

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 4th September 2023 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair
 Cllr Colin Jamieson
 Cllr Guy Palmer
 Cllr Harry White

Mr Jason Bevan – Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
 Mr Fred Markland – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Ward Councillor Peter Geary (part meeting)

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Welcome by the Chair – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Flowers, Cllr Laval, Cllr Walker and Ward Cllrs Keith McLean and Debbie Whitworth.

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr Duncan declared an interest in item 2.1.17. Mr Markland declared an interest in item 3.74.

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 7th August 2023 – The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th August 2023 were agreed and duly signed by Cllr White who had chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – There were no members of the public present.
- 1.3 **Risk** – It was noted that the clerk had been notified of an incident relating to the climbing frame in the playing field but later ascertained that it had occurred in Emberton Country Park and had been duly reported.
2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION**
- 2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – report from Ward Cllr Gery as follows:

Triangle at Petsoe End – Had been made aware of the near miss at Petsoe End between a tractor & trailer and a vehicle. Ward Cllr McLean had contacted MKCC highways who stated that they had undertaken a traffic count last year and would look at signage. One of the ideas was that the grass triangle could be removed and tarmacked over, making it more visible and easier for farm vehicles to manoeuvre. Changes to traffic layout were designed by professionals and not the highways department and the removal of the triangle would require a significant amount of work. Cllr Duncan commented that tarmacking might increase speeds

at the junction and that families waiting for the school bus used the raised triangle as shelter from the traffic. Cllr Palmer referred to the use of Vehicle Activated Signage in this location. The clerk to look at this. **Action: KG.**

A509 – The works had been finished for the overnight road closures; all the drains were cleared and were now working. Work had also been undertaken under the bridge where a number of vehicles had skidded on ice last winter. The clerk commented that some of the speed limit signs were falling over. Ward Cllr Geary responded that some changes on the A509 were being investigated.

A509/London Road – The A509 from Newport Pagnell to J14 of the M1 would be closed for one year on the 25th September to enable the necessary works to MK East to get infrastructure in place which would mean significant disturbance for traffic particularly at rush hours. The Ward Cllrs had asked for regular updates and it was the intention to organise a round table meeting with all the parish and town councils affected to have a question and answers session as to what was happening. A key question would be when would the bridge be built for Willen.

Bus 21 – It had been reported that the no 21 bus had failed to come through Emberton another couple of times and an email had been sent today regarding the bus missing Emberton. The clerk mentioned that in the first week of the service being reintroduced a service had been missed every day. The buses had GPS on board so it should be possible to know exactly what route they took. In another month or so, the Ward Cllrs will ask for the information from Red Rose to see how the service was being used. MKCC was subsidising the no 21 route to Lavendon by £170,000 this year but the funding was there only for one year. It was necessary to understand if the route would be viable in six to twelve months' time. On the good news front, there had been no reports of the bus failing to get through Emberton due to bad parking.

Mary's Well at Petsoe End – The well was owned by MKCC and it was their asset but had not been historically maintained by them and was not insured. Cllr Duncan asked if this could be reviewed as the well was listed on the Historic Environment Record. Mr Markland suggested asking MKCC how they looked after their historical assets. Ward Cllr Geary responded that they did not look after them well; they probably needed to do a better job but did not have any money to do this. Ward Cllr Geary suggested speaking to Shane Downer the heritage officer at MKCC.

Acorn MK Nurseries – The parish council could register their objection to the planning application that had been referred to the inspector for non-determination under the appeals process. The applicant was asking for a decision on written representations rather than by a hearing – this would be for the inspector to decide.

Cobb's Garden Surgery – There was an update on Meta/Facebook last week regarding plans for the new surgery, with funding awaited from government. It was not easy to get the new surgery in place. The announcement had indicated that the surgery should be reopened to Olney at the end of December (by law the closure could only be for 12 months). It was unclear whether the list would be reopened to Emberton or the other village around Olney and EPC needed clarification on this.

Ousedale School – The Ward Cllrs would raise pupil numbers with Ousedale School in November. Harben House in Newport Pagnell would no longer be used to shelter children which should help ease the situation.

Neighbourhood plan – The clerk put the Examiner’s report on the screen for the meeting, which had previously been circulated to the EPC Councillors and the neighbourhood plan steering group. Cllr Duncan said the Examiner was satisfied the neighbourhood plan could go ahead to referendum if required modifications were made. Cllr Duncan asked Jason Bevan if the steering group had any objections to the changes to the neighbourhood plan proposed by the Examiner. Jason Bevan and the members of the steering group at the meeting confirmed they had no objections to these. The Emberton Parish Councillors at the meeting confirmed they had no objections to the modifications either. Cllr Duncan stated that the next step then would be to instruct the planning consultant to make the recommended changes as appropriate and to send MKCC an amended copy for approval who would then set a date for the referendum. The planning consultant would circulate the amended neighbourhood plan to the parish council and steering group. A discussion took place regarding the Examiner’s report and the proposed amendments. It was proposed by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Jamieson, and unanimously agreed that the parish council accepted the Examiner’s proposed modifications to the neighbourhood plan, and that the planning consultant should be instructed to make the proposed amendments as appropriate and to submit the amended neighbourhood plan to MKCC. The clerk to advise the planning consultant. **Action: KG.**

2.2 **North East Rural Community Forum (meeting held 16/8/23)** – The clerk reported that most of the forum was spent discussing the use of Speedwatch in the parishes.

2.3 **Thames Valley Police** – Nothing to report.

2.3 **Dates for Diaries** – It was noted that one of the agenda items for the Parishes Forum was Speedwatch and the attendees at the meeting would be Lee Turnham from TVP who was the Speedwatch co-ordinator for the parishes and Keith Wheeler, MKCC’s road safety officer. The clerk to send the meeting link to Cllr Jamieson. **Action: KG.**

2.4 **Clerk’s Report**

2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Update from MKCC on August 9th:- Significant progress has been made in recent months as regards the investigation associated with the case. Examples of what MKCC’s consultant has been working on include:-
-Speaking to some of those users that have previously provided evidence in using the route to gain some further details from them, -Detailed analysis of documentary evidence, -Researching relevant case law to assist the case, -Seeking expert legal advice from a specialist barrister.

2.1.24 **Weed spraying** – Awaiting information from MKCC regarding weed spraying schedule.

2.1.50 **Pothole, Olney Road** – Pothole in Gravel Walk reported to MKCC.

2.1.55 **Fly tipping between Newport Road and Prospect Place** – Nothing to report.

2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive** – The clerk requested that the single yellow lines in Olney Road be refreshed as vehicles had been parking on these. Response received from MKCC that the yellow lines were not at intervention level.

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – nothing to report. It was agreed, now that the school holidays had ended, to look at Speedwatch. **Action: CJ.** It was noted that there was £250 in

the budget to purchase the Speedwatch equipment once the equipment “on loan” was returned to TVP.

3.6.30 **Allotments** – awaiting transfer.

3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End – frequent collision issues** – reported on previously.

3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – It was agreed to write to Shane Downer at MKCC providing historical information and photos of the well and to look at funding for memorials. **Action: KG.**

3.6.115 **Questionnaire** – Various suggestions were included to discuss in the questionnaire. The clerk to circulate for comment. **Action: KG.**

3.6.117 **Signage for Petsoe Manor Farm & Grange Farm** – Request made to MKCC to cut back hedge.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 **Emberton Park** – Cllr White reported that he was unable to attend the meeting held on the 17th August. The PLUG minutes had been circulated; it was noted that Grounds Café were leaving Emberton Park on the 10th, replaced by Meadow Brown. A discussion had also taken place regarding solar panels on the roof of the café.

3.74 **Emberton Neighbourhood Plan** – Reported on previously.

3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Nothing to report.

3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Meeting to be held on the 30th October.

3.99 **Conservation area – review of 1997 Conservation Area Statement by MKC** – Nothing new to report. The clerk to request an update. **Action: KG.**

3.102 **Public footpaths in Emberton/cycle links from Emberton to Olney and Sherington** – Nothing to report.

3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service)** – Reported on previously.

3.113 **Climate Change** – Cllr Flowers had reported previously that he would be talking to the Environmental Agency in September. **Action: PF.**

3.115 **Grit bins** – Nothing to report.

3.116 **Access to playing field from residential properties and general access** – Cllr Duncan to draft a letter to the resident that had responded to the correspondence from the SRC. **Action: MD.**

3.117 **New wheelie bin service and parish council owned litter bins** – The clerk reported that Marcus Young Landscapes had provided a quote of £4 per bin per empty for the litter bins in the High Street and Olney Road. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Palmer that the quote be accepted and that Marcus Young should be advised that the bins required emptying on a fortnightly basis (3 litter bins). It was also agreed that watering the hanging

baskets and flower troughs would continue based on £40 per month between the months of mid-May to Mid-September. It was noted that the stone bus shelter would be swept as and when required on a volunteer basis. **Action: KG.**

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.1 Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund – Nothing to report.

previous applications status

- 4.352 **23/00342/OUT** – Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for the redevelopment of the Acorn (MK) Nurseries site for up to 29 no. dwellings including affordable housing, alongside access and other off-site highways improvements, following the demolition and removal of all existing structures and hardstanding from the site at Acorn MK Nurseries, Newton Road – **appeal for non-determination**. A discussion took place and it was agreed to write to reiterate objections previously made and once a date had been set for the Neighbourhood Plan referendum to also include this information.
- 4.359 **23/01430/TCA** – The crown reduction of Apple Tree from 7-8m in height to 6m and reduction of spread from approx. 8-9m to 6m at 4 Manor Court, Olney Road – **no objections**
- 4.360 **23/01621/HOU** – Replacement of windows from single glazed to tripe glazed UPVC and replacement of the existing utility door at Stone Court Cottage, West Lane - **pending**
- 4.361 **23/00275/ENF** – Hollington Wood, Newport Road – Description of alleged breach Continued use of the ancient woodland for airsoft activities following refusal of planning permission.
- 4.362 **23/01502/FUL** – Erection of one dwelling with attached single garage at 34 Gravel Walk - **pending**
- 4.363 **23/01671/TCA** – The removal of diseased and dead wood from laburnum tree (T1), and the crown reduction by 1.5m in height and all around and crown lift by 1.0m of Prunus avium tree (T2) at West Farm Way – **pending**
- 4.364 **23/01751/TCA** – The crown reduction by 1-1.5m of Himalayan Silver Birch (T1) and the selective crown reduction by up to 2m to reprofile crown of Silver Birch (T2) at The Old Rectory, Olney Road – **pending**

New applications

- 4.365 **23/01770/TCA** – The reduction in height by approximately 2 metres and removal of excessive unvariegated branches of Maple Tree (T1) at Old Rectory Coach House. It was noted that the parish council would agree with the recommendations made by MKCC's tree officer with regard to this application.
- 4.366 **23/01771/TPO** - The removal of one low lateral branch (approx 7 metres in length and approx 1.5 metres above ground level) back to the main trunk of Atlas Cedar (T1) protected by Milton Keynes Council tree preservation order no. PS/540/15/331. It was questioned whether a branch as large as 7m being removed, would make the tree unstable and affect the street scene. The clerk to raise this with the planning officer. **Action: KG.**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 4th September 2023** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Jamieson that the payments be approved as per the RFO's Report. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.**
- 5.2 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – The clerk reported that an application had been made in time for the closing date of the 31st August.
- 5.3 **Co-operative bank – change of signatories** – The councillors present duly signed the change of signatory form. To be carried forward to next meeting. **Action: KG.**
- 5.4 **Ward Based Budget** – The clerk reported that Ward Cllr Whitworth had referred to the Ward based budget and asked if EPC wished to make an application. It was agreed to put forward an application for a grit bin. **Action: KG.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing to report.**7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS**

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Questionnaire, New City Plan (the next revision to Plan:MK), Neighbourhood Plan, litter bins.
- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr White suggested inviting Ward Cllr Whitworth to a meeting. It was suggested that the parish council meeting could be brought forward to 6.45pm to allow Cllr Whitworth to attend. **Action: KG.**
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 2nd October 2023 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm