

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan - Chairman
 Cllr Fred Markland
 Cllr Guy Palmer
 Cllr Harry White

Ward Cllr Peter Geary (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO (via zoom)

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gibson, Cllr Flowers, Cllr Jamieson and Ward Councillors Keith McLean 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 8th March 2022. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th March 2022 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

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

1.3 Risk – Flooding at Petsoe End – It was agreed to remove the reference to Petsoe End from this agenda item.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTIONS

2.1 Ward Cllrs' Report – update from Ward Cllr Peter Geary

MK East – As part of the development it was likely that at the latter part of the year, the A509 between junction 14 and the Newport Pagnell roundabout would be closed for six months which would significantly impact on people getting into Milton Keynes.

Acorn (MK) Nurseries housing – A CLUE was not like a traditional planning application whereby a parish council could put in their views and the officer made the decision on those views. A CLUE was reliant on everybody who had evidence to produce it and get it to the planning officer so that they could make the decision. The Ward Councillors would be making the request that the application was heard at committee. Ward Cllr Geary explained that a garden centre would have to pay business rates whereby a plant nursery would not. Cllr White asked if the village should be concerned. Cllr Geary responded that the CLUE would turn a greenfield site to a brownfield which was a pre cursor to building. Cllr Palmer asked, if successful what would the next step be? Cllr Geary responded that it would be a planning application for 41 houses, however the traffic issues would still apply. Cllr Duncan stated that there was still an issue with the planning application form. Cllr Geary suggested highlighting this with the planning officer.

21 bus service – There was no update on this. The way the number 21 bus service interacted with other services meant that if the bus stopped in Emberton, it would not connect with another bus at the other end. Coming into Emberton would be a new bus route and the Ward Councillors were advised that there were no new routes planned but two bus services had been started that were subsidised. The funding from pay and display parking could be spent on subsidised bus services. Cllr Duncan asked if there was something that the village could do? Cllr Geary responded that there potentially was but it was better to wait and see what happened with the elections in May. It was hoped that the bus route would be implemented with a stop at Emberton Park and potentially at the top end of the village.

2.2 **North East Rural Community Forum (16-3-22)** – It was noted that this meeting was attended by Cllr Flowers. The clerk to follow up the issue of the rat running and restricted access with PCSO David Huckle. The next meeting would be attended by Keith Wheeler. **Action: KG**

2.3 **Parishes Forum (17-3-22)** – Cllr Duncan listened to the meeting on zoom. There was an item on flooding but no new information forthcoming and one item on littering/fly tipping. A parish could apply for CCTV monitoring where fly tipping was an issue but it was based on how severe the problem was.

2.4 **Annual Assembly (22-3-22)** Cllr Duncan stated that there was a good attendance by the parish council and Ward Councillors. Cllr White commented that the questions raised by residents on the School House Fund made it an interesting meeting.

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

2.6 Clerk's Report

2.1.16 **Alison Fraser Walk (gate post)** – It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda as the gate post had now been replaced.

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

2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – Issue followed up with Ward Councillors.

2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – nothing to report.

2.1.112 **Lime tree in school field overhanging High Street** – MKC have closed the file. The clerk emailed customer services to ascertain the current update.

2.1.13 **Field to side of playing field** – It was noted that the field to the side of the playing field was littered with plastic waste and that bonfires had been taking place on the field. The bonfires had been previously reported to MKC following a football match being interrupted by smoke. The clerk reported the litter to the environmental health team.

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Discussed under item 2.2.

3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – See update under item 2.1.82.

3.6.30 **Allotments** – Cllr Jamieson emailed MKC on the 18th March. Response awaited from the estates department at MKC.

- 3.6.50 **Dog fouling** – Marcus Young Landscapes have been approached to move the dog waste bin in Olney Road. Cllr White commented that the bin might need replacing. The clerk to look into this. **Action: KG**
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – pedestrian safety issues** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.110 **Gritting at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.113 **Oak tree at rear of Pavilion** – MKC have closed the file. The clerk emailed customer services to ascertain the current update.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – MKC have advised that the parish council could apply to the accessibility fund or pay for the handrail with parish funds. It was agreed to explore the funding option. **Action: KG**
- 3.6.115 **Fibre optic internet at Petsoe End** – A resident in Petsoe End had made the parish council aware that they were not able to access fibre optic internet. Following the meeting, the clerk provided the resident with the advice to contact the BT helpline. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.6.116 **Waste and recycling** – An email had been received from a resident regarding the unavailability of plastic sacks for recycling. The clerk responded to the resident that MKC were going to introduce wheelie bins in Emberton in 2023. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Cllr White reported that a new officer had taken over responsibilities for the park and there were two new rangers. It was noted that some of the poplars had been felled completely and the tree officer would be providing a plan for re-planting. Cllr Markland asked if the post and rail fence had been repaired. This was unknown.
- 3.5 **“Together we can” (parish charter)** – Cllr Duncan commented that it was hard to object to this. There was a general perception that there was no feedback from MKC following parish and town councils’ responses to consultations. The clerk reported that the Parish Charter would be discussed at the June Parishes Forum. The clerk to respond to this accordingly. **Action: KG**
- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Markland reported that there wasn’t an update other than to say that it had been circulated for comment. Cllr Duncan asked Ward Cllr Geary whether the Ward Councillors had any comments on the plan. Ward Cllr Geary responded that it looked fine. Cllr Duncan asked if the parish council could now approve it. It was proposed by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Palmer and unanimously agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan be **approved**. The clerk to notify Town Planning Services that the plan had been approved. **Action: KG**. Cllr White made reference to the email from Francis Jackson Homes. Cllr Markland commented that there was little point in entering into any communication as the plan was where it was and there was also a Certificate of Lawfulness for Acorn Nurseries (MK) in the process. The clerk to respond on this basis. **Action: KG**.

- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Duncan stated that nothing had moved on since the Annual Assembly in that the accounts were still not presented to the Charity Commission. Cllr Duncan had called the Charity Commission helpline for advice and they wouldn't advise over the telephone and suggested writing in again more specifically. Cllr Duncan stated that she would be speaking to Andy McGrandle. A discussion took place regarding who the Trustees were of the fund rather than the VSF and who was responsible for what. Action: Speak to Andy McGrandle, letter to Charity Commission and check who the trustees were. **Action: MD/KG**
- 3.851 **Emberton School – Acorn Early Years proposal** – Cllr Geary reported that this application would go to panel on the 21st April. It was noted that there had been some technical errors with the application in that it had not been noted that part of the area was outside the settlement boundary. Cllr Duncan commented that it would be good for a parish councillor to speak at the panel meeting to support the application. **Action: MD.** It was proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr White and unanimously agreed that the amended documents were acceptable and supported by the parish council. The clerk to respond accordingly. **Action: KG**
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Meeting to be held on the 25th April.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – nothing to report. The clerk to follow this up. **Action: KG**
- 3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton – Hollington Wood** Cllr Duncan reported that the parish council were waiting to hear back from MKC as to what their records showed. The clerk to speak to James Walsh. **Action: KG**
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – Cllr White suggesting asking someone from Red Rose to come to a parish council meeting. Cllr Markland responded that he was communicating with them at the moment on a personal basis. They responded proactively to start off with. Their view was on a commercial basis in that they did not believe there was not enough up take. If enough people said there was a demand, they would be willing to listen. Cllr Palmer made reference to the complaints policy in the recent bus charter and advising residents how to complain. It was agreed to put this information in the Well & Towers. **Action: KG**
- 3.106 **BP Pulse – electric vehicle charge points** – It was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting.
- 3.107 **Tree funding – Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – Cllr Duncan reported that the trees were in and they required watering. The clerk to provide the information to MKC. **Action: KG**
- 3.108 **Footpaths and cycle links from Emberton to Olney and Sherington** – Cllr Markland commented that he had written to MKC as a resident. It was noted that there was little chance of anything happening in the rural area with regard to footpaths, bridleways or cycleways. The closest path on MKC's list was one in Olney and it was below the top 50 and something was put forward for Emberton but it was 149 on the list. It was not clear what it was but not something to do with the existing footpaths on the A509 and connectivity to other parishes. Cllr Duncan suggesting speaking to other parishes that had the same problem and get it onto a forum agenda. The clerk to speak to MKC regarding an agenda item for the Olney Ward Forum and the North East Rural Community Forum. **Action: KG**

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – nothing to report.

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

previous applications status

4.309 **21/01130/FUL** – Erection of one dwelling with attached single garage (re-submission of 20/00483/FUL) at 34 Gravel Walk – **appeal lodged**

4.316 **21/00999/OUTEIS** – Hybrid planning application – **awaiting decision notice**

4.321 **21/02632/FUL** – Replacement of windows and glazed façade and 2 external doors at The Barn, 4 Manor Court – **pending**. It was noted that there was a big queue at MKC for signing off planning applications.

4.326 **21/03121/FUL** – Change of use from Class F1(a) to a hybrid use for a school and nursery under class F1(a) and Class E(f) and construction of an additional 21 space car park with access from High Street and a pedestrian footpath leading to the school building at Emberton School, Olney Road – reported on under item 3.851

4.329 **22/00301/FUL** – The erection of a single storey front extension, a part single part two storey rear extension, replacement rear and front dormers and fenestration alteration at 59 Olney Road – **pending**

New applications

4.330 **22/00539/CLUE** – Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use as a wholesale garden centre – class (E(a) at Acorn MK Nurseries, Newton Road. Cllrs Duncan and Markland had previously circulated a response document for discussion. It was noted that the parish council could only respond on the evidence put forward. A discussion took place regarding the evidence put forward by the applicant and the payment of business rates. It was noted that there was anecdotal evidence from residents dating back to the 1980's that the site was a nursery and not a garden centre. It was proposed by Cllr Markland, seconded by Cllr White and unanimously agreed that the draft letter and addendums (attached to these Minutes) be sent to MKC. **Action: KG**

5. ACCOUNTS

5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 5th April 2022** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Duncan that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – New signs in Emberton Park stating no dogs allowed in the conservation area, CCTV cost, Bus 21, Bus charter and complaints procedure, EV charging points, watering trees.
- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns**
Cllr White stated that it was noted that new signs had been put up on the entrances to the conservation area in Emberton Park stating that dogs were not permitted. Although there had been a discussion at a recent PLUG meeting, it was noted that there had not been any consultation relating to this. Cllr Markland asked if there was any evidence to say that it was beneficial to keep dogs on leads in the conservation area. Cllr White confirmed that the clerk had provided evidence to say that if dogs run wild there was damage to the conservation area.
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – It was noted that the next meeting was the Annual Meeting where the Chairman and representatives for committees would be appointed. The date of the Annual Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm