Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 14th July 2025 at 7pm

Present:

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

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Ward Cllr Keith McLean

1 resident

Welcome – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Laval, 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.

1.1 To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 23rd June 2025.
The Minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd June 2025 were signed by the Chair.

1.2 **Public questions –** The resident stated that only part of the hawthorn hedge at the rear of his property backing onto the playing field had been cut back. The clerk confirmed that the ground staff had previously reported that the hedge had not been finished. The clerk had been asked if the resident would cut back the yew hedge in Alison Fraser Walk to the chain link fence. The resident agreed to do this.

1.3 **Risk – Martyn's Law –** Cllr Laval to report on Martyn's Law at the next meeting. **Playing field Trees -** Cllr Palmer reported that one of the ground staff had carried out an inspection of the trees at the playing field and found that a sycamore and an ash were showing signs of dying back. The trees in question were in a private property overhanging the tennis court. The clerk to write to the resident concerned. **Action: KG**

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION

2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report – Capacity of sewage plant –** Anglian Water have advised that there is capacity at Cotton Valley to cope with the sewage from the MK East development. **Battery storage –** Ward Cllr McLean understood there were no reported risks for battery storage where batteries were properly installed, but there were concerns regarding electric bikes and scooters, where the batteries were not CE certified. **A509 –** This is due to be open at

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the end of August. **Road closures –** Request made to highways to include times of closures and be more accurate with location. **New town** – It is likely MK will have a new town, as it scored the highest on the government's criteria, but the location had not been identified. **MKCC partnership –** MKCC would like to set up a partnership with parish and town councils to tackle issues such as graffiti and litter. **ECP –** The 60th anniversary event in Emberton Park was a fantastic weekend organised by the park manager Sam Flowers and his team. **Weed spraying –** Another parish council was worried about green areas and strong weed spraying chemicals; an indicative policy for maintenance would be coming up in September. **Collision at Newton Blossomville –** the cyclist involved in the collision at Newton Blossomville was still in intensive care in Oxford. Noted that the sight lines could be improved as a motor cyclist had come off in the same area. Ward Cllr McLean suggested that the parish council might wish to pursue a reduction in the speed limit with Murray Woodburn at MKCC. **Petsoe End Wind Farm Fund (PEWFF) –** Cllr McLean was disappointed to get a message from a resident of the parish that their request to the Chair of the PEWFF for a list of projects undertaken by the PEWFF had been refused. It was agreed that the EPC representative on the PEWFF, Cllr White, would repeat the request to the PEWFF committee. **Action: HW** In questions to Cllr McLean, Cllr Duncan asked what was the progress on the Milton Keynes Lead Local Flood Authority s19 report on the September 2024 flooding. Ward Cllr McLean reported that it was in the final stage and would be sent to the Environment Agency and LLFA in September 2025. Cllr Duncan replied that EPC still lacked confirmation from the LLFA that the flooding in Petsoe End would be investigated in the s19 report. It was agreed that the clerk would ask the LLFA again for specific confirmation that the Petsoe End flooding would be covered in the s19 report. **Action: KG.**

2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police –** Nothing to report.

2.3 **Update on meeting with Chris Curtis MP –** Agreed that the clerk would follow up the issues around sewage capacity and MK East with Chris Curtis and to suggest a date of 10th October to meet residents. **Action: KG.**

2.4 **Sports & Recreation Committee (4/7/25) –** Cllr Palmer reported that the football teams were agreed for the season: two youth teams on Saturday mornings, one adult team on Saturday afternoon and two adult teams on Sunday mornings. Cricket was going well. A young person was helping with marking out the pitches. The paving slabs outside the bi fold doors had been damaged by a vehicle and a quote was being sought to re-lay and replace some. Battery storage had been discussed by the ESSC and a query raised regarding where it would be sited. The clerk to send the quote to Cllr Palmer. **Action: KG.**

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

2.6 **Clerk's Report**

2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End –** Nothing to report.

2.1.24 **Weed spraying –** The clerk contacted MKCC on the 25th June who advised that Glendale, the landscape section of the SUEZ contract who undertake the weed spraying, had missed the areas in question and following a manager's site visit last week they have sent the team back to complete weed spraying late last week early this week. SUEZ street cleaning will now allow time for this to be effective and then remove the debris. **Further update –** Parish Council contractor sprayed the village paths on the 25th June, followed by a spray from

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MKCC on the 30th June. The MKCC road sweeper has been in the village since the spraying (8th July).

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.

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 –** The clerk wrote to the resident in Newport Road regarding their hedge overhanging the footpath and requesting that it be cut back (1st July).

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

3.6.17 **Clock tower planters –** The clerk reported that the two small planters either side of the door of the clock tower were in a poor condition and had not been planted up. The large planter under the memorial side of the clock tower was in a better condition but was usually obstructed by parked vehicles. It was agreed to set aside funds in the budget to remove the two smaller planters next year and to monitor the condition of the large planter. **Action: KG**

3.6.30 **Allotments –** Noted that Brent Hill was waiting for a response from MKCC. Noted that an allotment plot was vacant. The clerk to advertise this in the Well & Towers. **Action: KG**

Grass cutting – Nothing to report.

3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End (frequent collision issues) –** Awaiting feedback from residents regarding reduction in speed limit on Newton Road and Petsoe End.

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

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.

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

3.6.116 **Potholes in Hulton Drive at junction with Olney Road –** The clerk raised the complaint from a resident regarding poor repair of the potholes in Olney Road with highways liaison on the 28th May and was advised that a job would be raised; no further correspondence has been received. The clerk contacted Rachel Munday on 8th July and requested that the repairs were looked at when the inspector assessed the faded yellow lines in Olney Road.

3.6.117 **Parking on verge (Olney Road) –** The clerk contacted Rachel Munday at MKCC on 7th July regarding the faded yellow lines in Olney Road and requested that they were refreshed when the yellow lining takes place in the High Street. Response received that the request had been logged and the parish council would receive an update on this.

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3.107 **Tree planting –** The clerk contacted Community Trees MK regarding the possibility of procuring a tree to replace the dead one in the High Street. Response received as follows: "Currently the way we are structured and how we raise our money, it is not easy for us to plant individual trees. That is unless you would be happy to plant an English Oak? In which case we have some of them, they are getting on for 3 metres in height. We could certainly arrange for you to have one of those, no problem at all. If you are looking to plant an oak, we recommend that it is planted a minimum distance of 20 metres from the nearest building. This will ensure no likely future issues." It was agreed that there was not the space to plant an oak tree.

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

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 **Emberton Park –** Reported on previously. Agreed to write to Emberton Park to congratulate them on their recent event. **Action: KG**

3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker had obtained copies of two charity constitutional documents which indicated that both the capital and income from the relevant funds could be spent (not income only) on the charity's purposes. Cllr Duncan responded that she was trying to obtain a copy of the Charity Commissioners' Scheme relating to the Emberton School House Fund from the Public Records Office, to give certainty on which constitution applied to which charity ie. the Emberton School House Fund or the Emberton First School Fund. Cllr Walker and Cllr Duncan would meet to discuss further when a copy of the Charity Commissioner's Scheme became available. **Action: MD**

3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee –** Reported on previously.

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 –** Cllr Flowers asked if the playing field was on a water meter and suggested a water storage facility. The meeting was in favour of investigating this further, budget allowing.

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 flood plan. NALC/ACRE flood survey.** Section 19 report update noted. Cllr Laval to report on a flood plan for Emberton at the next meeting. Cllr Duncan suggested encouraging landowners, including MKCC, to clear blocked ditches, as we could expect further flooding from the next heavy rainfall on the current very dry soil. **Action: AL.** The NALC/ACRE flood survey was completed during the meeting.

3.126 **Community Governance Review –** No change for Emberton. Agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3.127 **Polling District and Polling Places Review (PDR) -** No change for Emberton. Agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3.128 **Armed Forces Covenant –** The clerk to look at this. **Action: KG**

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4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund –** Cllr White reported that an application had been received and approved for the ESSC for battery storage.

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. Application approved.

5. ACCOUNTS

5.1 **To receive the RFO's Report for the 14th July 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 –** Nothing to report.

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.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

7.1 **Village publicity –** Emberton Country Park event, thanks to Acorn Nurseries for providing parking for the Emberton Country Park anniversary weekend and for the Bell & Bear festival, Stonepit Cellar licensing results, Ditch clearing, Allotment plot

7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Some residents had reported being disturbed by the live music of the recent Bell & Bear festival. A discussion took place on the strong benefits to the village of the pub and its events, balanced against the occasional disturbance. The meeting agreed it was a matter of ensuring that licensing conditions were complied with (and there had been no suggestion of non-compliance in respect of the recent festival) and that as much advance notice of events as possible could be given. Cllr White commented that the wall around the electric substation in West Farm Way needed repair. The clerk to report this. **Action: KG**

Cllr Duncan reported a dead tree near the highway at Petsoe End. The clerk to report this. **Action: KG**.

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

The meeting closed at 8.44pm.

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