - £94.5m instead of £75m. The risk is that if the development is started and the work can't be finished within the timeframe for the grant, the expenditure would have to come out of MKC's budget. The impact on Emberton and Olney will be the increase in traffic. Councillor V McLean asked if the 5000 homes proposed were part of Plan:MK. Ward Councillor Hosking responded that it was reliant upon the HIF bid, otherwise development would go back to 2036.

Planning issues – Councillor Hosking reported that he had met Tracey Dark, Head of Planning at MKC as there were two applications in Emberton which had raised one or two concerns (Emberton House Farm and West Farm Way). Ward Councillor Hosking stated that the failings were systemic of a poor system in place. The follow up is a meeting with representative groups from each of the applications.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 Emberton Park – Nothing to report.

3.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – The clerk reported that the proposal for hire costs of the equipment through the Clean up Fund was £106 per day excluding an operative and vat for the foamstream machine which tackled weeds. Councillors stated that they felt that it would be beneficial to have the machine three times per year if this fell within the £500 budget set aside for weed spraying.

3.44 **Standing Orders** – It was proposed by Councillor V McLean, seconded by Councillor Gibson and unanimously agreed that the draft Standing Orders be accepted subject to Standing Order 1 being amended to “Meetings of the council shall meet no less than once a month”. The clerk to revise accordingly. Councillor V McLean commented that the clerk had highlighted an issue with the compliance of the Financial Regulations and this would be addressed in May at the Annual Meeting.

KG

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Councillor Laval reported that the open sessions were poorly attended. A meeting was now requested with MKC to discuss the next stage of the plan following the draft consultation.

3.85 **Emberton School (Consultation on proposal to close Emberton School)** – It was agreed to respond that EPC understood the proposal for Emberton School to case as an education organisation and therefore had no practical objection.

3.87 **Public Path Diversion Order 005 and 008 Chicheley and 015 Emberton** – It was noted that the above Orders were made, without modification, by MKC on the 17th February 2019.

3.93 **Milton Keynes East Local Stakeholder Group** – Previously reported on under item 2.3.

3.94 **Safer MK – Information Sharing Protocol** – The purpose of this protocol was to facilitate the lawful exchange of information in order to support the work of SaferMK, the Milton Keynes Community Safety Partnership. The Partnership had a duty to develop, implement and monitor a strategy to reduce crime and increase community safety in Milton Keynes. It was proposed by Councillor Laval, seconded by Councillor Gibson and unanimously agreed that the protocol be signed. The clerk to respond accordingly.

KG

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Councillor Horton reported that the next meeting would be held on the 23rd March.

4.109 **Solar Farm & Community Benefit Fund** – An email had been received from Next Energy in response to the parish council’s correspondence of the 12th February. Next Energy confirmed that they were yet to agree the terms with the landowner for an extension but if this was the case, Next would be interested in providing a capital contribution to the parish council for local projects in the sum of £7,500. Next Energy would not look to be prescriptive on how the funds were spent. However, if there was an opportunity to favour environmental projects, they would be delighted to see the funds channelled this way. Councillor Hall thanked the clerk for following up the correspondence. It was agreed to accept the offer

from Next Energy. The clerk to respond accordingly.

Previous applications

- 4.210 **18/00643/FUL** – Conversion and extension of an existing stone barn to a two bedroom residential property at barn set back from West Farm Way for Mr D J Soul – **permitted**. Reported on under item 2.3.
- 4.230 **18/03015/FUL** – Erection of a single storey timber outbuilding for use as a garden room at 7 West Farm Way for Mr Sparks – **permitted**
- 4.231 **18/00369/DISCON** – Details submitted pursuant to the discharge of condition 8 (biodiversity enhancement scheme) attached to planning permission 18/00643/FUL at Barn set back at West Farm Way for Mr D Soul – **Conditions discharged**
- 4.232 **19/00063/TCA** – Notification of intention to remove one apple tree and pollard three sycamore and one horse chestnut 4m above ground level and remove side branches at 16 Olney Road for Mr A Palmer – **no objection**
- 4.233 19/00085/FUL – Replacement of two existing Velux windows with Velux windows at The Barn, 4 Manor Court for Mr M Chambers. – **permitted**

New applications – none

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **RFO's Report** – The RFO's Report for the 4th March 2019 was accepted. It was proposed by Councillor Laval, seconded by Councillor Horton and unanimously agreed that the below payments be approved.

KG

Zurich Municipal – parish council insurance	£612.20
Spoton.Net Ltd – website hosting	£288.00
Mr T P Wibaut	£102.50
Mrs K Goss – clerk's February salary	£462.60
Mrs K Goss – clerk's February computer/telephone/expenses	£18.00

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Letter from EUC. A letter had been received from EUC to request the parish council's approval for the appointment of Mr A McGrandle as a trustee and to re-appoint Mr P Megeary and Mr W Clarke as trustees. There were no objections to the appointments. The clerk to respond accordingly.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village Publicity** – The clerk to draft following the Annual Assembly.
- 7.2 **Councillors' Concerns** – there were no Councillors' concerns

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is confirmed as **Tuesday 2nd April 2019** at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

