

Emberton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting – 6th June 2016

Present:

Councillor Steve Gibson – Chairman
 Councillor Vicki McLean
 Councillor Cynthia Cheney (part meeting)
 Councillor Paul Flowers
 Councillor Soo Hall
 Councillor Harry White

Ward Councillor Keith McLean

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman – Councillor Gibson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman.

Update of Register of Members' Interests – The clerk reported that the internal auditor had recommended that the Register of Members' Interests were updated every year for internal purposes. Councillors duly completed the Register of Members' Interests. Councillor Horton to complete his register at the next meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Horton and Ward Councillors David Hosking and Peter Geary.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 9th May 2016 were agreed and initialled by the Chairman.

2.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

254 - Dates for Commitment – The dates for meetings were noted.

254 – Clerk's Report – The Clerk's report was previously circulated.

214 – EPFC – Meeting held 10/5/16. As the parish council representative for the playing field, Councillor Hall reported on the meeting attended as follows; the first thing discussed was the till procedure and the stock take. The stock take on the 19th May raised a few issues and the person involved had been made aware of this. It had been agreed to carry on with the stock take on a monthly basis. Councillor Hall commented that she personally felt that it would be very hard for the parish council to take over the running of the playing field committee and would like it minuted the hard work that goes on with some committee members. Councillor Hall reported that the committee had discussed getting new members to come on board. Councillor Flowers responded that the bigger issue was that the committee needed more volunteers.

MK Futures 2050 – Meeting held 16/5/16 – Councillor McLean commented that there would be a detailed report at the end of June or July as to where MK should be in 2050 and how Plan:MK will dovetail it.

Update from Ward Councillor

West Lane resurfacing – Ward Councillor McLean commented that the only issue was that highways had not notified Serco of the road closure and so there was an issue with bin collection. MKC highways made a site visit to Emberton and looked at the kerb stones (between 5 and 11) where Serco mount the kerb. MKC commented that it would be quite a costly scheme to narrow the verge.

Neighbourhood Planning – Ward Councillor McLean reported that the Sherington plan would be submitted for review quite soon.

Ward Councillor McLean reported that it had been a fairly quiet month due to elections and there would be no elections in 2017. The first Council meeting would be on the 8th June.

2.1 Councillor’s Concerns from previous Minutes

2.1.17 **Footpath, Petsoe End** – Nothing to report. The clerk to send a reminder to Andy Burton.

KG

2.1.63 **Village name signs** – The clerk emailed highways on 11th May to request an estimate through Ringways for the signs. Response received from MKC stating that the department were busy at the present time and an estimate should be sent within 3 weeks.

2.1.85 **Kerb stones, West Lane** – Site visit arranged for Monday 13th June at 3.30pm.

2.1.91 **Damaged fence around Field 13** – Nothing to report.

2.1.98 **Dog Waste bin, Newport Road** – The clerk met with A H Contracts on 2nd June and agreed the location for the bin.

2.2 **High Street, resurfacing** – The clerk reported that she had received an email from a resident regarding a change to yellow lines indicating the bus lane which limited parking. Having made enquiries with MKC it was noted that the road marking crew had reinstated both bus stop markings to conform with the current specification (Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 5, Road Markings). A site inspection showed that the marking outside no. 13 had been extended by 1 metre to the west (towards the junction with Gravel Walk). The marking at the other bus stop (even side) had been extended by 1 metre east (towards the A509). Parking within the bus stop was prohibited when signing was displayed. However, this did not apply here and was not enforceable. The clerk to notify the resident of the response.

KG

3.0 SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 **Emberton Park** - The clerk had previously emailed an email received from an Olney resident who had voiced concerns to MKC regarding the litter left following

the Sikh New Year celebrations in April. Councillor K McLean commented that the Sikh New Year was celebrated a day earlier than expected due to the weather and visitors were provided with black sacks for litter. The litter was cleared by a team from Serco the next day. Councillor K McLean suggested that the parish council could write expressing concern regarding the way this group treat the park and ask MKC to explain what actions they took and the charges for the tidy up. It was proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Hall that the clerk write to MKC as suggested by Councillor K McLean. Councillor White expressed a concern regarding the use of amplified music in the park over the weekend and stated that this was something that could be addressed by staff but hadn't been. It was agreed to address this with Andy Hudson, asking for better support from the staff on the use of the asset.

KG

3.6 Parish Related

3.6.1 **Website** – Councillor Gibson asked whether the photos on the website of the West Lane resurfacing could be changed from Jpeg to Pdf. Councillor McLean commented that there wasn't any reference to Petsoe End on the history of Emberton. The clerk to find this information from the History Society. Ward Councillor McLean suggested that the parish council advertise the website in the Olney Phonebox.

KG

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Reported on under item 6.1

3.6.16 **Clock tower (flags)** – St George's flag has been purchased. It was agreed that the union flag would be used to mark Armed Forces' Day.

3.6.50 **Dog fouling – We're Watching You Campaign** – Councillor McLean had made the parish council aware of a campaign by Keep Britain Tidy called "We're Watching You" to tackle the issue of dog fouling. The campaign, which involved the use of signs which glowed in the dark to give the offenders the premise that they were being watched, had seen a 90% reduction in dog fouling in some areas of the country. The clerk reported that there was a minimum order of 10 signs at a cost of £25 per sign plus vat. It was proposed by Councillor McLean and seconded by Councillor Gibson that 10 signs are purchased.

KG

3.6.97 **Clean for the Queen** – Footpath on West Lane has been jet washed and it was agreed this item could be removed from the Agenda.

3.6.98 **Drainage investigation at Hulton Drive and Petsoe End** – Email received from MKC stating that drainage would be looked at in Gravel Walk prior to resurfacing of High Street and whilst they were in the area, it was their intention to investigate the storm drain from Hulton Drive that goes across the field in Emberton Park which had caused problems in the past and to also investigate the stone drain culvert at Petsoe End (this was reported to MKC in March). MKC looked at this issue and there was water flowing through it but it was thought that when it flooded the culvert was probably overwhelmed by the amount of water. There was a hole in the verge over the culvert on the south side of the road (now covered with yellow cones) which would be repaired and the ditch dug out on the south side to see if the outfall end of the culvert could be found. If the culvert needs to be replaced, this will have to be planned and MKC will have to wait for additional funding.

Update from MKC (May 12th) – The drainage gang investigated the stone drain

culvert at Petsoe End this morning (stone drain culverts are made from local stone and are very old; flat stones are laid to form a base, sidewalls are built up and flat stones laid to form the top of the culvert) these cannot be jetted as we would a piped system because the jetting equipment would do more harm than good. The gang cleared the downstream end of the culvert and rodded half way across the road where there is a restriction, there are two damaged areas on the upstream side under the verge (including the hole that had the cones in it) they excavated the damaged sections and rodded downstream, the rods stopped at another restriction under the road edge, they didn't get to the half way point. The most practical option is to replace the culvert with pipes (a temporary road will have to be constructed on the verge to maintain access while the work is carried out). When I looked in April, water was flowing through the culvert despite the restrictions so it should cope with "normal" storm water, the storm on 8/9 March was exceptional. The gang will make good their trial holes today. I will raise a job to replace the culvert but this will be a low priority scheme.

The gang should apply topsoil and grass seed to finish the job at Hulton Drive this afternoon.

3.6.99 **Confidential item**

3.23 **Localism Bill and Community Right to Bid** – Councillor Flowers commented that following a recent EPFC Meeting, there was a definite need for a football pitch at the playing field as green space was very limited. Ward Councillor McLean suggested that the clerk spoke to Duncan Sharkey to work out a plan of action. Councillor Gibson suggested the EPFC spoke to Olney Town Football Club to ascertain if they would be prepared to maintain the football pitch. Ward Councillor McLean commented that the Parks Trust might prepare it and maintain it. **KG**

3.39 **Olney Neighbourhood Plan** – The clerk reported that the consultation had expired.

3.62 **Plan:MK** – Nothing to report.

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan**

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Nothing to report.

4.109 **Solar Farm and Community Benefit Fund** - The clerk reported that NextEnergy Solar Fund were the new owners of Emberton Solar Park.

4.166 **16/00584/FUL** – Variation of condition 1 attached to application 1500366/FUL for amendments to the approved plans at Emberton Solar Park, Newton Road – **permitted**

4.167 **15/02832/FUL & 15/02833/LBC** – Listed Building Consent and Partial removal of wall and new gates to create new vehicular access to front garden at 2 Gravel Walk for Mr & Mrs Pauley - **refused**

4.168 **16/00766/FUL** – Single storey rear extension at 8 Gravel Walk for Mrs H Knight – **permitted**

- 4.169 **16/01122/MMAM** – Minor material amendment to application 15/01862/FUL for addition of dual pitch porch, continuation of front canopy onto extension and increased projection and fine texture render applied to brickwork at ground floor level at 79 Olney Road for Mrs S Chaplin - **pending**
5. **ACCOUNTS** – to agree payments and items, as listed below
- 5.1 **RFO’s Report** - The RFO’s report for the 6th June was accepted.
- 5.2 **Cooperative Bank, second current account**– The clerk reported that the second current account with the Cooperative Bank was in hand.
- 5.3 **Approval of Accounts** – It was proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor V McLean that the accounts be approved.
- 5.4 **Approval of Annual Return and confirmation of Internal Auditor’s Report** – It was proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor V McLean that the Annual Return and the recommendation made by the internal auditor be approved. The Annual Return was duly signed by the Chairman.
- 5.5 **Approval of Mazars as external auditors and adoption of suggested dates** – It was proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Hall that Mazars be approved as external auditors and that the suggested dates are adopted.
- 5.6 **Approval of Standing Orders** – It was proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor V McLean that the Standing Orders be approved.
- 5.7 **Approval of Financial Regulations** – It was proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor V McLean that the Financial Regulations be approved.
- 5.8 **Approval of Fixed Asset Register** – It was proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Hall that the Fixed Asset Register be approved.
- 5.9 **Approval of Risk Assessment for 2015/16** – It was proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Hall the Risk Assessment for 2015/16 be approved.

Councillor Cheney left the meeting at 9pm.

5.10 **Schedule of Payments – to approve the Schedule of Payments.**

A H Contracts	51.65
Mr T P Wibaut	80.00
All Saints’ Church Emberton	10.00
Pro-Max	284.00
BALC	102.68
Mrs K Goss	497.97
Mrs K Goss	85.64

Payments proposed by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor V McLean and unanimously agreed by all those present.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – is now listed in the Wallet

- 6.1 **Email received from Louisa Pauley** – An email had been received from Mrs Pauley regarding concerns of speeding on the A509 and also through the village. Mrs Pauley also made comments regarding the SIDs. It was agreed that the clerk would obtain some traffic data for the A509 from PS Paulden and to make Mrs Pauley aware of how the SIDs worked.

KG

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Logo for website, Armed Forces Day.

7.2 **Councillors' Concerns**

Councillor Hall reported that the grass needed cutting and that there were a lot of weeds in the kerbstones in West Lane. The clerk to report these.

KG

Councillor V McLean asked if the clerk could remind EUC to leave the wifi code in the meeting room.

KG

Councillor White reported that the grass needed cutting and asked the criteria for cutting it. The clerk to report and ascertain the grass cutting schedule.

KG

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is confirmed as Monday 18th July 2016 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of the Institute.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm