

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Melanie Duncan - Chair
 Cllr Harry White
 Cllr Paul Flowers
 Cllr Colin Jamieson
 Cllr Guy Palmer
 Cllr Joe Walker

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Ward Cllr Keith McLean

Welcome – Councillor Duncan took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Laval, Ward Councillors Peter Geary and Debbie Whitworth and PCSO Arlene Ormston.

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

- 1.1 To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 6th October 2025.
 The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th October 2025 were signed by the Chair.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – No residents present.
- 1.3 **Risk – Grit bins** – Cllr Palmer reported that he had inspected the grit bins and they were all full, apart from the one in Olney Road. The grit bin in Petsoe End could do with an overhaul; overhanging vegetation needed cutting back. The clerk to price up grit. **Action: KG.**

Martyn’s Law – To be carried forward to the next meeting. **Action: AL.**

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION

- 2.1 **Ward Councillors’ Report – New City Plan** – Ward Cllr McLean reported that the New City Plan went to delegated decision last week; Regulation 19 would be out for consultation for six weeks. There were not expected to be many changes at this stage. Regulation 19 would be going forward to Council for submission and examination in early 2026. The location of the “New Town,” proposed for Milton Keynes by the government’s New Towns Taskforce, was still unknown (some views that the land ownership would be in the gift of one or two organisations were not confirmed). **Bucks Fire & Rescue** – A proposal was being tabled on the 12th November to reduce the number of fire engines within the retained service from 30 down to 22; Olney was not one of them. **A509** – The works on the A509 were completed within the 3-week timescale; the uneven surface would be the next repair. **Wheelie bins** – Reports received that wheelie bins were not being returned to where they came from (contract

stipulates 2m from property) and that bins were being “eaten” by the machines. Missing bins could be reported online. **Wind farm fund** – The committee disbanded and sent paperwork together with a cheque for the amount in the fund to MKCC. Ward Cllr McLean would be having a Teams call with MKCC and a representative from the new owners, On Path, next week. Officers were trying to get an account set up within MKCC in the name of Petsoe End Wind Farm Fund. **Flood 19 investigation** – The report recommended that the ditches should be cleared but not the drains, although the drains were contributing to the problems in the village of Emberton. Nor was the flood investigation very helpful with regard to the flooding in Petsoe.

- 2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police** – PCSO Ormston’s statistics given in her absence noted that there were no crimes reported between 29/9/25 and 2/11/25 but there had been a road traffic collision at the A509 crossroad between a motorcyclist and car on the 21st October resulting in a serious injury to the motorcyclist.
- 2.3 **Meeting with Chris Curtis MP** – The clerk to check that residents will get some feedback following the meeting on the 10th October. **Action: KG.**
- 2.4 **North East Rural Community Forum (10/10/25)** - The clerk reported that reference was made to fly tipping at the meeting with Chris Curtis MP advising that land made available through MK:East had been allocated for a tip. It was noted that the Traffic and Transportation Manager for MKCC, Murray Woodburn, had been working with parish councils on safety schemes. Mr Woodburn had been speaking to Clifton Reynes & Newton Blossomville JPC regarding implementing new and improved signage in a number of identified locations, adding reflective bollards and refreshing road markings. Cllr Duncan reported that road safety at the triangle at Petsoe End seemed much better since the new signage had been put up. A discussion then took place regarding potentially reducing the speed limit in the village to 20mph; it was decided to seek residents’ feedback on this.
- 2.5 **PLUG (23/10/25)** – Cllr White reported that tree work would be going on in the park over winter. Bat and moth walks were proving to be very popular. There were a few static caravan spaces available. Going into next year, the Lithuanian event would be happening again and the park would be meeting to discuss with organisers to iron out the issues identified this year. The café was doing quite well. PLUG meetings would now only happen once per year; with the next one in June 2026.
- 2.6 **Dates for Diaries** – These were noted. A discussion took place regarding updating the Neighbourhood Plan and agreed that this should be looked at in January 2028. **Action: KG.**
- 2.7 **Clerk’s Report**
- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.24 **Weed spraying** – Nothing to report. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 2.1.85 **Potholes, Petsoe End** – The clerk reported that the online system showed several jobs awaiting repair for Petsoe End.
- 2.1.86 **40mph/50mph speed limit sign on A509** – The clerk reported the fallen 40mph/50mph sign on the A509 to MKCC on the 25th June under reference FS725927908.

- 2.1.87 **Hedge overhanging footpath in Newport Road** – Cllr Jamieson to check this and report back to the clerk. **Action: CJ.**
- 2.1.88 **Wall around electric substation, West Farm Way** – Noted that whilst some work had been undertaken on the wall; the post and gate still required repair. The clerk to report. **Action: KG.**
- 2.1.89 **Overhanging tree, Petsoe End** – The clerk further emailed MKCC; response received on 14th October as follows: The Rights of Way team only have the duty to maintain the lane as a footpath, so unfortunately not something that we would deal with. I have passed this communication on to Jonathan Hawes who is the landscaping services officer, and may deal with vehicular access issues on the highway.
- Cllr Duncan reported that EUC owned the hedge in Petsoe End that was overgrown. The clerk to contact EUC. **Action: KG.**
- 2.1.90 **Dislodged blue brick on footpath (11 Olney Road)** – The clerk to report once Cllr Laval was able to submit a photograph. **Action: KG.**
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.17 **Clock tower planters** – To be carried forward to budget for 2026/2027.
- 3.6.30 **Allotments – Transfer** – Cllr Duncan reported that the two amendments requested by EPC had been approved, namely the potential to connect to services in the highway and deletion of MKCC’s maximum dimensions for structures on the allotments. Cllr Duncan stated that the terms of tenancy needed to be checked and the allotments registered with our insurers once ownership had been transferred. It was proposed by Cllr Duncan, seconded by Cllr Palmer, and unanimously agreed that, under Section 14(3) of the LGA 1972, that the transfer be signed, adding Cllr Jamieson as a third signature and the clerk as a witness to the signing. The clerk to scan the transfer and send to MKCC with a copy to Brent Hill. **Action: KG.** The clerk to ask Brent Hill the cost of a voluntary first registration at the Land Registry for the Pavilion and playing field. **Action: KG.**
- Grass cutting** – Nothing to report.
- 3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End (frequent collision issues)** – Reported on under item 2.4.
- 3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – The clerk to look at grants to repair the well. **Action: KG.**
- 3.6.116 **Potholes in Hulton Drive at junction with Olney Road** – Email received from Rachel Munday on 30th October advising that Olney Road was inspected on the 29th August and there were no defects which met the criteria for repair. Agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.6.117 **Parking on verge (Olney Road)** – Email received from Rachel Munday on the 30th October advising that white lining had taken place in Olney Road and faded yellow lines should be reported. The clerk reported these on 31st October under reference **FS761579279.**

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.1 **Emberton Park** – Reported on previously.
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker stated that Noel Sibbald had advised that the trustees had sorted out the accounts and could now make awards. It was noted that the amount available had not been established and that the parish council should not advertise this at the present time. Cllr Duncan asked if the trustees could send an advert to the parish council to approve for the Well & Towers. **Action: JW.**
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Next meeting on 14th November.
- 3.103 **Proposed Traffic Order 0449 for High Street, Olney Road, and Gravel Walk** – The clerk chased for a response on the 3rd November; response awaited.
- 3.113 **Climate change** – nothing to report.
- 3.118 **New City Plan** – Save the date changed to 5th November for update meeting.
- 3.125 **Flooding and water management – maintenance of pumping station, flooding at lower Petsoe End and Olney Road, EPC flood plan** – to be carried forward to the next meeting. **Action: AL.** Noted that the next stage would be to work on the flood plan and to establish a flood group to be resident rather than parish council led.
- 3.129 **MK Sustainability Strategy 2025-2050** – Response sent. Agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.130 **Local Transport Plan (5)** – Noted that this would be coming forward for consultation.
4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**
- 4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr Duncan thanked Cllr White for acting as the parish council representative on the wind farm community benefit fund committee.

Previous applications

- 4.410 **PLN/2025/1502** – Certificate of Lawfulness for the replacement of the six frontage windows, frames, lintel coverings, and modern hood coverings on a like for like basis to the listed building at Bell & Bear, High Street – **consented**
- 4.411 **PLN/2025/1842** – The reduction of heaviest branches by approximately 2 metres back to suitable growth points of silver birch (T1) at High Trees, West Lane - **approves**
- 4.412 **PLN/2025/2026** – Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and erection of a replacement/ self-build dwellinghouse and double detached garage and frontage wall and gates (part retrospective) at Springside Pasture, Petsoe End – **pending**

New applications

- 4.413 **PLN/2025/2129** – The re-pollarding of Weeping Willow tree from approx. 10m tall to approx. 6m at Mounts House, West Lane – It was agreed that the parish council would accept the recommendations made by MKCC's tree officer with regard to this application. The clerk to respond accordingly. **Action: KG.**

- 4.414 **PLN/2025/2209** – Certificate of lawfulness for proposed siting of a mobile home for use ancillary to the main dwelling at Paddock House, 36 Gravel Walk – Agreed to respond that the application was noted. **Action: KG.**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive EPC's RFO's Report for the 3rd November 2025** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Jamieson that the payments for EPC be approved. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.**

To receive EPC Sports & Recreation Committee RFO's Report for the 6th October 2025 and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr White that the payments for EPC Sports & Recreation Committee be approved. Cllr Palmer to approve the payments online. **Action: GP.**

- 5.2 **Assertion 10 in the 2025/2026 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)** – The clerk reported that the cost of hosting the website, domain name and email addresses with the current provider was £630.00 plus vat but they were not a government approved provider. Two further quotes had been received; Parish Online – new website, hosting, domain name, and email address £350 plus vat with a discount of £100 for the first year. Hugo Fox – Same package £408.88 plus vat. Both these providers were government approved. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Flowers that the parish council move the website to Parish Online. **Action: KG.**

- 5.3 **Financial Regulations** – The clerk reported that NALC had published new Financial Regulations to consider the fact that some parish/town councils also had sub committees and that some town/parish councils had both a clerk and RFO. It was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Flowers that the new Financial Regulations be approved.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Well at Petsoe End, information on highways improvements at Clifton Reynes/Newton Blossomville, 20mph speed limit suggestion, flood group and Section 19 report, defib session. **Action: KG.**

- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr Duncan commented that she had heard that an Emberton resident had been unable to register as a new patient with Cobbs Garden Surgery but it was noted that the registration site had technical problems for two days.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as the parish council meeting on Monday 1st December 2025 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.