

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Virtual Meeting
Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7pm

Present:

Councillor Steve Gibson – Vice Chairman
 Councillor Melanie Duncan
 Councillor Paul Flowers
 Councillor Richard Logsdail
 Councillor Fred Markland
 Councillor Harry White

Ward Councillor David Hosking

Mr Colin Jamieson - observer
 Councillor Sarah Crabb – observer from Sherington Parish Council

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Victoria McLean 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 9th June 2020. These were confirmed and will be signed by the Vice Chairman.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – Cllr Crabb commented that Sherington PC had met virtually and she would like to compare the meeting to that of Emberton's.
- 1.3 **Risk – Covid 19 update** – The clerk reported that the play area in the playing field had been given a general clean and a notice put up in line with government recommendations that play areas be opened from the 4th July. Cllr Duncan commented that Emberton Cares had been stood down.
- 1.4 **Clerk's sabbatical** – The clerk to speak to the Chair and Vice Chair regarding a contact number for residents.
2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTIONS** – Nothing to report.
2. **Clerk's Report**

Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr Hosking reported that the Ward Councillors were aware of the issues around trying to book a slot at the Waste and Recycling Centre at Newport Pagnell.

Emberton Park – Cllr Hosking commented that the Ward Councillors had been made aware of the comments on Emberton Echo regarding parking around the village by visitors attending Emberton Park and not wanting to pay the entrance fee or a cap being made on the number of cars permitted to enter the park.

- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – A discussion took place regarding visitors to Emberton Park parking in the village in Hulton Drive and the service road of Olney Road and further along Olney Road. It was noted that yellow line restrictions were in place in Olney Road and that these had been enforced. Cllr Gibson commented that parking in these areas had been a problem for a number of years as people were not willing to pay the entrance fee to take their vehicle into Emberton Park. The clerk had previously been in contact with the clerk to Walton Parish Council who had managed to successfully implement a residents' parking scheme in the Caldecote area which had been enforced by parking wardens. It was noted that Emberton Park were restricting the number of vehicles allowed into the park at the present time which was adding to the parking issue. Cllr White confirmed that this had been discussed at the recent PLUG meeting and the capacity of the park was limited to around 300 vehicles. The parish council had for a number of years requested from MKC implementing a short-term parking scheme for the park. Cllr Hosking commented that Olney were experiencing similar problems and had a meeting with Sara Bailey from MKC. **Action:** The clerk to speak to Sara Bailey at MKC. Letter to households of Olney Road, service road and houses up to the park and Hulton Drive to ascertain implementing a residents' parking scheme. **Action: KG**
- 2.1.95 **Milestone (A509 north)** – Awaiting painting of lettering; contractor working on a template to repaint text properly.
- 2.1.105 **Newport Road (speed limit)** – The clerk emailed on 22nd June. Response received on 25th June stating that this was on hold due to Covid 19.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – nothing to report.
- 3.6.28 **Parking restrictions (Olney Road)** – Email sent to Paul Harrison on 22nd June, no response received.
- 3.6.50 **Dog waste bins** – Glasdon Fido25 green dog waste bin ordered on 23rd June through Marcus Young Landscapes who will supply and fit at a cost of £190 + vat.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Cllr Markland reported that he had made a start at looking at funding and the Historic Places Trust did not have any funds available. Cllr Duncan responded that Petsoe End had very little parish council funding spent on it and this would be a good project for the pc to support. The clerk commented that there were grants available to the parish council such as the Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund and MK Community Foundation. Cllr Markland stated that he needed to speak to the conservation officer. The clerk to provide details. **Action: KG**
- 3.6.88 **Leylandii trees (13/15 Gravel Walk)** – Site visit to be arranged.
- 3.6.106 **Farm traffic sign for junction of Petsoe End** – The clerk emailed MKC on the 22nd June. Response received on the 25th June stating this was on hold due to Covid 19. An email was received from a resident regarding this issue and raising another issue as below. Ward

Councillor Keith McLean forwarded this to Ryan Fordham and asked for his thoughts for the parish council meeting. “Last year we requested farm traffic signs be located either side of Three ways in an attempt to warn approaching vehicles that there was farm traffic using this stretch of road, to date these signs haven’t been provided and harvest is rapidly approaching.”

“Also, and something we haven’t raised, when Newton Road was resurfaced 2 years ago, the SLOW road surface painting which was both sides of Three ways approach (before the surface treatment) was not repainted (and neither were the centre of the road lines). Again, last week when returning equipment to the farm in preparation for harvest, one of our drivers had another near miss with a car approaching Threeways from Clifton Reynes who was in the centre of the road. No harm done other than a rather worrying moment for the small car driver who was faced with a massive tractor and trailer.”

“Could we throw a suggestion into the mix please. Three ways junction has a mound of grass in the shape of a triangle which is curbed on all sides. Could a mini roundabout be considered here to slow traffic down in place of the grass mound or even removal of the grass and curbs and replacing it with a raised mound/island without hard curbs. This would make the junction easier to use for farm traffic, refuse lorries etc as the vehicles would be able to ‘ride over the mound’ when it was safe to proceed rather than have to negotiate around it. Since the junction was installed, farm traffic is considerably longer and other traffic using the road is travelling much faster making the junction precarious (in our view) at the best of times.” Update for next meeting from MKC.

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

3.6.109 **Newton Road** – Nothing to report.

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

3.6.111 **Bench (The Forge)** – Agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3.1 **Emberton Park** – Cllr Flowers reported on the PLUG meeting that took place on the 8th July stating that there was real progress made mainly due to some new people on the team. Emily Darlington was introduced and spoke about bio diversity. Cllr Flowers reported that issues in the park had been far less this year, the reason for this was that there was a ban on bbqs in place. The end result would be to make the park less attractive for people far and wide. Cllr Markland asked if the park had a management plan. Cllr Flowers confirmed that they did and it would be updated. Cllr Hosking reported that Emily Darlington was an elected member and was not involved in the operation of the park. Cllr Flowers commented that Nick Hannon had previously put together the vision for the park. Cllr Logsdail stated that his concern was how a bio diversity park was going to be funded; if the funding was coming from car parking, this would not happen. The clerk commented that the minutes produced had made reference to a development meeting taking place the following evening. Cllr White responded that this was not mentioned at the meeting. Cllr Gibson stated that some of the problems in the park had dated back 20 years, in particular short-term parking and restricting movement of vehicles.

Ward Cllr Hosking left the meeting at 8pm

3.23 **Bell & Bear Public House** – Cllr Logsdail reported that the Wellington Pub Company had some bad press recently as they had been demanding full rent from tenants during lockdown. The committee have felt it appropriate to contact the WPC in the next week or two to reopen

negotiations to see if they still wished to sell or not. The committee also needed to check with people that they were still able to commit to pledges. Cllr Gibson asked if the committee were in a better position having made an offer within the timescale. Cllr Logsdail responded that MKC had been made aware that the community group had raised the funds to buy the pub and put in a reasonable business offer that satisfied the Localism Act and if WPC applied for change of use, it would not be allowed.

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr M Duncan reported that the committee were reviewing the sites; Peter Beer (property department of MKC) was going to attend the next meeting to discuss potential sites of the school field and field 13.

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

3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr Logsdail reported that football and cricket were talking about coming out of lockdown and that a concern was keeping the place clean. The post for the gate to the car park had split and this was being taken up with the supplier. The committee had discussed tennis and the booking system and it was agreed that bookings would be via email only and restricted to residents and local residents. ESSC had taken on board the Covid 19 procedures for opening the pavilion bar and this was working well.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.96 **MK Futures 2050** – The clerk reported that MKC had followed up on the MK Futures 2050 consultation by issuing a set of 4 questions requiring response. The deadline for response was the 17th July. **Action:** The clerk to email this to Councillors for response. **Action: ALL**

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The clerk reported that an email had been received from a resident asking whether they should approach the parish council with their planning idea before submitting a planning application to MKC. Cllr Duncan asked whether the parish council had a pre planning consultation for applicants. It was noted that there was a fee charged for this by MKC. **Action:** The clerk to refer the resident to the advice given at the meeting in February 2019 which was to seek pre application advice from MKC. **Action: KG**

4.1 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White reported he had spoken to Mike Hughes and there was £19,830 in the account. No meetings were planned and there were no outstanding planning applications.

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

previous applications status

4.268 **20/00991/FUL** – Single storey rear extension to dwelling and former garage (hobby room). Installation of window to front elevation of former garage (hobby room) and driveway works. Re-submission of 19/03231/FUL at 24 Gravel Walk - **permitted**

4.269 **20/01061/TCA** – Notification of intention to fell to ground 3 Lawson Cypress (G1) closely set together. Too close to property, causing excessive shading to owner's garden and neighbours. These trees have grown too large for their current environment at 28 Olney Road – **no objection**

- 4.271 **20/001127/FUL** – Replacement extension to the southeast at 3 Battle Close - **pending**
- 4.272 **20/01198/FUL** – Single storey front extension at 3 Battle Close – **pending**

New applications

- 4.273 **20/01516/TCA** – Notification of intention to: Sycamore (Blue) – prune back by 2m from side of garden. 2 x Yew trees (yellow) – prune back by 2m from side of garden at Holcombe House, Olney Road. It was noted that the application did not state a reason for the work to be undertaken. It was agreed that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations made by MKC’s tree officer with regard to this application.
- 4.274 **20/01543/DISCON** – Details submitted pursuant to the discharge of conditions 7 (electric vehicle charging point scheme), 8 (window design) and 9 (door design) attached to planning application 19/01342/FUL at Mounts House, West Lane. **Action:** The clerk to circulate this planning application for comment. **Action: KG**
- 4.275 **20/01585/FUL** – Garage conversion and replacement of flat roof with slated pitch roof at 7 Church Lane. **Action:** The clerk to circulate this planning application for comment. **Action: KG**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 14th July and approve payments.** 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**
- 5.2 **Review of Asset Register** – It was noted at the previous meeting that the value of the clock tower and stone bus shelter be looked into for updating the Asset Register. Cllr Markland reported that during sorting through files, he had found a reference to a survey of the clock tower being undertaken in the 1990s and this would have been in the form of maps and would have been useful in providing a rebuild cost. Cllr Markland commented that it was worth asking the insurance company if they offered a service to value assets. It was noted that the clock tower was a listed building. **Action:** The clerk to make enquiries with Zurich. **Action: KG**
- 5.3 **Co-operative Bank – change of signatories form** – The clerk reported that this had been completed and sent off.

6. CORRESPONDENCE - nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Wind farm fund, tennis court, dog waste bin, parking in Hulton Drive and Olney Road. **Action: KG**
- 7.2 **Councillors’ concerns**
Cllr Gibson expressed concerns regarding the over flow parking in the village from the park.

Cllr Flowers asked whether there were any concerns to take to the PLUG meeting in August. Cllr Markland responded that there were some very tall poplars in the park right next to the pumped sewer main and MKC should be looking at these trees.

Cllr White stated that he was concerned as to why the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee was going out to ask for sites again when Acorn Nurseries had come forward. Cllr White asked what was stopping Acorn Nurseries putting in a planning application any way. Cllr Duncan responded that the site was now considered open countryside. Cllr Logsdail commented that he was led to believe it was brownfield. Cllr Markland commented that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee were working alongside MKC planning policies already in place; part of the advice was guidance on the number of houses the village was required to take. The figure in Plan:MK was low.

Cllr Duncan stated that she had concerns in the traffic at Petsoe End and this had previously been highlighted.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – confirmed as Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 7pm to be held virtually

The meeting closed at 9pm

DRAFT