

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 5th August 2024 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair
 Cllr Harry White
 Cllr Paul Flowers
 Cllr Colin Jamieson
 Cllr Angela Laval
 Cllr Guy Palmer

Ward Cllr Keith McLean (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Welcome – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Walker and Ward Councillors Peter Geary and Debbie Whitworth.

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr Duncan declared an interest in item 2.1.17. In the interests of transparency, Cllr Duncan also declared a connection although not a financial interest in land at Hardmead submitted for consideration in the New City Plan.

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 1st July 2024. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st July 2024 were agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – There were no members of the public present.
- 1.3 **Risk** – The clerk reported that she had received a risk assessment and method statement from Smith of Derby with regard to the clocktower and would use these as a template for ones for the parish council. Cllr Laval advised that all risk assessments when handed over to the relevant person, should be signed to say they understood it and would comply with it. Cllr Palmer reported that he had raised the issue of a risk assessment for the fete at the SRC meeting and the Chair was going to take this back to the organisers. The clerk to follow this up. **Action: KG.** Cllr Laval stated that she would send a risk assessment to the organisers as she also needed to do one for the dog show. **Action: AL.**
2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION**
- 2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – Ward Cllr McLean reported that Simon Harris, Michael Bath, Andy Letts, and Dennis went to the Unsung Heroes awards hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire for their voluntary work on the playing field.

New City Plan – A parish and town council information session on the New City Plan was held last month and details were given on how to submit comments.

Allotments – A response from the caseworker had been received stating that the allotment bank was classed as meadow and only received 2 cuts per year. It was noted that the parish council had not been consulted regarding a change to the contract. The clerk to send a request for the area to be re-designated. **Action: KG.**

Cllr Flowers stated that it was good news that there was not any development for Emberton or Olney promoted by MKCC at this stage in the New City Plan. The clerk shared the interactive map showing the sites put forward for Emberton (Wood Farm, Prospect Place, 2 plots of land at Home Farm Court, one either side of the Church, Harvey Drive and Acorn Plant Nursery).

MK Connect – Cllr McLean reported he was waiting for a meeting with officers together with Arriva but Red Rose had not been invited. Cllr McLean had picked up some comments on Facebook regarding the service. Cllr Duncan responded that people had given up on it and were therefore not using it. It was noted that the MK Connect trial would run until 31st March 2025. A discussion took place regarding how residents could feedback their comments on MK Connect and the 21-bus service and it was agreed to have a stall at the fete. Cllr Laval to arrange. **Action: AL.**

- 2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police** – No update provided.
- 2.3 **ESSC (15/7/24)** – Cllr Flowers reported that ongoing projects were maintenance to the bi fold doors and updating the changing rooms
- 2.4 **North East Rural Community Forum (16/7/24)** – Cllr Flowers reported that some of the villages were finding it difficult to get volunteers for Speedwatch. It was noted that only one officer headed up Speedwatch for 3 counties.
- 2.5 **SRC (2/8/24)** – Cllr Palmer reported that Simon Harris was going to ask the fete organisers for sight of a risk assessment. Football had started back with three junior teams playing on Saturday and two adult teams playing on Sundays. No progress had been made on the pitch improvement grant with it being noted that other parish councils were in the same position. There was a discussion regarding the tennis court and parking in the village. There did not seem to be a solution for the parking but the idea of moving the booking on line would be explored. Cllr Laval stated that she would send the details of the LTA to the clerk. **Action: AL.** A discussion also took place regarding replacing the gang mower and securing grants with the clerk looking into this.

Councillors discussed concerns raised by residents on the Emberton Echo WhatsApp regarding parking in the village. There were security difficulties with allowing people coming into the village to play tennis to use the Pavilion car park. Residents' parking schemes needed to be resident-led, like the Hulton Drive parking scheme, and made the parking situation worse for residents outside the parking scheme areas. The parish council would continue to lobby for better parking charge arrangements in Emberton Park.

- 2.6 **Dates for Diaries** – These were noted.
- 2.7 **Clerk's Report**
- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – nothing to report.
- 2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – Nothing to report.

- 2.1.83 **Manhole cover outside Stonepits House** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.86 **Home Farm Court (lighting)** – Awaiting response from Joanne Payne. The clerk to chase. **Action: KG.**
- 2.1.117 **Litter on A509** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.117 **Surface water drain outside Acorn Early Years** – Cllr Jamieson reported that he had spoken to the contractor working on the drain who stated that the cause of the issue was tree roots. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 2.118 **Community orchard** – The clerk had previously advised that as per the parish council’s Allotment Terms and Conditions “Shall not plant fruit trees, bushes, or canes, likely to be detrimental to the allotment garden. Planting within five feet of the boundaries of the allotment garden in the case of soft fruit and within ten feet of such boundaries in the case of cane fruits. Permission for more than two fruit trees must be applied for in writing and all fruit trees should be of dwarf rootstocks (M.27, M.9, M.26 or M106) and preferably trained as espaliers or cordons. Plan thoughtfully before planting a tree.” A discussion took place regarding a community orchard on one of the allotment plots when one became vacant and who would be responsible for maintaining it. It was agreed that ultimately the responsibility and cost would fall on the parish council. It was therefore agreed not to pursue the matter.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – nothing to report.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – Cllr Duncan reported that the action was to go through the letter and send back comments to the solicitor. **Action: MD**
- Grass cutting** – reported on under item 2.1.
- 3.6.48 **Alison Fraser Walk** – Whilst it was agreed that the chain link fencing at the playing field end of Alison Fraser Walk needed repair, it was noted that it was not a priority. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.6.50 **Dog fouling** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.107 **Tree planting** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.115 **Parish council.gov domain name** – The clerk reported that it had been recommended by NALC in their JPAG that parish councils used a .gov domain name and email addresses. The clerk to attend a free virtual information session. **Action: KG**
- 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**
- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – A meeting had not taken place but no complaints following the Cow Man event at the weekend had been received.

- 3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Nothing to report but noted that consideration must be given to the policies in the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan when the parish council looked at planning applications.
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Nothing to report.
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Reported on under item 2.3.
- 3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – Agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service) and double yellow lines** – Nothing to report. The clerk to follow up with Paul Harrison. **Action: KG**
- 3.113 **Climate Change** – Cllr Flowers asked for an update on the current situation with solar panels in the conservation area. Ward Cllr McLean stated that he would forward the document to the clerk for circulation. **Action: KMc**
- 3.116 **Access to playing field from residential properties and general access** – Cllr Duncan reported that she had undertaken the searches for the correct names of owners. The clerk to send the letter previously agreed. **Action: KG**
- 3.118 **New City Plan** – A discussion took place regarding the rejected sites for Emberton (map attached). The meeting also looked at the areas of search close for new wind turbines and solar farms. Cllr Duncan stated that a formal response was now required with the focus being on supporting the decision not to include the rejected sites for Emberton but the detail of the New City Plan needed to be looked at. Cllr Duncan to start a response for councillors to comment on. **Action: ALL**. The clerk to circulate Regulation 18 of the New City Plan and the interactive map contained within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment report. **Action: KG**. Cllr Duncan commented that some of the points Emberton make would be similar to other villages in the rural area. Ward Cllr McLean responded that similar issues might not relate to housing, rather to the mass rapid transport system and a new policy on wind turbines and that someone needed to go through the document and pick out the relevant \points. **Action: ALL**
- 3.121 **Consideration of proposals to extend the restrictions on street trading by mobile vendors throughout Milton Keynes** – Post meeting note – next Regulatory Committee meeting will be held on the 25th September.
- 3.122 **Local Government Boundary Commission for England electoral review of Milton Keynes City Council** – Nothing to report.
- 3.123 **Alcohol Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)** – Nothing to report.
- 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**
- 4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Ward Cllr McLean reported that Olney Town Council had decided that they would nominate an existing councillor on to the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee as Mike Hughes was no longer a councillor. Cllr

McLean recommended that the parish council wrote to the owners of the wind farm to find out how the fund should be administered.

previous applications status

- 4.378 **24/01106/HOU** – The erection of a proposed single storey porch extension to front elevation. Single storey infill extension. Loft conversion with rear dormers and front roof lights and internal alterations at Hartoft, West Lane - **refused**
- 4.379 **24/01121/HOU** - The erection of a two-storey side extension with front and rear pitched dormers and rear roof light. Single storey rear extension with roof light and associated alterations. New front pitch dormer to main roof at Echo Barn Cottage, Petsoe – **permitted**
- 4.380 **24/01319/HOU** – Demolition of existing conservatory roof to replace with new slate roof and conservation rooflights. Replacement of rear windows and doors at 13 High Street - **permitted**
- 4.381 **24/01411/TCA** - The felling of a Cherry Tree at 1 West Farm Way – **no objection**

New applications

- 4.382 **24/01645/TCA** – The removal of Blue Spruce (6m tall) to ground level at 3 Home Farm Court – The clerk to respond that the parish council would agree with the recommendations of MKCC’s tree officer regarding this application. **Action: KG**
- 4.383 **24/01646/TCA** – The reduction by 1m (from 6m to 5m tall) of Japanese Maple (1), by 1m (from 4m to 3m tall) of Irish Yew (2), by 3m (from 10m to 7m tall) of Variegated Maple (3), and by 2m (from 5m to 3m tall) of Hawthorn (4) at 4 Home Farm Court – The clerk to respond that the parish council would agree with the recommendations of MKCC’s tree officer regarding this application. **Action: KG**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 5th August 2024** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Palmer that the payments be approved. Cllr White to approve the payments. **Action: HW.**
- 5.3 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – The clerk reported that the parish council were awaiting payment of the grant from MKCC.
- 5.3 **Co-operative Bank – application for Sports & Recreation Committee** – The clerk reported that the parish council did not qualify for a third Community Directplus Account. It was proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr White that the name on the Community Directplus account Emberton Parish Council – Solar Farm Fund be changed to Emberton Parish Council – Sports and Recreation Committee. The Co-operative Bank Change of business or organisation name mandate was duly completed. The clerk to return this. **Action: KG.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – No Well & Towers but the clerk to advertise the drop-in session at Olney for the New City Plan on Emberton Echo. **Action: KG**
- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr Flowers stated that he was concerned regarding the gate to the playing field being left open as someone had inadvertently disabled the padlock. The clerk stated that she had both called and emailed MKCC.
- 8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 2nd September 2024 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.