Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

PCSO Arlene Ormston (part meeting)
PCSO Connor Braddish (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 Laval, and Ward Councillors Peter Geary, Keith McLean, and Debbie Whitworth.

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 3rd February 2025.
The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd February 2025 were signed by the Chair.

1.2 **Public questions –** There were no members of the public present.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION

2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report –** No Ward Councillors present.

2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police –** Crime statistics between 4/2/25 and 16/3/25 were as follows: Business burglary – caravan has been broken into x 1. It was noted that this was in Emberton Park. PCSO Braddish touched on action fraud and a suggestion was made that TVP could provide a presentation at All Saints' coffee morning. Cllr Jamieson to liaise with TVP. **Action: CJ.** Noted that a demonstration of Sentinel would take place in Astwood Village Hall on the 21st March at 10am. Cllr Jamieson to attend. **Action: CJ.** Cllr Flowers stated that he had witnessed an incident in Newport Pagnell but felt unable to report it to TVP as he did not have much detail. TVP responded that reporting this incident could help to build up a bigger picture of the crime being committed and no matter how minor the detail, it should be reported either on 101 or on the TVP website.

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

2.4 **ESSC (meeting held 12/2/25 and 17/3/25) –** Cllr Flowers reported that cash in the bank stood

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at £26,000 but was earmarked for various projects: hot water and heating system, battery storage for solar panels and extra external lighting to comply with safety regulations. A health and safety audit was undertaken on the building. The committee were looking into the management of the History Society. It was agreed not to pursue the changing room projects due to the £60,000+ cost as the committee felt that this did not represent value for money. The external door opposite the bar had been highlighted for replacement.

2.5 **North East Rural Community Forum (meeting held 26/2/25) –** Cllr Flowers reported that the two main issues were speeding and fly tipping.The forum had been very successful in terms of campaigning to reduce the speed limit in both Cold Brayfield and Chicheley.

2.6 **PLUG (meeting held 13/3/25) –** Cllr White reported that the main event this year would be the 60 years celebration on the weekend of the 12th and 13th July. There would be all kinds of entertainment from live music and falconry display to country crafts. The angling club had not renewed its contract this year, so only day ticket fishing from now on. More work on landscaping all over the park plus the flooded areas will be sorted with new drainage pipes. The static van area is gradually filling up again and with the possible closure of the Billing site more to come. The butterfly and bat walks were proving popular with more to come this year. The Lithuanian summer festival will happen again this year around the same time as last year. The cafe had not the best year but are committed to running with new facilities inside and out. The sailing club were going strong and are hoping to run another trial day.

2.7 **Parishes Forum (meeting held 13/3/25) –** Cllr Duncan reported that the main topics discussed were the scooter and electric bike scheme in central MK, graffiti, CCTV services and anti-social behaviour which gave details on the different processes that could be followed.

2.8 **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 –** This has now been repaired and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access –** Nothing to report.

3.6.30 **Allotments –** It was proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Jamieson and unanimously agreed that the parish council should accept the proposed amendments to the covenants by MKCC and that we now proceed with the transfer and ownership that is on offer. The clerk to notify Brent Hill. **Action: KG**

Grass cutting – Nothing to report.

3.6.50 **Litter warden –** Nothing to report.

3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End –** Nothing to report.

3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5) –** Nothing to report.

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3.107 **Tree planting –** The clerk emailed Stephen Narborough on the 11th March for an update as to what would happen to the dead tree on the High Street. SN advised no further action. Agreed that the clerk would investigate the provision of a tree for planting through the Woodland Trust. **Action: KG**

3.108 **West Lane flooding –** Nothing to report.

3.109 **Ivy on stone bus shelter –** It was noted that there was a large amount of ivy growing over the stone bus shelter which was a parish council owned asset. The clerk suggested a working party to clear this once the weather was a bit warmer.

3.110 **Potholes in Hulton Drive at junction with Olney Road –** The clerk reported two potholes at the junction with Olney Road and Hulton Drive to MKCC on 24th February. (Ref: FS69033640478). These have been marked for repair as well as previously reported potholes on Olney Road (northern end of village).

3.111 **Loose kerbstone in High Street opposite Bell & Bear –** The clerk reported the loose kerbstone in the High Street opposite the Bell & Bell to MKCC as a potential trip hazard (MKCC ref FS6903663396). Response received from MKCC on 5th March stating that this had been assessed and was classed as not being at investigatory level. Agreed to remove this item from the agenda but action to monitor.

3.112 **Potholes in High Street (outside properties 2, 4 and 6) –** The clerk reported two small potholes in the High Street outside property numbers 2, 4 and 6. Response received from MKCC on 5th March stating that they have been assessed and were low priority. MKCC ref FS690362563. Agreed to remove this item from the agenda and action to monitor.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 **Emberton Park –** The clerk had previously circulated the request from Emberton Park for funding towards the 60th anniversary event in July 2025 to parish councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Jamieson that a grant be awarded in the sum of £350. The clerk to advise Emberton Park. **Action: KG**

3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker stated that he emailed Noel Sibbald and asked for clarity regarding the current total balance cand asked if the parish council could see the last 5 years' accounts. No response was received despite a reminder being sent.

3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee –** Cllr Palmer reported that the teams for both football and cricket were now in line with the budget. The budget was very tight for this year and it had been agreed that there would be a quarterly review. The reserves have been depleted due to the purchase of the gang mower. The committee were starting the process of looking at risk assessments with regular checks being proposed and documented for checking machinery which were largely already being undertaken.

3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service) and double yellow lines –** Nothing to report.

3.125 **Flooding and water management – maintenance of pumping station, flooding at lower**

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Petsoe End and Olney Road, EPC's role in flood management – The Chair reported that Cllr Laval was working on a flood plan for Emberton. The Chair had tried called MKFA but they were not picking up and would try again to discuss the section 19 action for Petsoe End.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund –** Cllr White reported that an application had been received from the VSF.

4.392 **PLN/2024/2498 –** The erection of a micro-energy storage facility at Verge at Olney Road, by Harvey Drive – **withdrawn**

4.394 **Tree planting at Prospect Place –** A response was sent on the proposal on the 24th February, with the following response received on the same day "Thank you for your response regarding the woodland creation proposals. Whilst the consultation period prescribed by the Forestry Commission has finished, I will forward your response to the Forestry Commission for their records and awareness. The Forestry Commission have confirmed that they are happy for the proposed planting scheme to go ahead, having tested it against the regulations and best practice guidance. You'll hopefully be pleased to learn that several of your points had already been addressed in our finalising of the design of the woodland creation proposal."

4.396 **PLN/2024/2689 –** Non material amendment seeking to change the panels to a smaller size and increase the quantity to 20 panels and mounted in portrait configuration (relating to permission ref 24/00054/HOU for the installation of flush PV panels into outbuilding slate roof) at West Lane House, West Lane – **approved**

4.397 **PLN/2024/2707 –** Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) seeking to amend window arrangement and include a first-floor balcony to rear elevation (relating to permission ref 23/02176/FUL the erection of one dwelling with single garage) at 34 Gravel Walk – **refused**

4.398 **ENF/2025/0001** – Rectory Farm, Newton Road, Emberton. Correspondence received 02/1/2025 alleging a breach of planning control at the above address had been lodged. Alleged breach details: unauthorised erection of café/bar that is being used to hold events and open on the weekend – **pending**

4.399 **PLN/2025/0183 –** Construction of micro energy storage facility at Verge at Olney Road by Harvey Drive – **pending**

4.400 **PLN/2025/0195 –** The crown reduction in height by 10m and reduction on the sides by up to 2 metres and prune branches away to give up to 2 metres clearance from the neighbouring building of a Western Red Cedar (T1) at 6 Church Lane – **pending**

4.401 **PLN/2025/0242 –** Listed building consent for the proposed installation of full fibre broadband including installation of fibre broadband box on front elevation and drill small hole for the cable to feed into the house at 4 Gravel Walk – **pending**

4.402 **PLN/2025/0332 –** Approval of details required by conditions 4 (sustainable construction), 5 (hard landscape works), 6 (soft landscape works), 10 (EV charging point) and 11 (superfast broadband infrastructure) of permission ref. 23/02176/FUL at 34 Gravel Walk - **pending**

5. ACCOUNTS

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5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 17th March 2025** and approve payments**.** It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Walker that the payments be approved. Cllr White to approve the payments online. s**Action: HW.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

7.1 **Village publicity –** Annual Assembly, Emberton Park 60th anniversary event, TVP report

It was noted that an article in South East Farmer (March 2025) had reported on "turning low-yielding farmland into profit through BNG" (Biodiversity Net Gain) in respect of 95 acres of land in the Emberton parish, which would involve the creation of new habitats including meadows, hedgerow, scrubland and grassland. It was agreed to invite the relevant landowner to a parish council meeting with a view to learning more about these positive changes for biodiversity. **Action: KG**

7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – It was noted that the tip at Newport Pagnell would be closing with a larger facility opening in Old Wolverton. Cllr Palmer suggested that there could be issues if a booking system was adopted as travelling time would need to be accounted for.

Cllr Jamieson reported damage to the kerb stones and grass verge at the farm entrance in West Lane. The clerk to report this to MKCC. **Action: KG**

Cllr Duncan advised that a resident had been in touch to report the extensive potholes in Petsoe End. The clerk to report these to MKCC. **Action: KG**

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

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.

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