

Emberton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 2nd April 2019

Present:

Councillor Victoria McLean (Chairman)
 Councillor Paul Flowers
 Councillor Soo Hall
 Councillor Michael Horton
 Councillor Richard Laval (part meeting)
 Councillor Harry White

Ward Councillor David Hosking

Mrs L Soul – resident
 Mr David Soul – resident (part meeting)
 Mrs Diane Soul - resident (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Apologies for Absence - Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Gibson and Ward Councillors Peter Geary and Keith McLean.

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

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

Dates for Commitment – The dates for commitment were noted. The clerk commented that the date of the May meeting would have to be changed to the 14th May if there were parish council elections.

- 1.2 **Public questions, comments or representations**

Mr Soul asked why item 4.210 was on the agenda. Councillor McLean explained that there was an outstanding question raised with MKC regarding Certificate B relating to land ownership.

Mrs Soul stated that she had an interest in the school.

Councillor V McLean commented that there was a consultation process that the parish council were asked to share in. The consultation was in regard to the closure of the school as an organisation and the head teacher came to a parish council meeting and made it clear that it was the school as an educational establishment and not the building or the land that was being consulted upon. Should the consultation be agreed, it would be the executive head and the federation of the schools that determine what happens with the land and the school. There were a number of options put forward at the meeting as to the future use of the school including an educational establishment.

Mrs Soul stated that at one time the school had only six pupils and there were rumours of the school closing. Some of the parents protested and the school stayed open. The village had in the past used the school playing field for parking and it

would be a shame for it to disappear. Mrs Soul felt that there was not enough nursery provision in the area. Emberton had taken the overspill from Olney as a second place for schooling.

Councillor McLean commented that some of the parish councillors had previously been school governors and had been through the debate of the overspill from Olney. The parish council would continue to keep the pressure on the school to make sure it remained a focal point for the village as an educational establishment.

Councillor Flowers stated that he had been a past Chair of Governors and there was not a lot the parish council were able to do. Councillor Flowers suggested that Mrs Soul got in touch with the School Federation.

Councillor Horton responded that the decision to close the school would be with the department of education in Milton Keynes Council.

Ward Councillor Hosking suggested that Mrs Soul respond to the consultation even if it had finished.

Mr David Soul & Mrs Diane Soul left the meeting at 7.48pm

2.3 **Update from Ward Councillors**

MK East Local Stakeholder Group – HIF bid was submitted on the 22nd March in the sum of £95m and it was unlikely that MKC would hear anything until after the summer. The Ward Councillors would be writing to the Minister to express their objection; Mark Lancaster had already written.

Tree in Hulton Drive – Councillor Hosking did raise this in writing but it was not considered a high priority but no update to report.

Planning applications – The applicants and objectors for the planning applications in West Farm Way and Emberton House Farm had both been given the opportunity to talk to Tracey Darke.

Path into Olney – Councillor Hosking commented that he had an email from a resident regarding the path into Olney being in a poor condition for cycling. The clerk commented that this was a footpath and the cycle route was through Emberton Park.

Emberton Park – Councillor Hosking made reference to the email which had been sent out on the 2nd April from Nicholas Hannon, MKC regarding Emberton Park and funding available in the sum of £50,000 to spend on the park. Councillor Hosking asked the parish council whether councillors wanted him to ask Olney what they thought. Councillor Horton responded that the park was in Emberton but Olney residents should be asked and not OTC as they had previously raised the question of a skate park. Councillor Hosking commented that he could talk to the Phonebox and also Olney facebook page. It was proposed by Councillor McLean and seconded by Councillor Hall that Councillor Hosking put together a draft article for the Phonebox and Olney noticeboard facebook page.

DH

Nomination Papers – Councillor Hosking reported that the closing date for

Nomination Papers was tomorrow (3rd April).

British Legion – Councillor Hosking reported that the Cherry Tree in Olney have offered veterans and RBL unlimited tea and coffee on Saturdays between 8.30 and 11pm. The clerk to put this in the Well & Towers.

KG

Councillor Hosking left the meeting at 8.05pm

1.3 **Parish Council Elections** – The clerk reported that she had taken in 9 nomination papers to MKC.

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

2.1 Clerk's Report

2.1.24 **Weed spraying** – The clerk reported that a decision on the grant for the clean up fund was not expected until mid May. It was agreed that the clerk should look at alternative estimates for weed spraying as the weeds in West Lane were starting to make the area look untidy.

KG

2.1.103 **WW1 Commemorative bench** - Decision of grant application expected mid May.

2.1.104 **WW1 Commemorative bin** – It was proposed by Councillor Flowers and seconded by Councillor Hall that the purchase of the litter bin went ahead. The clerk to organise.

KG

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – The clerk had previously provided councillors with the SID data which showed the highest speed of a vehicle travelling in Olney Road at 67mph. Councillor McLean commented that it was time that the data was taken seriously and something was done about the speed. Councillor Hall stated that if vehicles were speeding, they should be fined. The clerk commented that Speed Watch had proved useful in other parishes. Councillor McLean stated that Speed Watch needed support. The clerk to contact TVP to ascertain whether the speed van could come out and look into Speed Watch.

KG

3.6.16 **Clock tower damage** – Response received from Boden and Ward that the stone was now ready. The clerk to arrange the hire of the traffic management, looking at alternative suppliers to A Plant.

KG

3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – No response received from MKC.

KG

3.6.51 **Street lighting (ornamental lights)** – These have now been repaired and the heritage lanterns replaced.

3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – The clerk received a telephone call from Mrs White of Petsoe End who stated that the roof of the well was in need of repair. The clerk made enquiries and whilst EUC owned the field behind the well, they did not own the well. The clerk spoke to Mrs Ellis who advised that during the Crimean War, a fund was set up to support residents of the parish. When the fund was wound up, the remaining money was used to build the well as a village asset. Repairs to the well were undertaken between 1987 and 1988 which were paid for by the parish

council. It was agreed that the clerk should get a quote for the repair. **Post meeting note** – Repair to the well was completed in March 1988 by Mr B Cobbold at a cost of £900.45 (EUC grant of £750).

KG

3.6.105 **Tree in Hulton Drive (10 Hulton Drive)** – Reported on under update from Ward Councillors.

3.6.106 **Fly tipping in Prospect Place** – The clerk reported this to MKC on the 6th March.

2.2 **To receive reports from meetings attended**

Parishes Forum – Meeting held 14.3.19 – Meeting unattended. Minutes to be circulated when available.

EPFC/ESSC AGM – Meeting held 26/3/19. Councillor Hall reported that she had queried the £750 included in the 2018/2019 maintenance grant to the playing field for the spiral roller as one had been donated. It was noted that the spiral roller that had been donated was in need of considerable repair. Councillor Hall to find out how much the repair would be. It was agreed to hold back the £750 grant for the spiral roller for 2019/2020 until the information had been received.

SH

EPFC – George Proud stood down as Chairman of the ESSC but stayed on as Chairman of EPFC. The accounts were accepted, balance of £9,630.93. Mike Horton was appointed as independent examiner.

ESSC – Accounts were submitted, balance £14,503.60. Vicki McLean had taken over as Chairman but the committee was not running as it should be and there was no treasurer, bookings secretary or secretary. Councillor Hall reported that it was a very difficult situation but Vicki and George were doing an incredible job of keeping it together. The role of a book keeper and bookings secretary would be a paid position.

Councillor McLean commented that the Constitution required the EPFC/ESSC to have two committees and under the Constitution, the committees were not compliant. A full review would be undertaken and advice sought from NALC and a document outlining the vision for the pavilion would also be put together.

Olney Ward Forum – Meeting held 27/3/19 – unattended. The clerk to circulate the Minutes when they become available.

KG

3. **SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**

3.1 **Emberton Park** – It was agreed to see what responses Councillor Hosking received before responding to MKC with regard to their email of the 2nd April. The clerk to send a holding “thank you” email. The clerk commented that she had been approached by a member of the park staff to discuss a joint litter pick with Emberton residents.

3.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – Awaiting decision.

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Councillor Laval reported that the consultation would close just before Easter and the feed back would be sent to the Steering Group and changes would have to be made to the plan. Councillor Laval would

need to liaise with Town Planning Services. It was unsure whether the consultation would need to be started again following the comments made or go to stage 2 of the plan. Councillor McLean stated that as it was a new financial year, the Steering Group should be able to apply for a further grant. Based on the village feed back, the school field would have to be removed and there could possibly be something from Acorn Nurseries. The next Steering Group meeting will be held on the 24th March. Councillor Laval to provide the clerk with some pointers for an agenda.

RL

3.85 **Emberton School** – Nothing to report.

3.93 **Milton Keynes East Local Stakeholder Group** – Previously reported on under item 2.3. Councillor Horton commented that with the potential development in Olney, the A509 would only get worse. Councillor White asked how Newport Pagnell Town Council viewed the proposal. It was felt that NPTC were in favour of development as they felt it would revive the High Street.

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Councillor Horton reported that there was currently £13,000 in the bank and three applications had been received. £370 was granted to Olney Town Council for LED lighting. Double glazing for Astwood village hall was refused. The grant from Emberton Sports & Social Club for a new chiller was agreed in full.

4.109 **Solar Farm & Community Benefit Fund** – Nothing to report.

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 1.2.

New applications

4.234 **19/00413/TCA** – Notification of intention to reduce 1 x Acacia tree, crown thin and lift 2 x Lyme trees and trim 2 x Silver Birch trees at Chaff House, Church Lane. The clerk to respond that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations made by MKC's tree officer in relation to this application.

KG

4.235 **19/00840/TCA** - Notification of intention to prune branches of Yew (T1); Horse Chestnut (T2) and Cherry (T3) that overhang into rear garden back to the boundary fence line at 26 Gravel Walk. The clerk to respond that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations made by MKC's tree officer in relation to this application.

KG

5. **ACCOUNTS**

5.1 **RFO's Report** – The RFO's Report for the 2nd April 2019 was accepted. It was proposed by Councillor Laval, seconded by Councillor Hall and unanimously agreed that the below payments be approved.

KG

ESSC – hire of pavilion for August meeting

£15.00

BMKALC – Annual Subscription 2019/2020	£113.73
Antrams Payroll Services	£39.00
Mrs K Goss – clerk’s March salary	£470.31
Mrs K Goss – clerk’s holiday pay	£786.42
Mrs K Goss – clerk’s March computer/telephone/expenses	£18.00

- 5.2 **Clerk’s staff appraisal and salary review** – Councillor McLean reported that the clerk had completed a self appraisal and this had been reviewed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman which had concluded with the setting of some objectives. Councillor McLean to send out an email regarding the clerk’s salary review.

Vm

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy** – The clerk reported that in March 2019, letters were sent to 5000 residents who had been affected by the flooding (May 2018) in Milton Keynes to seek their views. MKC agreed that an independent review of the flooding impact should take place which would be completed by the end of the summer of 2019. MKC were seeking feedback to a questionnaire which had been sent to 17 parishes (Emberton not included). MKC were aware that there might be some people in less affected areas who didn’t come forward at the time and their views were also being sought. Councillor Laval commented that there might be some people in Petsoe End that were affected by the floods. The clerk to ascertain whether this was the case.

KG

- 6.2 **Defibrillator** – The clerk reported that an email had been received from the South Central Ambulance Service who were updating their records regarding defibrillators held in the parish. SCAS asked for a second guardian, the clerk already being one. Councillor Hall commented that she was willing to be a guardian. The clerk to notify SCAS.

KG

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village Publicity** – British Legion, weeds, Emberton Park, dog fouling in playing field and Alison Fraser Walk.

7.2 Councillors’ Concerns

Councillor McLean asked Councillors if they would like to set objectives for the coming year. Councillor Laval commented that this should be left to the new councillors for the Annual meeting.

Councillor White made reference to the dog fouling signs in the playing field and the implications of banning dogs from the field. Councillor White reminded councillors that it was a facility for everybody and not just for the playing of sports.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is confirmed as Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm