

**Emberton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Virtual Meeting – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020**  
**at 7pm**

**Present:**

Councillor Victoria McLean (Part Chairman)  
Councillor Stephen Gibson (Part Chairman)  
Councillor Melanie Duncan  
Councillor Richard Logsdail  
Councillor Harry White

Ms Sue Almond (resident)

Ward Councillor Peter Geary  
Ward Councillor Keith McLean

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

**Apologies for Absence** - The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which due to the Covid 19 pandemic and new regulations in place, was being held remotely. Apologies for Absence were received from Ward Councillor David Hosking.

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

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 10th March. These were confirmed and will be signed by the Chairman when the next face to face meeting takes place. Post meeting note: It was noted that the Minutes taken on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 included a statement from a resident, Ms Almond under item 3.74. The resident was in fact Ms McNally.
- 1.2 **Addendum to Standing Orders** – It was proposed by Cllr Duncan, seconded by Cllr Gibson and unanimously agreed that the Addendum to the Standing Orders be approved.
- 1.3 **Public questions** – Ms Almond addressed the meeting and stated that she would like to request the Parish Council to reconsider its approach to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation in the light of the COVID-19 national emergency. Villagers have been focused recently on far more pressing concerns around support and wellbeing, with some fantastic initiatives. The plan proposes major changes to the version previously consulted on that are not in line with the preferences expressed by the villagers. In the current environment, I feel that residents have been denied the opportunity to properly consult. I, like many others in the village, was not able to attend the first (and now the only) consultation meeting, and had planned to attend one of the later ones. These were of course cancelled but no substitute arrangements have been put forward. The extension of the response deadline is no mitigation to the absence of the ability to question and debate. Now we see that notifications and reminders of the extended deadline are primarily through social media, such as the Emberton Echo WattsApp, with <100 members, and email submission is suggested for those in isolation. As someone trying to deal remotely with elderly relatives with very limited IT capability, I can assure you that this would be a deterrent to responding. I am concerned that a number of villagers are excluded from the process at a time when their priorities are, and should be, elsewhere. I would like to ask that you revisit the consultation plans, reinstate the

full meetings when it is safe to do so and set a response deadline that has allowed for full and proper debate of this major proposal by the community.

Councillor Gibson commented that MKC had now advised that the consultation should be paused until such time as restrictions on gatherings were lifted. Councillor Duncan commented that she had received a number of approaches from residents in Petsoe End and it was welcome news that the consultation would be put on hold. Councillor Logsdail commented that the consultation had been extended and this was advised through the usual channels. Ms Almond stated that some older residents in the village might find this information difficult to access. Councillor Logsdail responded that in the current situation, it was difficult to communicate with residents. Ms Almond commented that the consultation was not inclusive as it should have been.

- 1.4 **Risk – Covid 19 update** – Councillor Gibson commented that the consultation on the neighbourhood plan would be suspended for the time being due to Covid 19 and that the Steering Group would be reformed once able to do so to move the plan forward.

Councillor Geary asked if the parish council would be taking the item again later in the meeting and he was advised that he was able to comment at this point in time. He stated that the Neighbourhood Plan could be refined to account for any changes. He commented that he had read the report about the Housing Needs Assessment but the figures did not correlate with what officers at MKC had said. There was an allocation of 1200 houses in the rural area that did not make it into the final version of Plan:MK. This target was met by Newport Pagnell and Hanslope so this target was no longer a target. Councillor Geary suggested that the neighbourhood plan needed more work and suggested speaking to the consultant that put the draft together. **Action:** the clerk to put Cllr Geary in touch with Chris Akrill. Cllr Duncan commented that she would also like to be involved in this. Cllr Geary suggested that it would be sensible to have a time scale in place. There would be an election in May 2021 and the committee would need to work back from that date. Councillor K McLean commented that he would like to see the process restarted once lockdown was over. Cllr Geary stated that planning applications were still happening but their determination was proving difficult; Neighbourhood Plans were difficult because of elections.

## 2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTIONS**

**Green bins** – Cllr Geary commented that most people had received the message that the green bin collection had been postponed until further notice and the advice from MKC was that food waste should be put in the black sacks.

**Council services** – Cllr Geary reported that council services would change on a weekly basis and any information would come out via the Weekly News.

**Recycling sacks** – Cllr Geary stated these were being distributed with the help of volunteers as Serco were down on staff levels.

**MK:2050** – Cllr Geary commented that the consultation had been postponed until 22<sup>nd</sup> May; the major impact for Emberton would be the same as that for Olney.

**Emberton Park** – Cllr K McLean reported that Emberton Park was currently closed and if anyone saw people in the static caravans, this should be reported to the gatehouse.

**Emberton Cares** – Cllr K McLean commented that this had been a great success and had been used as an exemplar in the Olney ward. Social distancing rules were being adhered to and everything was in order.

**MK:East** – Cllr K McLean stated that at the moment, Labour administration were stating that this would go ahead but the Olney Ward Councillors were still fighting it.

**MK:2050** – Cllr K McLean reported that MK:2050 identified a bypass west of Olney and Emberton to accommodate 1500 houses for Olney. There was nothing in MK:2050 how the bypass would be funded.

## **2. Clerk's Report**

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

2.1.95 **Milestone (A509 north)** – Awaiting painting of lettering; contractor working on a template to repaint text properly.

2.1.103 **WW1 commemorative bench** – bench has now been installed. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

2.1.105 **Newport Road (speed limit)** – Awaiting new speed limit order.

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

3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – Nothing to report.

3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – The clerk contacted Fred Markland who has agreed to inspect the well.

3.6.88 **Leylandii trees (13/15 Gravel Walk)** – Email received from Maurice Barnes, MKC Landscape Services Manager stating that a defined compensation for tree loss was not something that MKC had formally adopted as a metric. The current canopy area of the two trees was around 130m<sup>2</sup> and replacing the eco system would need the planting of 130 trees of 1msq. Budget of £105/tree to plant and establish the offset of canopy. The clerk passed this information to the resident who raised the issue. Cllr K McLean stated that MKC did not like cutting trees down unnecessarily. Cllr Geary stated that nothing would be done in the current climate but something could be done in Emberton Park to offset the loss. Cllr K McLean suggested arranging a site meeting at Gravel Walk with Maurice Barnes in the future. **Action:** the clerk to arrange a site visit once restrictions were lifted.

3.6.106 **Farm traffic sign for junction of Petsoe End** – nothing to report.

3.6.107 **Street lighting – Prospect Place (column 1)** – nothing to report.

3.6.109 **Newton Road** – awaiting feedback from Davina Millership, Head of Highways at MKC.

3.6.110 **Erosion of grass verges in Olney Road (15, 17, 19)** – nothing to report.

3.1 **Emberton Park** – The clerk stated that the PLUG meeting was due to take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Cllr Geary stated that a PLUG meeting would have to take place in a similar format as the meeting now being held. It was noted that the bbq bins in place had the old MKC logos on them.

3.23 **Bell & Bear Public House** – Cllr Logsdail reported that nothing had happened over the last two weeks. Cllr Logsdail reported that he had spoken to Paul Clark, the agent for the Wellington Pub Company and he was going to request Fleurets to advertise the Bell & Bear for sale but due to the current situation, this had not happened. The offer put in by the community interest company was rejected and then it was raised slightly to £250,000 and this was still on the table. Cllr K McLean reported that the longer we were in lockdown, the value of the property would go down. Cllr Gibson stated that people that had previously made a commitment might now need to spend the money on other things. Cllr Logsdail commented that the group were very much aware of this and they would have to contact all the people who had made pledges.

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** –Reported on previously.

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

3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – It was noted that all football and cricket matches had been postponed for the time being.

### 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.96 **MK Futures 2050** – Previously reported on by Cllr Geary. Cllr Geary suggested that if the parish council were to make comment on certain parts of the consultation, something should be put together in advance of the meeting. **Action:** The clerk to circulate the consultation for comment.

### 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White reported that there hadn't been a meeting and he was not aware of any applications.

4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – nothing to report

#### previous applications status

4.225 Airsoft site at West Farm Way, Mr Carlos Williams – nothing to report.

4.257 **19/03142/FUL** – Retrospective permission for the demolition of an existing stone barn, its rebuild, extension and conversion into a two bedroom residential dwelling at Mounts House, West Lane for Mr D J Soul and Dr Diane Soul – **decision deferred**

4.260 **20/00077/FUL** – Two storey side extension, first floor side and two storey rear extension, new front entrance, replacement pool enclosure with link to house, dormer windows to front elevation, replacement windows and internal alterations (resubmission of 19/01828/FUL) at Springside Pasture, Petsoe End for Mr C MacGregor - **permitted**

4.262 **20/00236/FUL** – Erection of detached timber framed study in rear garden at 20 High Street for Mr J Brown – **permitted**

4.263 **20/00282/FUL and 20/00298/LBC** – Single storey framed garden room extension to rear at The Long Barn, 1 Honey Hill for Mrs K Pickwick - **permitted**

- 4.264 **20/00483/FUL** – Erection of one dwelling and double garage within the garden of No 34 at 34 Gravel Walk for Mr J Green - **pending**
- 4.265 **20/00638/TCA** – Notification of intention to remove 1 x Acacia tree to ground level at West Lane House, West Lane for Mrs Ellis - **pending**

#### **new applications**

- 4.266 **20/00822/FUL** – New 2 bedroom single storey dwelling with attic accommodation and associated garden and amenity space on land West of West Lane (former orchard) at West Lane House, West Lane for Mr J Shurey. Cllrs comments as per the attached. The clerk to send the response to MKC. **Action: KG**
- 4.267 **20/00833/TCA** – Replace existing trees on the rear boundary with 8 x Pleached Carpinus trees. The removal of the following trees are required: 1 Cotoneaster, 2 Norway Maple (Acer platanoides), 1 Weeping Birch (Betula pendula), 1 Flowering Cherry (Prunus c. “Nigeria”) at 3 West Farm Way. There were no objections to this application.

### **5. ACCOUNTS**

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 14<sup>th</sup> April and approve payments.** The RFO’s Report was received. It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr White that the payments be approved as per the RFO’s Report. It was proposed by Cllr V McLean and seconded by Cllr Gibson that the payment to EUC should be ring fenced for when it would be called upon. Cllr Gibson to approve the payments online. **Action: SG**

### **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 6.1 **Letter from EUC** – An email had been received from EUC stating that Dr J Taylor had been appointed (retrospectively from November 2019) as a Trustee of EUC for a further four years. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Gibson that this appointment be approved.

### **7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS**

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Neighbourhood Plan (clerk to draft statement) **Action: KG Action: VMc** to compile a list of organisations that could help the community.

#### **7.2 Councillors’ concerns**

**Cllr Logsdail** made reference to the green and red card system in place for Emberton Cares and stated that this would continue and the group were confident that this was the best way forward. Cllr White responded that this was a good idea but residents needed to be aware that they should only accept help from people they knew. Cllr Logsdail stated that he would advise the group of this. Cllr K McLean asked if there had been any red cards displayed. Cllr Logsdail responded that there had been a lot of contact via telephone and using social media to get shopping and prescriptions. Cllr V McLean reported that she was working with the MK Community Foundation on their appeal, trying to reach out to the grass root communities. Cllr K McLean stated that he was helping out at the food bank and that they were there to help communities. Cllr Logsdail to speak to Emberton Cares and direct them to this information. **Action: RL**

**Cllr V McLean** reported that Cllr Hall had tendered her resignation. Cllr V McLean stated that she would like it recorded what a wonderful parish council Soo had been and her decision would be respected. Cllr V McLean stated that she would be staying with the parish council for time being. **Action:** the clerk to make contact with MKC to understand the process of advertising the vacancy.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – confirmed as Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

The meeting closed at 9.02pm

**EMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL - PLANNING GUIDANCE AND DECISIONS**

**PLANNING REF 20/00822/FUL**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY CONSIDER AS MATERIAL  
PLANNING CONSIDERATION**

	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS</b>
Overshadowing	NO	Rear windows overlook garden of Old Rectory
Overlooking and loss of privacy		
Adequate parking and servicing	NO	
Overbearing nature of proposal	NO	
Loss of trees	YES	"C" category - low value
Loss of ecological habitats		Survey undertaken
Design and appearance	NO	Local stone, in keeping with other properties
Layout and density of buildings	N/A	
Effect on listed building(s) and conservation areas	NO	Separation distance from West Lane House
Traffic generation	NO	2 cars at most
Noise and disturbance from the scheme	NO	
Disturbance from smells	NO	
Public visual amenity (not loss of private individual's view)		Visible from Churchyard and will change view of West Lane but will be sympathetic to existing properties
Flood risk		Not qualified to comment

Chairman's signature

Date