

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 2nd September 2024 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan – Chair
 Cllr Harry White
 Cllr Paul Flowers
 Cllr Colin Jamieson
 Cllr Angela Laval
 Cllr Joe Walker

Ward Cllr Keith McLean (part meeting)

1 resident

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Welcome – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Palmer 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. Cllr Walker declared an interest in item 4.384.

1. To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 5th August 2024. Ward Cllr McLean stated that the MK Connect trial would run until the end of September 2024 which was when a new tender could be issued for a new service starting in in April 2025, rather than 31st March 2025 as reported in the previous Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th August 2024 were then agreed and duly signed by the Chair.

1.2 **Public questions** – There was one member of the public present attending the meeting as an observer.

1.3 **Risk** – It was noted that no risks had been identified following the fete except for the fact that some of those attending chose to park in Hulton Drive rather than the playing field.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION

2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – Ward Cllr McLean reported that there was not much to report as there were no MKCC meetings in July and August. No further response had been received from the officer regarding the grass bank at the allotments. Ward Cllr McLean was due to meet with the Director of Environment and Waste regarding litter picking on the rural roads as the litter had not been picked before the verges were cut. Ward Cllr McLean reported on the recent discussions with Olney Town Council regarding only having parish or town councillors as representatives on the wind farm community benefit fund committee as was the original

intention when it was set up. It was noted that only Emberton out of the parish councils currently had a representative (Cllr White) appointed by it.

New City Plan – The consultation ended in 6 weeks' time on the 9th October. It was agreed that EPC needed to dedicate time to making a response to the consultation and accordingly an additional parish council meeting would be arranged and publicised for this purpose.

MK Connect – Ward Cllr McLean reported that he had been trying to have a meeting with officers since the second week in June and had not seen EPC's MK Connect and bus questionnaires that were circulating at the fete. Kevin Viney from Olney had also done some research and sent that in.

2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police** – Crime statistics between 1/7/24 and 25/8/24 were as follows: public order x 2, burglary x 1. Other incidents not crime related were: suspect vehicle x 1 and dangerous dog x 1.

2.3 **PLUG (15/8/24)** – Cllr White reported that a walk about of the conservation area took place to see various improvements including new fishing platforms. A discussion took place regarding the provision of dog waste bins as some visitors found the lids on the Biffa bins heavy; it was agreed not to progress the issue. The PSPO was discussed and agreed that there was not an issue with alcohol in the park. Visitors parking in Hulton Drive and Olney Road was discussed and agreed that this was an enforcement issue. Cllr Laval put forward a suggestion that hirers of the pavilion should be made aware that there was no parking in Hulton Drive. The clerk to take this back to ESSC. **Action: KG.**

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

2.5 **Clerk's Report**

2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Update from MKCC Rights of Way as follows: "I'm getting in touch regarding the ongoing case relating to the Bridleway claim at Petsoe Manor. The matter is progressing well and we are concluding all our final research with a hope of then submitting the matter to the Planning Inspectorate in the coming months. Once that is done, we will be provided with a date for a Public Inquiry – likely to be the end of next year.

It has come to light that, when the legal order was made, which commenced the public consultation back in 2021, there should have been a sentence in the order which read: "*The authority have consulted with every local authority whose area includes the land to which the order relates*". As local authority, Emberton Parish Council were indeed consulted, but for the avoidance of doubt can you please confirm that the Parish Council feel that they were consulted adequately and have had the opportunity to submit any information they feel relevant to the case?"

The clerk reported that she had looked back at the Minutes and could see that the Orders were advertised in the Well & Towers and on the parish council website in February and March 2021 and on the pc noticeboard between 4th February and 20th March 2021. Councillors therefore agreed that adequate consultation had taken place. The clerk to relay this to MKCC. **Action: KG.**

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 further response from Joanne Payne. The clerk to chase. **Action: KG.**
- 2.1.117 **Litter on A509** – Ward Cllr McLean reported on this previously.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Cllr Jamieson reported that the group were about to start Speedwatch now that the schools would be going back. The clerk to purchase the jubilee clips for the SID. **Action: KG.**
- 3.6.30 **Allotments** – Cllr Duncan reported that the letter had been sent back to the solicitor.
- Grass cutting** – The allotment bank was cut on the 7th August. The clerk wrote to MKCC on 8th August to ask whether the bank had now been re-designated as per the parish council's request but no response had been received.
- Allotment plots** – Cllr Jamieson reported that he had spoken to an allotment plot holder who had intimated that he would not be renewing his contract. Cllr Jamieson stated that he had been asked to spray the plot after which it would be rotovated.
- 3.6.48 **Alison Fraser Walk** – An email from a resident regarding removal of trees on land adjacent to Alison Fraser Walk was noted.
- 3.6.50 **Dog fouling** – Nothing to report. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 3.107 **Tree planting** – Cllr Jamieson to obtain an estimate for purchasing a cherry tree. **Action: CJ.**
- 3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5)** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.115 **Parish council.gov domain name** – The clerk reported that she had attended an online information session. It was agreed that as the gov domain name was not compulsory that this issue should not be pursued. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Reported on previously.
- 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 and that consistency was key
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker reported that EUC were not interested in being involved in the transfer of only one committee member and would want assurance that they would not be liable for any funds prior to any transfer of members. The money that the committee were declaring on an annual basis was less than £300. It was agreed that Cllr Walker would approach Noel Sibbald with the offer of advertising

educational grants for the children of Emberton and to remind Mr Sibbald that it was only the interest on the fund that could be spent rather than the capital. **Action: JW.**

- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Nothing to report.
- 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** – Nothing to report.
- 3.116 **Access to playing field from residential properties and general access** – The clerk reported that letters had now been sent to residents with copies being held in the Minutes file. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.118 **New City Plan** – It was agreed that as there was a lot of information to go through that an Extraordinary meeting should be held. **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** – consultation ends 9/9/24.
- 3.123 **Alcohol Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)** – consultation ended 16/8/24.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White reported that a meeting had taken place and a grant approved for Olney Rugby Club in the sum of £14,750 for solar panels and battery storage with £44,150 now left in the account.
- 4.382 **24/01645/TCA** – The removal of Blue Spruce (6m tall) to ground level at 3 Home Farm Court - **pending**
- 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 – **pending**

New applications

- 4.384 **24/01688/HOU** – Erection of single storey porch extension to front, and the conversion of the loft with associated alterations at Hartoft, West Lane – Agreed to write to MKCC in support of the application and request a condition on construction hours and refer to Policy E4 of the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan (light pollution). **Action: KG**
- 4.385 **24/01791/TCA** – The removal of T1 (Box Elder Maple), pruning of T2 (Box Elder Maple) and reduce height to 6m and spread to 4m and pruning of T3 (Robina Frisia – false acacia) to remove dead branches to prevent disease at The Barn, 4 Manor Court, Olney Road – The clerk to respond that the parish council would agree with the recommendations made by MKCC's tree officer regarding this application. **Action: KG**

4.386 **24/01807/TCA** – The reduction in height by up to 1.5m and sides by up to 1m of 2x Copper Beach trees (T1, T2), reduction in height by 3m and sides by 1.5m of Sorbus tree (T3) and reduction in height by 1.5 and sides by 1m of Judas tree (T4) at 4 Gravel Walk – The clerk to respond that the parish council would be in agreement with the recommendations made by MKCC’s tree officer with regard to this application. **Action: KG**

4.387 **24/01899/TCA** -The removal of dead Rowan (1) and Ornamental Pear (3), and reduction of silver birch from 8-9m to 6-7m tall (2) at 1A Church Lane - The clerk to respond that the parish council would agree with the recommendations made by MKCC’s tree officer regarding this application. **Action: KG**

5. ACCOUNTS

5.1 **To receive the RFO’s Report for the 2nd September 2024** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Jamieson that the payments be approved. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.**

5.3 **Community Infrastructure Fund** – The clerk reported that MKCC had advised that the amount of the grant was £1169.99.

5.3 **Co-operative Bank – application for Sports & Recreation Committee** – The clerk reported that this was in hand.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Email received from Mr Bradley, Great Linford resident. This was discussed and noted.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

7.1 **Village publicity –Action: KG**

7.2 **Cllrs’ concerns** – Cllr Laval reported that there had been some recent incidents of parking on the pavements in the village.

Cllr Duncan – Stated that the deadline for the MK Connect trial was the end of September. Agreed to put the bus questionnaires on the website and Emberton Echo. **Action: KG**

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as the extraordinary parish council meeting on Monday 23rd September 2024 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.