Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 23rd June 2025 at 7pm

Present:

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

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, Cllr Palmer, and Ward Councillors Keith McLean, Peter Geary, 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 19th May 2025.
The Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th May 2025 were signed by the Chair.

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

1.3 **Risk – Martyn's Law –** Nothing to report.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION

2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report –** Nothing to report.

2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police –** Crime statistics between 19/5/25 and 23/6/25 were as follows: 1 x wildlife crime (disturbed nesting of jackdaws), 1 x assault without injury at an event in Emberton, 1 x theft of motorbike. It was noted that PCSO Tilly Skippen would be leaving, PCSO Arlene Ormston was covering Emberton until a replacement was found.

2.3 **ESSC (27/5/25) –** Cllr Flowers reported that various issues were discussed; bi fold doors repair, replacement of door opposite the bar and battery storage for the solar panels. One of the solar panels had been damaged and would have to be replaced. Following a risk assessment, a sign would be put on the step ladders stating "use at your own risk".

Cllr Duncan asked if there was a fire risk with the battery storage. Cllr Flowers responded that perhaps this could be stored with the machinery.

2.4 **Meeting with Chris Curtis MP (30/5/25) –** report from Cllr Duncan as follows:

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1. The A509. CC understood the frustrations with the road being closed for so much longer than expected. He said that the government and MKCC would be looking at ways to impose penalties and enforce performance of developers' promises.

2. Developers' s106 contributions. The issue of the A509 led on to talk of wider problems of residential development going ahead but without s106 contributions producing the promised additional services, particularly by way of expanded GP practices and additional school places. CC said that MKCC would be looking to reintroduce a body similar to the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, which would have oversight of enforcing s106 contributions. MKCC also used housing roof tax tariffs, which were helpful. CC thought Cobbs Garden Surgery should be looking to expand on its existing site, as he did not believe the East Street premises would be viable as too expensive. Generally, the plan was to create local health hubs with their own scanning facilities etc, so people did not have to travel so far. With regard to school places, CC thought the Olney campus of Ousedale would be creating additional places, because of the new MK East residential development putting pressure on the Newport Pagnell Ousedale campus, at least until the new secondary school was built. We asked if there were any plans to bring A level provision to the Olney campus and CC said he would check. CC confirmed there would not be surprises for us in the next revision of the New City Plan, as it would be on the same basis as the last draft with regard to the location of new development.

3. Flooding and sewage

We told CC about how the flood event of late September 2024 had affected Petsoe End, with five houses flooded and some residents evacuated by raft. CC agreed to check with MKCC that the s19 report will look at the flooding in Petsoe End, as it would help to address the issues eg we could put pressure on landowners to maintain ditches, as our flooding problems were generally caused by surface water rather than flooding from the river.

There was a detailed discussion about the capacity of sewage treatment plants and flood resilience with regard to the MK East development, operation of the weir etc. CC said that the Ouzel area of MK East should contain a great deal of flood water as there is a fair depth available there.

4. Public transport

We emphasised that public transport was important to Emberton residents, and that we had been pleased to campaign successfully to get the no 21 bus back for Emberton and to be rid of the zonal system for MK Connect which made the service unusable. CC said that the public transport plan was to create the Mass Rapid Transit system for MK, which would involve three main bus routes with reliable buses every five minutes or so. Some dual carriageways would become single lane and bus lane for the MRT. The MRT route would no longer go as far as Olney. MK Connect would then feed into the MRT route, so in effect a return to the zonal system for us. We asked if the MRT route would have a stop at the MK hospital, and also emphasised that the bus service from Olney to Newport Pagnell would remain very important to our residents, as would connections to Northampton and Bedford. CC said the transport links with Northampton and Bedford would be part of the new cross-county Mayoral remit, and would be particularly important with the new

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Bedford amusement park. He would check if the MRT route included a stop at the hospital. MKCC would take back control over the bus routes within MKCC. Journeys across MK would be for a single ticket price. CC made the point that improvements to public transport often brought residential development with them.

5. The Great Ouse

We asked how CC's plans to clean up the Great Ouse were going. CC said he had been offered monitoring points on the Ouse by Anglian Water and he needed to follow up on this.

6. Public rights of way

We mentioned that the Petsoe Manor bridleway claim had not made much progress since the MKCC meeting on 25 October 2016 and CC agreed to chase this up with MKCC.

7. Local issues within the Emberton parish

We confirmed we have our neighbourhood plan in place. There is the 60th birthday of Emberton Park coming up in July (CC will be going along). On environmental matters, we are looking at getting a battery for the Pavilion. James Lancaster warned of public kickback regarding fire risk from batteries. Pc meetings usually dealt with routine matters such as acting as consultee on planning applications and reporting flytipping and potholes. Our role, in addition to maintaining parish council assets, was also to represent our residents on wider matters which affect us all, such as school places, accessing Cobbs Garden surgery, buses and MK Connect.

We thanked CC for taking the time to meet us to discuss our concerns, and told him it was greatly appreciated.

2.

Actions for CC:

- Confirm that Petsoe End would figure in the LLFA's s19 flood report
- Confirm whether the additional provision at Ousedale Olney campus will include A level teaching
- Confirm that the MRT route will have a stop at MK hospital
- Follow up with Anglian Water regarding monitoring points on the Ouse
- Chase up the Petsoe Manor bridleway claim

Agreed that the clerk would follow up the actions with Chris Curtis. Cllr Flowers commented that his concern was regarding development of 5,000 homes east of the M1 and the provision for sewage as the treatment works across the whole of MK were full and requested that this was also followed up. **Action: KG**

On a general note, there had been expressions of interest for residents to meet with Chris Curtis. Agreed that the clerk should raise this. **Action: KG**

2.5 **Parishes Forum (13/6/25) –** Cllr Duncan reported that the Emerging Regulation 19 Local plan showed a local housing need of 50,400 homes compared to 52,256 last year. However, there

would be no reduction to the housing numbers proposed in the plan. There was also the possibility that the wider area of Milton Keynes could be chosen as a site for one of the government's new towns. If so, this would be in addition to the housing proposed in the New City Plan, not in substitution for it. A presentation was made on planning enforcement and actions that could be taken. The Armed Forces Covenant was discussed; this was something that the parish council could sign up to. The clerk to investigate this. **Action: KG.** There were complaints regarding MKCC's recent decision to change parishes' constitutional rights to call in decisions on executive matters. There was a representative from Community Trees MK offering free trees to parishes if parishes planted them and provided the watering jacket and mulch. The clerk to follow this up. **Action: KG.** Cllr Flowers commented that MK was going to go back to having a development corporation which would allow more control.

2.6 **PLUG (13.6.25) –** Most of the meeting was focused on the 60th birthday event in July. The Lithuanian event took place last weekend. Question raised regarding closure of the bridleway which runs at the back of the rally field. The clerk to take this back to Laura Clancy. **Action: KG.**

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

2.8 **Clerk's Report**

2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End –** The applicant in the bridleway claim had received a letter from MKCC to request that they contact the MKCC appointed consultant.

2.1.24 **Weed spraying –** A note had been received from a resident regarding the footpaths being overgrown with weeds. It was noted that this issue had been discussed at two previous parish council meetings and the clerk had spoken to a contractor regarding spraying. It was agreed to ascertain the weed spraying schedule from MKCC. **Action KG.**

2.1.82 **Residents parking – Hulton Drive –** Nothing to report.

2.1.85 **Potholes, Petsoe End –** The clerk emailed Murray Woodburn on the 13th May to seek advice regarding the "depressions" in the highway at Petsoe End. Response awaited.

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

3.6.30 **Allotments –** Noted that Brent Hill was waiting for a response from MKCC.

Grass cutting – Nothing to report.

3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End (frequent collision issues) –** A discussion took place regarding the recent accident near Newton Blossomville. Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville parish council was considering asking MKCC for a reduction in the speed limit. It was noted that any possible reduction in speed along the Newton Road could lead to development but the safety of road users was more important. Agreed to put an article to this effect in the Well & Towers and wait for response prior to contacting MKCC. **Action: KG.**

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

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3.6.114 **Steps in High Street (no 5) –** The clerk reported that MKCC had advised that, due to there being an accessibility issue at this location, the handrail would be replaced.

3.107 **Tree planting –** To put forward to budget in November 2025.

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

3.109 **Ivy on stone bus shelter –** Cllr Duncan agreed to look at this. **Action: MD**

3.110 **Potholes in Hulton Drive at junction with Olney Road –** The clerk reported the poor workmanship of the repair to the potholes in Olney Road and stated that she had taken this up with MKCC and was waiting for a response.

3.112 **Parking on verge (Olney Road) –** Nothing to report.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 **Emberton Park –** Reported on previously.

3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** –Cllr Duncan had applied to the public records office for a copy of the charity's constitution with the online search being a very lengthy process. Cllr Walker commented that Andy McGrandle had quite a lot of records and had been very helpful in the ongoing search for a copy of the constitution.

3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee –** Next meeting on the 4th July.

3.103 **Demand Responsive Transport (21 bus service) and double yellow lines –** Nothing to report. The clerk to chase this. **Action: KG**

3.113 **Climate change –** Nothing to report.

3.118 **New City Plan –** Save the date – 10th September for update meeting.

3.125 **Flooding and water management – maintenance of pumping station, flooding at lower Petsoe End and Olney Road, EPC's role in flood management –** Nothing to report.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund –** Cllr White reported that no meeting had taken place.

4.394 **Turning low-yielding farmland into profit through BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) –** As no communication had been received, it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

Previous applications

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. Premises licence application submitted to MKCC. Nothing to report. The clerk to request an update. **Action: KG**

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4.406 **PLN/2025/0683 –** The erection of one front & two rear ground floor extensions, relocation of front entry with new entrance canopy, relocation and introduction of new windows and rooflights and associated internal works at 2 Downash Lodge, The Paddock – **approved with conditions**

4.408 **PLN/2025/0893 –** The pollarding of T1 (Willow) from approx. 11m to 5.5m at Oltons, 18 Olney Road – **approved**

5. ACCOUNTS

5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 23rd June 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. **Action: HW.**

5.2 **Application to Community Infrastructure Fund 2026/2027 –** A discussion took place regarding this scheme. The clerk to obtain estimates to replace the planters around the clock tower. **Action: KG**

5.3 **Account application submission for Unity Bank –** The account application to Unity Bank had been completed and the mandate was signed by councillors. The clerk to submit. **Action: KG.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing to report, other than the note from a resident regarding weed spraying and the need for highway repairs.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

7.1 **Village publicity –** Precept and how funds were spent, residents attending pc meetings, weeds, potholes, speed on Newton Road/Petsoe End, feeding horses.

7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr Flowers commented on the message on Emberton Echo regarding feeding horses. Agreed that an article should go in the Well & Towers.

Cllr Duncan stated that a speed limit sign had fallen over on the grass verge of the A509. The clerk to report this. **Action: KG**.

Cllr Jamieson reported that the hedge outside a property in Newport Road was encroaching on the footpath. The clerk to contact the resident concerned. **Action: KG**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as the parish council meeting on Monday 14th July 2025 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.16pm.

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