

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 11th March 2024 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair
 Cllr Angela Laval
 Cllr Guy Palmer
 Cllr Joe Walker
 Cllr Harry White

Ward Councillor Peter Geary (part meeting)
 Ward Councillor Keith McLean (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Welcome by the Chair – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Flowers, Councillor Colin Jamieson and Ward Councillor Debbie Whitworth.

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr Duncan declared an interest in item 2.1.17. Cllr Laval declared an interest in item 3.121.

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 12th February 2024 – The Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th February 2024 were agreed and duly signed by the Chair. It was agreed that the post meeting note under item 3.123 was not in the correct order of priority with children of school staff members being given priority over children living in the catchment area.

1.2 **Public questions** – There were no members of the public present.

Risk – Cllr Duncan reported that risk assessments were increasingly required for activities of the parish council in order to comply with the terms of the council's insurance policy. It was agreed that risk assessments would be required for the allotments and clock tower. The clerk to look at a risk assessment for the allotments and circulate the draft risk assessment for the clock tower. **Action: KG.**

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

2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – report from Ward Cllr Geary and Ward Cllr McLean as follows:-

Water in Olney Road outside Acorn Early Years – A CCTV survey of the drain should be done the following week with the drain being jetted in the first instance.

New City Plan – The New City Plan would be significant for the rural communities, with a proposal of 1,100 new houses expected for the western side of Olney. Sherington was expected to take 600 houses, North Crawley 400 houses and Emberton 80 houses around the periphery. There was an opportunity for land owners to offer land for sites. The maps shown at the

meeting in Olney by MKCC were not clear as to where the potential sites were. There were supposed to be maps being released in March, showing the sites. Cllr Geary had also asked for plans of the sites being excluded. Cllr Walker asked if Acorn Nurseries on Newton Road would be offered for development. Ward Cllr Geary commented that he would be surprised if it was not offered but further information on the sites put forward would come at the end of the month. Consultation would begin at the start of June with MKCC putting forward a proposal of the sites that met the development criteria. It was noted that twice as many sites had been put forward than were needed. Following consultation, MKCC would analyse the results and come back just after Christmas with a Regulation 19 draft for consultation until the end of March 2025. Once agreed by MKCC, the plan would be sent to the Planning Inspector at which time a public enquiry would be held allowing anyone to stand up and give a view, including developers. Following the enquiry the Planning Inspector would make either one of the 3 following decisions; 1) the plan was sound and could be adopted, 2) the plan was not sound and MKCC needed to go back a number of stages or start again, 3) the plan was sound provided recommended changes were made.

It was noted that developers concentrated heavily on the final stage and this is where there was potential for sites that had been ruled out, to come back in, as was the case with the 5,000 houses for MK East.

There would be the opportunity for parish councils to pool resources at future meetings.

MK Connect – A new trial for MK Connect would be starting in April for 6 months, which would divide Milton Keynes into travel zones, with the rural areas being in the northern zone. Passengers could go anywhere in the rural areas as a single zone, but otherwise would need to go to Market Hill in Newport Pagnell and get a bus to continue their journey (or a different MK Connect if there was no bus service to the destination). The journey on MK Connect to Market Hill would be free during the trial. At present there were not good facilities for people waiting at Market Hill. The journey on MK Connect to Market Hill would be free during the trial – passengers would pay a single fare for the whole journey despite taking two vehicles. Ward Cllr Geary had raised the question of how many vehicles MK Connect had. The answer from MKCC was 28 with only one vehicle serving the northern zone. Cllr Duncan asked how people would give feedback on the trial. Ward Cllr Geary replied that this was yet to be confirmed and that the trial was to assess the new programme for services in September which would come into effect in April 2025.

Double yellow lines – Noted that there had been an objection to the double yellow lines outside the pub.

Wind farm community benefit fund – MKCC wanted to apply to this fund to enhance some buildings in Emberton Country Park and were finding it difficult to reach the chair of the fund. Cllr White to forward the email address of the chair (Mike Hughes) to Ward Cllr McLean.
Action: HW.

Litter on A509 – Cllr White referred to the amount of litter on the A509. Ward Cllr McLean responded that litter picking on the A and B roads had to be undertaken in a more controlled way. Ward Cllr McLean suggested that the parish council wrote to MKCC.

Restrictions on street trading by mobile vendors – Cllr Duncan asked if it was correct that Olney Road and High Street could only be prohibited or consented for street trading licensing purposes, or if a road could simply be undesignated, and, if so, what were the street trading

rules for undesignated roads? Ward Cllr McLean responded that he would need to check the detail on this. It was noted that historically Olney Road and High Street were prohibited.

2.3 **Dates for Diaries** – These were noted.

2.5 **Clerk's Report**

2.1.16 **Alison Fraser Walk (boundary fence)** – The clerk shared some photos of the fence which had been moved closer to the boundary of Alison Fraser Walk on the western side (Mounts House). It was noted that this had not encroached on land belonging to the parish council. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

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

2.1.50 **Pothole, Olney Road** – Pothole in Gravel Walk has now been repaired and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – Nothing to report.

2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Ward Cllr McLean commented that he had received a complaint from a resident in Olney Road stating they were not able to access their driveway due to inconsiderate parking.

2.1.83 **Manhole cover outside Stonepits House** – the clerk reported the sunken man hole cover outside Stonepits House and the entrance to Church Farm buildings on 20th Feb. MKCC acknowledged report. FS588391527.

2.1.84 **Tractor warning sign** – The clerk reported the missing “tractor warning” sign on Newton Road on the 14th Feb. MKCC acknowledged report. FS586866373

2.1.85 **10 Hulton Drive (boundary fence and ridge and furrow field)** – The clerk reported the removal of the boundary fence to the estates department. Response received from MKCC estates department that two residents would be written to regarding this issue. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

2.1.117 **Surface water drain outside Acorn Early Years** – Reported on by Ward Cllr Geary.

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.

3.6.30 **Allotments** – Agreed to write to Rushford & McCarville to request that the title plan showed a straight line on the southern edge closest to the highway. It was understood that this may have precluded the water trough from the transfer. **Post meeting note from MKCC.** “The land included in the proposed transfer plan was prepared following a site visit from one of our Landscape Officers and shows the extent of the land used as allotments, which extend to the base of the grass bank. The land from the base of the bank towards the highways is designated as landscaping and not allotment land. This transfer purely relates to the formal Land Registry transfer of the allotment land and nothing more.

I'm afraid we are not able to amend the extent of the land to be transferred to include anything but the allotment site.”

- 3.6.50 **Dog fouling** – It was noted that at the current time, there were no smells emanating from the dog waste bin but this would be monitored again in July.
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – frequent collision issues** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – nothing to report.
- 3.6.115 **Questionnaire** – it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Nothing to report.
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan**
Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan (updated) – It was noted that the modifications to the neighbourhood plan for Newport Pagnell were to protect bio diversity by creating green spaces. It was agreed to put in an email of support. **Action: KG.**
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker reported that he had met with the VSF along with Andy McGrandle from the EUC on the 27th February. The proposal from EUC was to replace four of the trustees of the School House Fund with four trustees from EUC. The VSF were totally against the transfer to four trustees and would only be seeking to transfer one trustee. The reasoning behind this was not forthcoming with the VSF wanting to understand why the parish council were interested. The VSF accepted that only the interest from the fund could be spent and not the capital. It was noted that the terms of the fund needed to be updated given the closure of Emberton school and if the capital had been spent, this would need to be repaid by the trustees. For this reason, EUC would not be willing to put one of their trustees forward. Cllr Walker commented that his recommendation would be to write to the VSF stating that the EUC and parish council were not interested in providing only one trustee and asking for a complete explanation for declining to pass the fund across to the four trustees. Cllr Laval, as a previous governor, stated that she might have paperwork relating to the fund and would look into this. **Action: AL.** The EUC would next be meeting on the 21st March.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr Palmer reported that a quote had been received in the sum of £7,000 for grass cutting. Cllr Laval suggested approaching Warners of Bedford.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – Nothing to report.
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service) and double yellow lines** – reported on previously.
- 3.113 **Climate Change** – No update yet from the Environmental Agency regarding the feasibility of a hydroelectric plant at Olney Weir.
- 3.116 **Access to playing field from residential properties and general access** – Agreed to take this forward to the next meeting.

- 3.118 **New City Plan (Historic Areas of Attractive Landscape)** – Cllr Duncan reported from the recent Historic Areas of Attractive Landscape workshop that LUC were working with MKCC to review the former “Areas of Attractive Landscape” removed from the Local Plan in 2011 with a view to reinstating this designation as “Areas of Special Landscape” in the New City Plan. One of the areas identified by MKCC as a proposed Special Landscape Area was the Ouse Valley area, which on the current draft included the village of Emberton but not the whole of the parish. Hollington Wood and the eastern side of the Emberton parish were not included. Cllr Duncan addressed councillors and asked if the parish council wanted to make representation to include as much of the parish of Emberton in the proposed Special Landscape Area as possible? This was agreed. Cllr Duncan to put together a draft response for circulation. **Action: MD.** Consultation ends on 24th March.
- 3.121 **Consideration of proposals to extend the restrictions on street trading by mobile vendors throughout Milton Keynes** – Consultation was being sought to change street trading in Olney Road and High Street from “prohibited” to “consent”. It was agreed to write in support of this. **Action: KG.**
- 3.122 **Milton Keynes City Council traffic sensitive streets review October 2023** – The clerk reported that the proposals were made in February. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.123 **Ousedale School – admission arrangements for September 2025 consultation** - The school had since confirmed that the admission arrangements had been adopted as proposed. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White reported that an application had been received from Newton Blossomville church for energy efficient heating in the sum of £7600.

previous applications status

- 4.369 **24/00058/TCA** – The felling of a Yew tree (T1) at Manor House, 9 Olney Road – **no objection**
- 4.370 **24/00057/TPO** – The removal of storm damaged branches to suitable growth points and reduction of overextended lateral branches by 2-3 metres of a Cedar tree (T001) protected by Milton Keynes Council Tree Preservation Order No. PS/540/15/331 at Manor House, 9 Olney Road – **pending**
- 4.371 **24/00054/HOU** – Installation of flush PV panels into outbuilding slate roof at West Lane House, West Lane - **pending**
- 4.372 **24/00022/LBC** – Listed Building Consent for the proposed installation of flush PV panels into outbuilding slate roof at West Lane House, West Lane – **pending**
- 4.373 **24/00241/TCA** – The crown reduction by 1.5-2 metres all round of 1 x Walnut tree (T1) and 1 x Beech tree (T2), the crown reduction by 2m of 3 x silver Birch trees (T3, T4, T5) and the crown thinning by 20% and removal of dead wood of 1 x Lime tree (T6) at Chaff Barn, 2 Manor Court, Olney Road – **pending**

New applications

4.374 **24/00401/TCA** – Crown reduction by 2-3m of overhanging branches back to the boundary on Horse Chestnut at 26 Gravel Walk. It was noted that the parish council would agree with the recommendations made by MKCC’s tree officer with regard to this application.

5. ACCOUNTS

5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 11th March 2024** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Walker that the payments be approved. Cllr Palmer to approve the payments. **Action: GP.** It was proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Walker to transfer £500 from the deposit account to the current account.

5.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – The clerk reported that the application to the CIF for a SID had been approved.

5.3 **Draft budget for EPC** – It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Laval that the draft budget be approved. The clerk suggested looking at the budget on a quarterly basis and this was agreed.

5.4 **Raising funds – sponsorship and open gardens** – The clerk reported that having looked into open gardens, consideration needed to be given to parking and public toilets. It was agreed to wait to see if anything came out of the article in the Well & Towers.

5.5 **Clerk’s review** – Cllr Duncan reported that it was in the parish council’s Standing Orders that the clerk’s salary be reviewed every year. It was noted that salary scale 24-28 was the ball park for the size of this parish but the clerk’s salary was currently at the 23-24 scale. It was further noted that although recognition should be given to the clerk for the work that she was doing, there was not an allowance in the budget for an increase at this time - the matter would be revisited when budget allowed.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

7.1 **Village publicity** – New City Plan. **Action: KG.**

7.2 **Cllrs’ concerns** –

Home Farm Court (lighting) – It was noted that at one time, it used to be dark across the field to the Church from West Lane with a light now on in Home Farm Court shining across the pump field. The clerk to seek advice from the conservation officer. **Action: KG.**

New City Plan – Light pollution was an increasing concern. Cllr Duncan suggested that MKCC might wish to be the first “dark skies” city.

Litter on A509 – The clerk to report the litter on the A509 to MKCC. **Action: KG.**

Annual Assembly – The clerk to advertise this on Echo. **Action: KG.**

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 8th April 2024 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm