

## Emberton Parish Council

### Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**Present:**

Councillor Vicki McLean (Chairman)  
 Councillor Paul Flowers  
 Councillor Steve Gibson  
 Councillor Mike Horton  
 Councillor Richard Laval  
 Councillor Harry White

Ward Councillor David Hosking  
 Ward Councillor Keith McLean

Mr Nicholas Hannon – Head of Environment & Waste, MKC

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

**Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Hall and Ward Councillor Peter Geary.

**Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda** – There were no Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018** -  
 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were agreed and initialled by the Chairman.
2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**  
 There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
3. **SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**
  - 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Nicholas Hannon introduced himself and stated that when he started his role, he spoke to the Olney Ward Councillors and started reading about the history of Emberton Park. He commented that one of the things to come out of all the previous history was that Emberton Parish Council wanted Emberton Country Park to exist for the pursuit of quiet countryside activities and despite being passed from one department to another, was now part of Environment & Waste. Mr Hannon stated that he had been asked to undertake a consultation with residents about the future of Emberton Park but needed to speak to key stakeholders. In 2000, there were commercial aspirations for the park, but these views were not shared by Mr Hannon and not something that he was likely to pursue. Any changes to the park would be incremental rather than major. An incremental repair programme was in place and Serco had stepped up their cleaning programme. A new countryside ranger was in post, electric vehicle charging points were installed in the car park, new play equipment was in place and MKC have been working on electronic entrance payment. Although the climbing wall had been in place since 1983, there were no plans for investment in this. It was anticipated that traffic in the park would be restricted to only a third of the park and other areas would be looked at in terms of wildlife, investment in

stocking some of the lakes, rebuilding some of the fishing sets (used to be 50, there are now 8 and looking to put in up to 20). Mr Hannon stated that MKC would be setting a vision for the park and it was likely to be “for the pursuit of quiet countryside activities” in line with the parish council’s vision. There were also plans for an education centre near the existing café. Reference was made to the building previously used by the Naval Cadets and that this would be subject to bids for Community Asset Transfer. There were plans for Field 13 to be made into a biodiversity area for newts and test areas were being explored. Mr Hannon stated that he would be drawing up a document for consultation to key stakeholders. Mr Hannon opened up the meeting for questions.

Councillor Horton – Traffic should be taken out of the park with the possibility of shutting the gates by the rally field and by the sailing club and the cost of parking looked at; you could not pay a less amount for the time you spend in the park and parking also created a problem for residents in Emberton. Councillor Horton asked whether the park had any regulations.

Mr Hannon – Yes it does from 1971.

Councillor Horton made reference to barbecues being permitted in the park.

Mr Hannon responded that this was being looked at as to whether they were to be banned or restricted to one area.

Councillor Horton - Emberton Park needed to be re-established as a country park.

Councillor V McLean responded that this was one of the biggest things that would help to give it its character. Some signage was asked for by the parish council to help with littering and this was refused.

Mr Hannon commented that as a stand alone business, ECP made a profit but it was maintained from elsewhere in the Council, so looking to put this money back into services. The barrier at the main entrance was put in in 1993 and MKC were trying to look at taking payment when exiting the park.

Councillor V McLean – If the park is to go down the route of ecology and nature, littering and driving around the park needs to be addressed.

Mr Hannon – Looking at a shift system for the park, looking to restart a Friends Group and reinstating the PLUG in a different format.

Councillor Laval addressed Mr Hannon and stated that it was quite refreshing that MKC’s vision was the same as Emberton Parish Council’s. In terms of future ownership or management, was the Park’s Trust the best option. What happens if the park needed investment?

Mr Hannon responded that improvements to the park had been incremental and if a joint venture was agreed with the Park’s Trust, MKC could not set a vision for the park and ask them not to change it. If the management of the park was passed to the Park’s Trust, it would not come back to MKC.

Ward Councillor McLean commented that a deal could not be done with the

Park's Trust because Badminton England could not raise the money.

Ward Councillor Hosking asked how many similar facilities to Emberton were there in MK.

Mr Hannon responded that Emberton was the only one, other parks were owned by the Parks Trust.

Councillor V McLean commented that she was really heartened by Mr Hannon's presentation and refreshing to hear that MKC wanted to make the park into a rural country park.

Ward Councillor McLean made reference to the triathlon held last week and the rally fields and asked whether these would stay.

Mr Hannon - MKC were not looking to commercialise the park at all and he had some reservations about religious festivals being held. It was noted that one of the main issues following busy periods was litter and it was commented that there was often toilet paper in the bushes and plastic bottles in the edge of the lake and in the perimeter ditch.

Ward Councillor McLean - proposed changes to parking charges was very good to hear with paying on exit; clear signposting was required. The gate by the rally field could be closed to prevent traffic accessing all areas of the park.

Mr Hannon – Serco to be asked to do a deep clean covering the areas mentioned.

Councillor V McLean – Litter picking needs to go hand in hand with litter education. Ward Councillor McLean commented that some MK businesses have a week of community involvement and perhaps one of them could do a walkabout.

Councillor Flowers – great news about Field 13.

Mr Hannon commented that he would get something in draft and re-visit the parish council in six months time.

Councillor Gibson responded that the parish council had an Annual Assembly in March for all the residents and it would be a good idea to come and present something.

Mr Hannon left the meeting at 8.25pm

- 3.93 **Milton Keynes East Local Stakeholder Group** – Councillor V McLean reported that she had attended a meeting where it was noted that the proposal was for 5,000 homes in Moulsoe, with industrial units the size of Magna Park and a new retail area the size of Kingston shopping centre. At the moment, if it were to go ahead, it would not be before 2031. However, there was a possibility that the development could go into Plan:MK currently under review with the Planning Inspectorate with a view to being adopted early next year. There were representatives from the majority of the parishes and the view was that it was all about infrastructure. MKC were putting in a bid of £76m to the housing infrastructure fund for bridge works across the M1 but none of the funding would

be for improving infrastructure in other villages impacted by the development. Reference to the Olney by pass was made and if this went ahead, the land surrounding it would probably come up for development. Ward Councillor McLean responded that the £76m would be for infrastructure around Moulsoe and not funds for an Olney bypass. Councillor V McLean reported that the next meeting would be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, which she would attend.

#### 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS & ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.217 **18/01331/FUL** – Details submitted pursuant of variation of condition 5 (Decommissioning Method Statement) attached to planning permission 14/00407/FUL at Emberton Solar Park, Newton Road for Next Energy Capital. The clerk read out an email received from John Croxford on behalf of Next Energy Capital offering to site solar panels on community buildings. Councillor Horton responded that the church had already explored this and they were not permitted because of the roofline. It was noted that The Institute was in a conservation area and solar panels were highly unlikely to be permitted. There were no objections to the above application. It was proposed by Councillor V McLean and seconded by Councillor Laval that the parish council agree the variation if a proportionate payment was made solely to EPC solar farm community benefit fund for the benefit of the community of Emberton. The clerk to notify planning and respond to Mr Croxford along the same lines. **KG**

4.218 **18/01791/FUL** – Proposed pitched roof to existing flat roof garage and entrance attached to house, tiled roof to existing attached store, detached double carport with hard standing for cars at Church House, West Lane for Mr G Proud. There were no objections to this application. The clerk to respond accordingly. **KG**

Councillor Laval left the meeting at 8.43pm

#### 5. ACCOUNTS – to agree payments and items, as listed below

5.1 **RFO's Report** – The RFO's Report for the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 was accepted.

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

Emberton Sports & Social Club – pavilion hire for NHP Meetings X 2 and parish council extraordinary meeting	£45.00
Mr W D Letts – groundworks in Alison Fraser Walk	£97.80
Antrams Payroll Services – quarterly payroll	£39.00
Mrs K Goss – Clerk's July salary	£447.18
Mrs K Goss – Clerk's July expenses	£36.35

Payments proposed by Councillor Horton, seconded by Councillor Gibson and unanimously agreed by all those present. The clerk to make the payments by BACS transfer. **KG**

#### 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is confirmed at Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.46pm