

**Emberton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair  
 Cllr Paul Flowers  
 Cllr Fred Markland  
 Cllr Guy Palmer  
 Cllr Harry White

Ward Cllr Peter Geary

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

**To accept Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jamieson and Ward Cllrs Keith McLean and David Hosking.

**Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda** – Cllr Duncan declared an interest in item 2.1.17. Cllr Markland declared an interest in item 4.351.

**Parish Councillor Vacancy** – It was unanimously agreed that the application received from Mrs Angela Laval for the parish council vacancy be approved.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair. **Post meeting note:** under item 3.6.15, Mr Keith Wheeler had been referred to as the “Head of Highways”, this position was held by Mr Graham Cox and Mr Wheeler was MKCC’s Road Safety Officer.

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**

**Voter ID** – It was noted that everyone that voted, would need to take along photo id. This could be in the form of a passport, driving licence, blue badge, or elderly person’s bus pass. Application could also be made on line for a voter id document.

**A509** – Run off from the fields had caused flooding on the A509, under the bridge by Sherington and the freezing overnight temperatures had made the highway extremely icy. There were 4 separate accidents involving 5 vehicles in the space of 200 metres with highways closing the road for a short time.

**Ousedale School** – All the children from Emberton have been allocated a place for year 7 at Ousedale School but 25 children from Lavendon had not and would have to go to Glebe Farm,

with the remainder offered places at Stantonbury. Ousedale would be oversubscribed for the September 2024 intake, as well as September 2023 intake. Pupils closer to the school got priority but some of the children in the villages would not get in, as the catchment area had been narrowed to encompass the new developments in Olney. Certain parts of Emberton might miss out in future. Under the admissions policy, looked after children had first priority; then it was the children from the catchment area, with priority going to those closest to the school as the crow flies if there were more applications than places. A meeting was being held with the head of Ousedale School, the Ward Councillors and Ben Everitt MP to discuss the situation. It was agreed that the clerk would write a letter to the head of Ousedale School expressing the concerns of the parish council. **Action: KG.** Cllr Markland responded that this question was raised with Ward Cllr McLean at the last meeting and asked what role MKCC played in the places allocation? Cllr Geary responded that MKCC merely acted as an administrator for the school places, although MKCC should be looking at growth and then planning for schools and doctors accordingly Cllr Geary commented that the shortfall in places at Ousedale was not simply caused by residential development – other factors were a blip in birth numbers coming into Year 7 this September and also the cost of living could mean fewer families choosing private education. Cllr Flowers asked if Olney Town Council were aware of the issue. Cllr Geary responded that it did not affect Olney as they were closest to the campus - the growth in Olney and Lavendon was causing an impact in the surrounding villages. Cllr Duncan referred to the S106 payments received by MKCC from the residential developers for education purposes – was this money not used to provide for new places for schools Cllr Geary responded that Olney Middle School might choose to spend their S106 on shared spaces whereas Ousedale might spend theirs on places. It was noted that houses would be built in 2025 for MK East but planning permission for a secondary school would not have been granted by then. It was agreed that the clerk should also write to MKCC regarding the lack of secondary school provision at Ousedale School, at both the Olney and Newport Pagnell campuses. **Action: KG.**

**Bus 21** – Cllr Geary commented that it was very frustrating that MKCC had yet to arrange a meeting to discuss reinstating the 21-bus service.

**Emberton School House Fund** – Cllr Geary commented that he was happy to work with the parish council on this. Cllr Duncan responded that there was a governing document which the parish council had not been able to obtain through either the Charity Commission or MKCC’s legal department. The clerk to contact previous trustees to ascertain if they had a copy of the governing document. **Action: KG.** A discussion took place regarding the value of the fund but could not be confirmed given the lack of accounts.

**Mary’s Well** – Cllr Geary reported that he hoped to have a response by the end of the week. MKCC were not going to do any work on it, but Cllr Geary commented that he had someone looking at it.

**Cycle links** – Cllr Markland referred to the email sent by the clerk to Sherington PC and Olney TC regarding the possible use of S106 funds to make cycle link improvements between the parishes. It was noted that during the winter months, when the cycle path in the park became flooded, cyclists were forced to use the narrow path adjacent to the A509. It was felt that OTC might have funding to help improve the cycle path, particularly by the bridge/lay by. Cllr Geary commented that OTC do realise that there is an issue by the bridge with the cycle path but there weren’t any S106 monies set aside for improvements. Cllr Markland commented that most of the problems were in Sherington and Olney. Cllr Markland commented that a resident, Mr Mynn had sent a very informative email to the parish council and it should be followed up.

**Olney Road, surface water drain** – Cllr Geary commented that when Olney Road was resurfaced some 7 years ago, he raised the issue of flooding. The clerk reported that she had made MKCC aware of the issue of the surface water drain overflowing outside Emberton School and would send the FS number to the ward councillors. **Action: KG.**

- 2.2 **Thames Valley Police** – The crime statistics had been received from PCSO Huckle for the period 14<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March which showed one offence of stalking.
- 2.3 **Dates for Diaries** – The dates for diaries were noted.
- 2.4 **Clerk’s Report**
- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report following the update from Rights of Way last month.
- 2.1.50 **Pothole, Olney Road** – The clerk reported the large pothole opposite 67 Olney Road to MKCC on 30<sup>th</sup> January – reference FS482311348.
- 2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda until the HGV signage had been installed.
- 2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Awaiting feedback from highways. Update requested on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Need to review this scheme in July 2023 to ask for feedback from residents.
- 2.1.114 **Pump in pump field** – It was noted that the History Society had been sent the photographs of the pump and it was agreed that this item could be removed from the agenda.
- 2.1.116 **Parking on grass verges** – It had been reported that residents were parking on the grass verge in Olney Road close to the Manor House. MKCC’s parking guidelines for parking on grass verges is as follows: “It is not illegal to park a vehicle, unless it is an HGV (vehicle over 7.5 tons), on a grass verge unless it is causing an obstruction or there is a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place. However, parking on a grass verge causes damage and can block visibility for other road users as well as pedestrians and cyclists. Repeated parking on a grass verge causes damage which is unsightly and the council will not repair verges damaged by parked vehicles.”
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – Awaiting to hear back from MKCC’s legal department regarding insurance liability.
- 3.6.50 **Dog waste bins** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – frequent collision issues** – It was noted that the report on the traffic count had been received but the data was not in an easily digestible format.
- 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 31<sup>st</sup> January as to when installation could be expected. The MKCC Highway Communications Manager had recently emailed to confirm the handrail had been ordered and was expected to be installed before the end of March by Ringway.
- 3.6.115 **Village questionnaire** – As no further comments had been received and the results from the questionnaire had been taken into consideration it was agreed that this item could be removed from the agenda.
- 3.6.116 **No HGV's - Newport Road** – Awaiting installation of signage.

### 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – It was noted that no meeting had taken place.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Article 15 Submission of the Neighbourhood Plan was now out for consultation between the 10<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Copies of the plan were available in The Institute, The Pavilion, All Saints' Church, and The Bell & Bear. The clerk raised the question as to whether David Blandamer would write to the consultees that had previously responded. The clerk to ascertain this. **Action: KG**
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – This item had previously been discussed with it being noted that a governing document had not been forthcoming from MKCC's legal department or from the Charity Commission. Regarding EPC's complaint to the Charity Commission about the current trustees' failure to provide copy accounts, the Charity Commission had replied that they would give the trustees regulatory advice and guidance. The Charity Commission had not however replied on EPC's concern that the fund could not be run properly without amending its governing document following closure of Emberton School. A discussion took place regarding the amount in the fund, which was in the region of £100,000 when it was originally set up, but the exact amount was unknown as the trustees had not produced up to date accounts. Cllr Palmer suggested contacting previous trustees to see whether they had a copy of the outstanding governing document. **Action: KG**
- Emberton School (Acorn Early Years)** – Cllr Flowers reported that the solar lights in the school field had now been changed to "on demand" or movement sensitive rather than "on all night", which was good news for reducing light pollution for residents and for wildlife
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – No meeting held.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – No update from MKCC. The clerk to chase. **Action: KG**
- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton/cycle links from Emberton to Olney and Sherington** – This was previously discussed. It was agreed to invite Mr Mynn to the next meeting. **Action: KG**
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – Waiting for a meeting with MKCC and Red Rose.

3.113 **Climate Change** – It was noted that MKCC’s new electric car charging technology trial allowed people without off street parking to use home charging (rather than the more expensive public fast chargers) by running cabling under the public pavement to a hinged lid, so there would be no trip hazards from trailing cables. There was no guidance however on what happened if third party on street parking blocked access to the charge point. The meeting thought this solution could prove more useful to Emberton EV users without off street parking than the more expensive public fast chargers, as and when demand arose. EPC was not aware of any current demand.

3.114 **Parish Councils Partnership with MKCC Rights of Way Section** – It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda as no one had put their name forward.

3.115 **Grit bins** – Cllr Duncan thanked Cllr Palmer for inspecting the grit bins and producing a detailed report. Cllr White to undertake the repairs raised in the report. **Action: HW**

#### 4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – The clerk contacted the Chair of the WFCBF who advised that she should put forward an application for solar panel vehicle activated signs. The clerk to ascertain costs. **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 29<sup>th</sup> April and that the parish council had reiterated 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 29<sup>th</sup> April. **Action: KG**

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 – **pending**

4.352 **23/00342/OUT** – Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for the redevelopment of the Acorn (MK) Nurseries site for up to 29 no. dwellings including affordable housing, alongside access and other off-site highways improvements, following the demolition and removal of all existing structures and hardstanding from the site at Acorn MK Nurseries, Newton Road – As decided at the extraordinary parish council meeting on 9 March 2023, an objection letter would be submitted to MKCC with a request that the decision be made by MKCC planning committee, unless the planning officer was minded to make a planning refusal under delegated powers. **Action: KG.** Cllr Duncan to redraft a detailed response. **Action: MD**

**5. ACCOUNTS**

5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Palmer that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.** The clerk reported that the current account stood at less than £400 which was mainly due to two insurance payments being made in one financial year. It was proposed by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Palmer that £1,000 be transferred from the deposit account to the current account and vice versa once the precept had been received. **Action: KG.** A discussion took place regarding maintenance of the playing field and what would happen if volunteers did not maintain it. The suggestion of asking Olney TC to resource share was raised but agreed that there was not an issue at the present time.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE** – No correspondence received.

**7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS**

7.1 **Village publicity** – Neighbourhood Plan, Acorn Nurseries, 21 bus service, Bins on Tour, PCSO Huckle's report. **Action: KG**

7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr Flowers had previously reported on his concern under item 3.85.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm