

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan - Chairman
 Cllr Paul Flowers
 Cllr Steve Gibson
 Cllr Colin Jamieson
 Cllr Fred Markland
 Cllr Guy Palmer
 Cllr Harry White

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

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO (via zoom)

PCSO David Huckle
 PCSO Arlene Ormston

One resident

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Ward Councillor Peter Geary.

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

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 8th February 2022. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th February 2022 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.
- 1.2 **Public questions – Thames Valley Police** – PCSO Huckle reported that there had been 1 x burglary and 1 x road related incident in the period 8th February to 7th March 2022. There had not been any forensic evidence following the burglary in West Lane, nor any useful CCTV footage. The rural crime team had been patrolling in the night time in the Emberton and Olney area. Statements regarding the criminal damage in Emberton Park had been collected although some people refused to give statements. The CCTV footage and evidence have been collated and the officer could now go on and make the arrest. Cllr Palmer asked what the road incident in Emberton related to. PCSO Huckle stated that he did not have any further details. Every month, PCSO Huckle included crime prevention advice in his report with this month focusing on car thefts of keyless vehicles. Cllr Duncan asked about CCTV in the village being used and if it was acceptable to point it at the pavements. PCSO Huckle stated that he believed the camera should be sited and pointed on to private land but he would check this. Cllr Flowers made reference to the report that there was a car patrolling the village prior to the two burglaries in Emberton earlier in the year. PCSO Huckle responded that he would speak to the TVP team regarding mobile CCTV. **Action: DH**

1.2 Public questions – Cllr Duncan stated that the email received by a resident had been circulated. The first issue related to traffic on Newport Road, in particular HGVs whose presence also increased the level of fly tipping. Residents regularly picked up litter in the area. It was noted that a vehicle parked in Newport Road had been hit and damaged by an HGV and it was felt by the resident that the road should be made “access only”. Cllr Duncan asked if the reduction in speed limit had made a difference. The resident stated that it had not as vehicles were picking up speed as they came from the Olney direction and didn’t have a chance to slow down. If they came in from the other direction it was more difficult to turn around. Cllr Duncan stated that either a width restriction or access only would be good if all the residents were in favour. The resident reported that other people were coming along at night in vans as well and fly tipping. The resident asked if there were any CCTV options. Cllr Duncan responded that this would need the consent of landowner if they were in the hedge. It was noted that MKC undertook an 8-week litter pick in this area. Ward Cllr McLean suggested that he could take the issue up with an officer from MKC and that it probably warranted an officer coming out to have a look. It was felt that nothing would be achieved regarding the fly tipping as MKC concentrated on heavily littered areas. Cllr Duncan commented that residents in Newport Road could volunteer to take part in the Speedwatch scheme. Ward Cllr McLean to follow this up. **Action: KMc**

21 bus service – the resident made reference to the loss of the 21 bus service which no longer operated in the village, saying this made it difficult to get to and from work. Cllr Duncan confirmed that a lot of people were missing having the 21 bus stop in Emberton, but apparently it was too expensive for the operators to run it through Emberton due to the delays in getting through the village. It was noted that the bus did sometimes stop at the A509 Emberton junction, opposite Newton Road, and this was indicated on the timetable by an “E” and applied to the bus travelling from the Newport Pagnell Campus of Ousedale School. The resident commented that because there was not a designated bus stop, the service was unreliable and the bus would therefore go into Olney and Emberton residents would have to walk back. Ward Cllr McLean responded that the Ward Councillors had put forward £50,000 in the budget for reinstating the bus service in Emberton and Sherington but it had not been accepted. It was agreed that Ward Cllr McLean would ask the officer who dealt with the bus service for extra stops on the A509 at Emberton. **Action: KMc**

1.3 Risk – Flooding at Petsoe End – Cllr Duncan asked if there were any volunteers to act as flood warden. The clerk reported that no one had come forward.

CCTV – Cllr Flowers commented that the most obvious place to have CCTV in the village was on the clock tower. A discussion took place regarding the quotation from a Milton Keynes company to provide a mobile CCTV and monitoring package at a cost of £9000 per year. Cllr Markland asked if any other villages had CCTV? Ward Cllr McLean responded that Moulsoe, North Crawley and Lavendon shared an ANPR camera. Cllr Markland asked if TVP had been directly asked. Ward Cllr McLean responded that TVP had a number of portable CCTV units that were deployed based on crime rates. ANPR cameras were at Chicheley and they would pick up markers on the vehicle. Cllr Duncan commented that highways subject to data protection restrictions, but if done correctly, this would be acceptable. Cllr Palmer asked how much of a deterrent CCTV would be? Cllr Flowers responded that it was a means of identifying people, but vehicles could possibly be cloned and the information would therefore not be accurate.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTIONS

2.1 Ward Cllrs’ Report – update from Ward Cllr Keith McLean

Acorn (MK) Nurseries housing – The application had now been withdrawn and a reason had not been given. Cllr Duncan raised the question whether the site would now appear in the LAA that was currently out for consultation.

Budget – There would be a 3.75% increase in council tax. The Ward Cllrs asked for amendments relating to the bus service and flooding measures for some of the rural parishes but these were rejected.

Emberton Park – Ward Cllr McLean stated that he had written to several officers and the Chief Executive regarding the actions of Sam Flowers following an incident of a heart attack at Emberton Park and hoped that Sam’s actions would be recognised by the senior officers.

Petsoe End Drainage –Cllr Markland asked about the work undertaken by MK Council. Ward Cllr McLean responded that the work had been undertaken in the sense that MKC had put piping in so that the ditch would not collapse into the road. Cllr Duncan commented that “Blake’s Brook” was the correct name and it was incredible that there was not more environmental protection for this stream. Ward Cllr McLean commented that he did not think a modern-day tractor would fit up the road. Cllr Duncan responded that the lanes were not getting narrower, but the machinery was getting wider. Ward Cllr McLean stated that he was going to raise the matter with MKC on behalf of a resident but the situation was better than it was 3 weeks ago. Cllr Markland stated that the parish council were alerted to the fact that some activities were going to take place but the actual action taken was different from that shared to residents. Ward Cllr McLean stated that the work was done at short notice to ensure the safety of the road not collapsing into the brook, not ideal but a reactive piece of work and MKC responded fairly quickly following the incident.

Planning – The clerk commented that a decision had not been made on a planning application for 4 Manor Court and comments had been submitted 5 months ago. Cllr Markland suggested that the clerk contacted the planning customer relationship manager, Joanne Payne. **Action: KG.** Ward Cllr McLean reported that there was a shortage of planning officers at most levels across all the authorities.

2.2 **Dates for Diaries** – These were noted. Annual Assembly – Cllr Gibson will undertake the presentation for this. Parishes Forum – Cllr Duncan to attend this. Rural North East Community Forum – Cllr Flowers to attend. Cllr Markland to attend the Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting. Park Liaison User’s Group – Cllrs White and Markland to attend.

2.3 **Clerk’s Report**

2.1.16 **Alison Fraser Walk (gate post)** – this has now been replaced.

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

2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – this had been covered previously under public questions. Cllr Markland asked if MKC could put signs up stating no fly tipping. The clerk to follow this up with the Ward Councillors. **Action: KG**

2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – nothing to report.

2.1.112 **Lime tree in school field overhanging High Street** – Nothing to report.

- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – it was noted that a grant in the sum of £200 had been awarded by the Ward Councillors to purchase a radar gun for speed watch. The clerk reported that one further volunteer had come forward to join the scheme.
- 3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – See update under item 2.1.82.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – awaiting feedback from Milton Keynes Council.
- 3.6.50 **Dog fouling** – a resident had raised the issue of dog fouling in Hulton Drive, on the corner of the service road of Olney Road. A request had also been received asking if the dog waste bin by the bus shelter in Olney Road could be moved closer to the junction with Hulton Drive. This was agreed. The clerk to contact the contractor. **Action KG.** Cllr Flowers commented that he agreed with the reports of dog fouling and appeared to be the same dog. The clerk reported that the current contractor Marcus Young Landscapes were increasing their prices to £3.30 per bin, per week from £2.90. A second quote had been received from Warners who quoted £4.90 per bin per week. It was agreed to keep with the existing contractor. The clerk to advise. **Action KG**
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – pedestrian safety issues** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.110 **Gritting at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.113 **Oak tree at rear of Pavilion** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – A resident had asked whether a hand rail could be installed at the steps in the High Street outside number 5 to assist some elderly residents. The clerk reported this to MKC on the 22nd February under reference FS403144115.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Cllr White reported that there had not been a recent meeting. Cllr Markland stated that the trees were coming out of the season when they could be felled due to nesting birds. The clerk to ask if this could be put on the agenda for the next meeting. **Action: KG**
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Markland reported that there wasn't an update other than to have a draft copy of the plan to circulate to the parish council soon. Cllr Duncan responded that if this was soon, there could be a pre meeting to the Annual Assembly.
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Duncan reported that a letter had been received from the EUC and also from The Charity Commission. Cllr White asked at what point did the parish council have to seek legal advice? Cllr Duncan responded that the Charity Commission had confirmed that they did not have the 2017 Constitution on file. Cllr Duncan suggested the next step would be speaking to the Charity Commission helpline. The clerk to forward EUC the email from the Charity Commission. **Action: KG.** Cllr Duncan to speak to the Charity Commission helpline. **Action: MD**
- 3.851 **Emberton School – Acorn Early Years proposal** – It was noted that the planning consent was still awaited with the only hold up being the survey on the newts. The clerk reported that

a resident had queried work in the school field and the query had been answered by Acorn Early Years stating that they were clearing the grass in the field.

- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – nothing to report.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – nothing to report.
- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton** – Cllr Duncan commented that government had recently changed the law and the deadline for adding footpaths to the definitive map had now been abandoned.

Hollington Wood: A response had been received from the current owner of Hollington Wood indicating that the proposed dedication many years ago of a public footpath through the wood had been abandoned due to a difficulty with access at one end. No confirmation on this had as yet been received from MK Council. Cllr Markland stated that it would still be possible for the current owner to dedicate a path in the woods if he wished, and to use alternative access. Cllr Flowers responded that it was a private woodland and the owner was in their rights to stop the way. Cllr Duncan confirmed that it was still possible for walkers to use the footpath through the wood by texting for separate permission each time. The mobile telephone number was on a sign at the wood and also on the Hollington Wood website.

- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – discussed above.
- 3.106 **BP Pulse – electric vehicle charge points** – The clerk reported that an email had been sent to all parish councils by a contractor and suggested finding out the cost of installation. **Action: Cllr Flowers to contact them directly.**
- 3.107 **Tree funding – Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** – Cllr Duncan gave huge thanks to Paul and Colin for planting the trees. The clerk to send in details of where and what the trees were to MKC. **Action: KG to liaise with PF.** Cllr Markland asked if this information should go in the village archives too? The clerk commented that once she had the information, she would forward it to the History Society. **Action: KG**
- 3.108 **Land Availability Assessment (MKC consultation)** – Cllr Duncan commented that Plan: MK needed to be revised or refreshed every 5 years. MKC were undertaking another call for sites even though they had a 5-year plan and were inviting people to put their plan in and revisiting other sites which may have been the subject of withdrawn applications. It was agreed not to comment on this consultation. Cllr Duncan stated that there was a Teams meeting regarding the methodology and the clerk had requested the link and would circulate. The clerk to ascertain when Plan:MK was being revised. Action: KG to speak to the Ward Councillors. **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** – nothing to report.

previous applications status

- 4.309 **21/01130/FUL** – Erection of one dwelling with attached single garage (re-submission of 20/00483/FUL) at 34 Gravel Walk – **the appeal was now moving along and had been listed to be heard.**
- 4.316 **21/00999/OUTEIS** – Hybrid planning application –The clerk to ascertain whether a decision notice had been issued for this application. **Action: KG**
- 4.319 **21/01921/OUT** – Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for the residential redevelopment of the Acorn (MK) Nurseries site for up to 41 dwellings including affordable housing. Also, access and additional off-site highway improvements following all demolition and removal work of existing structures and hard-standing from site at Acorn MK Nurseries, Newton Road. **Application withdrawn.**
- 4.321 **21/02632/FUL** – Replacement of windows and glazed façade and 2 external doors at The Barn, 4 Manor Court – **pending**
- 4.325 **21/03202/FUL** – The erection of single storey rear extension and new rear dormer window at 24 Olney Road – **permitted**
- 4.326 **21/03121/FUL** – Change of use from Class F1(a) to a hybrid use for a school and nursery under class F1(a) and Class E(f) and construction of an additional 21 space car park with access from High Street and a pedestrian footpath leading to the school building at Emberton School, Olney Road – **pending**
- 4.327 **21/03476/FUL** – Demolition of the attached outbuildings and glazed rear access and the erection of a proposed single storey rear extension with bi-fold doors and rooflights. New door to north elevation at 71 Olney Road – **permitted**
- 4.328 **21/03676/FUL** – Erection of single storey rear extension with overhanging canopy and store involving demolition of existing rear extension, hipped roof over existing flat roof. Replacement of garage door with window, a single storey front/side porch and replacement of front lawn with hard parking surface at 45 Olney Road – **approved.** Cllr Markland stated that the officer’s report had not included the comments made by the parish council. The clerk confirmed that a response had been sent and she would query this with the planning officer **Action: KG**

New applications

- 4.329 **22/00301/FUL** – The erection of a single storey front extension, a part single part two storey rear extension, replacement rear and front dormers and fenestration alteration at 59 Olney Road. It was agreed to respond stating that the case officer should consider overshadowing and loss of privacy when determining the application. **Action: KG to respond**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 8th March 2022** 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.**
- 5.2 **Insurance quotation following review of fixed assets** – The clerk had obtained two quotations from Zurich Insurance in the sum of £1356.47 for a fixed term contract of 5 years.

A second quote had been obtained in the sum of £2359.25 with the new values of the fixed assets. Cllr Duncan commented that the allotments would have to be added into the insurance. A discussion took place regarding whether a fence was required. It was agreed that a fence was required to define the boundary with the option of a hedge being excluded due to the maintenance of it. Cllr Jamieson to follow this up with MKC. **Action: CJ.** It was proposed by Cllr Flowers, seconded by Cllr Palmer and unanimously agreed that the quotation from Zurich Insurance be accepted. The clerk to advise Zurich. **Action: KG**

5.3 **Fixed Asset Register – to review and make any changes if required** – the clerk stated that as per Cllr Markland’s suggestion a walkabout would be undertaken in October for inspecting the fixed assets to allow for any inclusion in the budget for maintenance for the following financial year. **Action: KG**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – nothing to report.

6.1 **Email from resident regarding recycling and waste facility at Newport Pagnell** – Cllr Duncan commented that MKC were trialling a wheelie bin system and asked whether Emberton would be moving over to them. The clerk to ascertain this. **Action: KG to follow this up with MKC and advise the resident who raised the issues.**

6.2 **Email from resident regarding fibre optic internet** – An email had been received from a resident at Petsoe End regarding the lack of fibre optic internet with neighbouring properties being able to receive it. Cllr Markland responded that he had a problem with BT and suggested that the resident should contact the BT helpline. The clerk to advise. **Action: KG**

7. **PARISH RELATED MATTERS**

7.1 **Village publicity** – Ukraine disaster committee fund, planning application at Acorn Nurseries, tree planting for Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, CCTV in the village.

7.2 **Cllrs’ concerns**

Cllr Markland stated that he would like to keep the issue of sustainable transport on the agenda in relation to buses and connectivity between the parishes. **Action: KG**

Cllr Jamieson stated that the field at the side of the playing field which had previously been used by Airsoft was littered with plastic cans and netting and he felt it was an environment hazard. Cllr Flowers stated that he had noticed that there had been a lot of bonfires lately. The clerk to take the issue further. **Action: KG**

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – confirmed as Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm