

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Virtual Meeting
Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7pm

Present:

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

Ward Cllr Keith McLean (part meeting)

Ms Karen Mayes – JPC to Clifton Reynes & Newton Blossomville

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Logsdail and Ward Cllrs Peter Geary and David Hosking.

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 2nd March 2021. These were confirmed and will be signed by the Chairman at the next face to face meeting.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – It was noted that Ms Mayes, the newly appointed JPC to Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville was at the meeting as an observer.
- 1.3 **Risk – Covid 19 update** – Nothing to report.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTIONS

2.1 Ward Cllrs' Report

7 Westpits - Ward Cllr McLean reported that there had been little activity at Westpits.

The Forge – Ward Cllr McLean reported that there were however some problems with tenancy at The Forge where two tenants had reported that they had been verbally abused. Cllr McLean has engaged the MKC Anti-Social Behaviour team who have spoken with all parties and invited them to keep a diary of events. There were however some problems with tenancy at The Forge where two people had reported that they had been verbally abused.

Serco – Ward Cllr McLean reported that Serco had missed the blue box glass collection in Emberton and that some of the vehicles were coming up to twelve years old; there was two years left on the current contract. Cllr White reported that some glass had been left on West Lane which had been left in the black sack. Cllr Jamieson stated that he had reported the issue to MKC.

Emberton Park – Ward Cllr McLean reported that he was pushing hard to get the toilet facilities opened; there had been a problem with damp in the male block at the café which wouldn't have happened if the toilets had been left open. The poplars along the A509 had been cut back and would be taken down in July.

Resident parking – Ward Cllr McLean reported that unfortunately, he had not received an update for the meeting from Davina Millership on resident parking. There were a few issues to consider in the scheme relating to parking for residents and the single and double yellow lines. **Action: KG to email Davina Millership regarding lack of update for meeting.**

Demand Responsive Transport – Ward Cllr McLean reported that there had been a few problems with the DRT system in Ravenstone and Emberton. It was noted that there had been a problem with the telephone booking system. Cllr Gibson confirmed that two ladies had spoken to him regarding DRT system. The question was raised whether once a journey had been made, whether a passenger would be able to return if they could not access the telephone system. Ward Cllr McLean stated that he would take this on board and that any further issues should be reported to him.

2.2 **Dates for Diaries** – The clerk reported that May would be the last virtual meeting as meetings would revert back to face to face after the 7th May. There was a Call for Evidence consultation at the moment to review the process which the clerk had responded to.

2.3 **Clerk's Report**

2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** - The public consultation period for the Bridleway claims at Petsoe Manor Farm (Emberton Bridleways 19 and 20) came to an end on 19th March. An objection has been received to the Orders by the landowner, therefore MKC will be submitting the matter to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for determination in due course.

2.1.82 **Resident's parking – Hulton Drive** – Update from Ward Cllr McLean - I have had a conversation earlier this afternoon with Davina Millership, Head of Highways. She has met with Karen Creed and Paul Harrison to discuss the scheme. It seems good progress has been made but Davina is checking with the legal team at MKC if progressing such a scheme during the pre-election period, known as purdah, which starts on Thursday 25th March would be appropriate. I tried to argue this was hardly a political matter and that it was the PC that was leading on the matter and the ward councillors were only involved due to lack of progress.

Hopefully there will be an answer by the end of the week regarding the legality of progressing the matter. If there is a green light a formal proposal for the extent of the residents parking area and extension to the parking restrictions in the vicinity of the Park and into the village will be tabled soon thereafter.

2.1.95 **Milestone (A509 north)** – Nothing to report.

2.1.105 **Newport Road (speed limit)** – Nothing to report. The clerk to chase this.

2.1.108 (January 2021) – **Mud on West Lane** – Nothing to report. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

- 2.1.109 (January 2021) – **Ash tree (junction of Petsoe End)** – Update from MKC on 16th March. we have investigated your enquiry and will be arranging works with our contractor based on what we have found on site.
- 2.1.110 (March 2021) - **Anglian Water pumping station, Harvey Drive** – Cllr Markland reported that Anglian Water had responded regarding the landscape maintenance issue but had not responded relating to the other issues he had raised.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – nothing to report.
- 3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – See update under item 2.1.82.
- 3.6.50 **Dog fouling in playing field** – The clerk emailed James Walsh, Rights of Way at MKC regarding an alternative footpath for dog walkers instead of walking their dogs across the football pitch to access Emberton Park from the playing field. Response received as follows: I haven't seen any evidence there is a formal public right of way across the field and it's not shown as being a footpath on our maps. In addition to this I have also looked for any evidence of a permissive agreement in old records. That would be some form of agreement that whilst acknowledging the route wasn't a formal right of way, a route could be used on the permission of the landowner. The only reference I have come across this being under some sort of agreement is in the minutes you kindly sent over. Therefore it doesn't appear there is anything substantial in place as regards access to this field. I am also not clear as to who installed the stiles in the field.
- The field has been passed over to MKC landscape team who will be using it for biodiversity offsetting in the future. These proposals may include tree planting or the creation of ponds for Great Crested Newts. Either way the nature and usage of the field will be changing and as such its likely MKC won't want people accessing the field if it is to be used for creating specific wildlife habitats.
- However I note there is a route around the outside of the field that leads into Emberton CP from the pavilion. This travels between the field 13 fence line and the trees surrounding the sports field. This route potentially offers a middle ground which could allow users to access the park without going into the field for the reasons outlined. This could be explored as a potential permissive route if there was interest to do so.
- Cllr Duncan raised the question whether the parish council agreed with Rights of Way that there was no permissive right of way through Field 13. A discussion took place regarding the stile that ran across the field and the fact that an alternative access had been created, around the outside of the field which had since been left in a state of disrepair.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Cllr Markland reported that the parish council were waiting for Nick Crank to designate the well in some way as this would help with securing grants for the required repair. **Action: KG to chase**
- 3.6.109 **Newton Road** - The clerk contacted Davina Millership, head of highways department on the 17th February to arrange for truvello strips along Newton Road. Awaiting response. The clerk to chase this.

- 3.6.110 (March 2021) – **Gritting at Petsoe End** – Response from MKC as follows: a member of our Winter Maintenance team who deals with gritting routes has assessed the request and had reported back that the requested additional section wouldn't be suitable to include within a P1 route. The vehicle used on this particular route is an 18tn vehicle usually with a solo driver, the vehicle was too large to be able to safely turn around any further down this section than we already do & to substitute this vehicle for a smaller vehicle would have an adverse impact on the overall route itself.

At the end of the Winter season our winter team (including myself) hold a lessons learnt session and review our practices for the year, with regards to this particular issue I am happy to raise this and discuss whether there are any alternative measures or provisions that we can consider in order to assist. The clerk emailed the officer (Richard Woodcock) to request that the issue was raised at their lessons learnt end of season session.

- 3.6.111 **Street light at junction with High Street and A509** – Cllr Flowers advised that the street light was out and that the reference number on the column was number 8. The clerk to chase with MKC. **Action: KG**

- 3.6.112 (March 2021) – **Dead trees Newton Road (to right of triangle)** – the dead trees were reported to MKC on 25th March under reference FS319769877 and an acknowledgement received stating that the issue was being investigated

- 2.4 **ESSC AGM – 10th March 2021** – It was noted that Richard Logsdail had taken over as the Chairman from Vicki McLean.

- 2.5 **Parishes Forum meeting** – 18th March 2021 – the main topic was supporting families and how residents could access food banks and other useful information. The subject of returning to face to face meetings was also discussed.

3. **SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Cllr White reported that there was a presentation from Andrew Irvine about the park zonation which involved zoning off areas of the park for ecology reasons. The areas would encourage wildlife, biodiversity and would place restrictions on vehicle movements. Cllr Markland asked whether MKC were putting out options for consultation. Ward Cllr McLean responded that this was a first draft and there would be a consultation at some point. Cllr Markland asked what period the plan would cover as previous plans had put funding in place for various projects but there had been no fund in place for maintenance of these projects. Cllr White stated that other issues discussed were the toilet blocks, contactless payment for entry to the park and the static caravan areas at the far end by the river where caravans had been removed and the site left untidy. The question of a bye law for bbqs was raised; it was planned to carry on with the ban for the time being. **Action: KG to ascertain from MKC whether the zoning map could be shared with residents.**

- 3.6.1 **Emberton Parish Council website** – WCAG compliance. Cllr Duncan reported that this had now been undertaken and thanked the clerk for her work on this.

- 3.23 **Bell & Bear Public House** – Cllr Duncan reported that the sale of the Bell & Bear to the interested party had fallen through and the pub was back on the market. It was noted that there was the possibility of match funding for community group bids.

- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Duncan reported that a response from EUC had stated that they no longer wished for the Institute to be put forward as a development site and would rather it was listed as a community asset. The steering group and EUC would discuss the next steps.
- 3.85 **Emberton School** – Update from Acorn Early Years as follows: I’ve just chased Peter Beer at MKC again, to see if there’s any progress with the lease, so I may have an update before the meeting on Tuesday, but other than waiting for that, our main progress has been to start some tree planting. There has been a delay with the delivery of saplings from the Woodland Trust so if they don’t arrive in time to plant them before the weather warms further, we may give them a temporary home at one of our other sites where we can keep them watered, and then will plant them in the Autumn. The intention was to involve the community and ask for volunteer families to help us plant a tree each (we had a plan for timed sessions so that we could comply with social distancing). This might have to be postponed too, as we still don’t know when the saplings will arrive. Provided the lease can be done in time, we should still be on track with our plans to run a playscheme for four weeks in August and then to open the nursery in September. As soon as I have more definite news, I’ll let you know, and if anyone wants to contact me directly, please do pass on my contact details.

Cllr Markland asked the question how Acorn could plant trees if there was no lease in place?

School House Fund – Cllr White state that the VSF were supposed to be following this up and asked whether any progress had been made. **Action: KG to chase. Action: MD to look at the information on the Charities Commission website.** Cllr Markland reported that when the fund was set up, there would have been a different school system for children up to the age of 11.

- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – The clerk reported that football had started back on the 29th March with 2 under 12’s boy’s teams and two girl’s teams (U8’s and U10’s). Laker’s Football Club commenced matches at the beginning of April, playing Sunday morning. Wollaston Cricket Club and Wellingborough Old Grammarian’s Cricket Club return in May, playing alternate Saturday afternoons.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – Cllr Markland commented that it was interesting that English Heritage made reference to the conservation area statement in its response to the neighbourhood plan and that it was important to chase for the review. **Action: KG**
- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton** – It was noted that this information was on the website.
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport** – Reported on earlier.
- 3.105 **Parallel Bridges** – It was noted that Cllr Logsdail had covered this with All Saint’s Church. Cllr Duncan commented that she was keen on planting trees should the situation and site arise.

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White reported that there had not been any further applications. The clerk emailed MKC’s legal department on the 9th February regarding the signed S106 agreement. No response received. **Action: KG to chase**

- 4.2 **Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – It was noted that no applications had been received.
Action: KG to advertise the fund in the Well & Towers.

previous applications status

- 4.305 **21/00337/DISCON** – Details submitted pursuant to discharge condition 3 (door and window details) and condition 4 (schedule of external materials) attached to planning application 20/02549/LBC at West Lane House, West Lane - **pending**
- 4.306 **21/00412/TCA** – Notification of intention to: T1 – Holly – Dismantle to ground level and remove all waste at West Lane House, West Lane – **no objection**
- 4.307 **21/00394/FUL** – Demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of single storey rear extension connect to new single storey utility rooms and garage at Grange Farm, Petsoe End – **application withdrawn**

New applications

- 4.308 **21/00642/TCA** - Notification of intention to two Beech Trees (1 and 2) - reduce the height by 2m and circumference by 2.5m and 1 No Sorbus - reduce crown by 4m and sides by 2m back to previous pruning point at 4 Gravel Walk. It was agreed to respond that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations by MKC's tree officer.

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 6th April** and approve payments. A discussion took place regarding the ring fenced fund for Emberton Cares. It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr White and unanimously agreed that the ring fenced fund should be reduced to £500. It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr White that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 **7 Westpits** – Nothing further to report. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – DRT, neighbourhood plan

7.2 Cllrs' concerns

Cllr Flowers – reported that there was an electric fence on the other side of the A509 where there was a public footpath. It was noted that a resident was going to use the field for her horses. The clerk commented that this had been raised at a previous meeting and any field with electric fencing required proper notices.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – confirmed as Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7pm to be held virtually.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm