

Emberton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held in The Pavilion
Monday 5th January 2026 at 7pm

Present:

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

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Ward Cllr Peter Geary

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

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

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr Duncan declared an interest in items 2.1.17 and 4.417.

1.1 To confirm the **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 1st December 2025.
 The Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December 2025 were signed by the Chair.

1.2 **Public questions** – No residents present.

1.3 **Risk**

Electric substation – Now reported on under Clerk’s report.

Martyn’s Law – To be taken forward to the next meeting.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION

2.1 **Ward Councillors’ Report** – Ward Cllr Geary gave the following report: **New City Plan** - Due to a technical issue, some consultees did not receive an email notification at the start of the Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) MK City Plan 2050 consultation that began on 7 November and ran until 22 December 2025. To make sure everyone had a fair and equal opportunity to comment, all consultees would be able to take part in a further six-week consultation period, which starts on 5 January 2026 and runs until 16 February 2026. **Fire Service** – representations on the consultation could be made until the 28th January. **Budget** – this consultation was live but it was estimated that £7m worth of cuts needed to be made. If there was anything that affected the parishes, Cllr Geary would email the clerks concerned. **Flooding** – a delegated decision would be made on the 20th January as to which flood plans within the Milton Keynes communities affected by flooding were going to be recommended

for match funding. **Road closure** – Cllr Geary commented on the road closure by Anglian Water at the crossroads entrance to the village and reported that the cones had been moved so that the bus service could resume. Cllr Geary stated that he would ask highways to go back to Anglian Water and request that the road was only closed when works were taking place. Cllr Duncan reported that the parish council had received an email regarding the consultation on admissions for Ousedale School. Cllr Geary responded that parents would be concerned about this and the priorities outlined, given the development at MK East. The clerk to advertise the consultation on Emberton Echo. **Action: KG**

- 2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police** – PCSO Ormston’s statistics given in her absence for the period 1/12/25 – 5/1/26 noted that there was a theft of water fittings, walk boards, aluminium clips from Anglian Water. Other incidents not crime related was a road traffic collision on the A509 involving two vehicles (no injuries), 2 x road traffic incidents where drivers were seen on separate occasions to be driving erratically and dangerously on the A509 (area searched but no trace) and a speeding offence of 100mph (vehicle had no insurance, vehicle was seized and investigations are ongoing).
- 2.3 **Parishes Forum (4/12/25)** – Cllr Duncan reported that the budget was discussed. There was a discussion around AI with a warning for parish councils to be careful with putting confidential information on it such as residents’ addresses. The advice was for parish councils not to use AI unless there was a policy in place. There was also a presentation on the Milton Keynes-wide Sports Strategy.
- 2.4 **Dates for Diaries** – These were noted. Agreed that the Annual Assembly should be held on the 16th March and that refreshments should be offered.
- 2.5 **Clerk’s Report**
- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 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** – It was noted that the sign had now been installed and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 2.1.87 **Hedge overhanging footpath in Newport Road** – Cllr Jamieson advised that the hedge had been cut back. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 2.1.88 **Wall around electric substation, West Farm Way** – At the request of the parish council, a padlock had now been put on the gate but some repairs to the brickwork remained outstanding. The clerk to contact National Grid. **Action: KG**
- 2.1.89 **Overhanging tree, Petsoe End** – Cllr Duncan reported that the hedge had not been cut back and it was encroaching on to the highway and scratching vehicles as they passed. The clerk to chase this with EUC. **Action: KG**
- 2.1.90 **Dislodged blue brick on footpath (11 Olney Road)** – Repair undertaken by MKCC on the 12th December. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Nothing to report.

3.6.17 **Clock tower planters** – Funds had been set aside in the budget to remove the clock tower planters once they were beyond repair. It was therefore agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

3.6.30 **Allotments – Transfer** – Nothing to report. The clerk to chase. **Action: KG**

Grass cutting – Nothing to report.

3.6.63 **Newton Road/Petsoe End (frequent collision issues)** – Nothing to report.

3.6.68 **Well at Petsoe End** – A second quotation has been received from Northampton Stonemasons in the sum of £3,850 plus Vat for the re-build of the well. The clerk sent a letter to EUC on the 18th December requesting a grant for repair to the well.

3.6.118 **Drain cover Olney Road (junction with Hulton Drive)** – Cllr McLean followed this up with MKCC on 4th December and response received from them that the site was on the programme for the next financial year to carry out further investigation works to check for any issues with the system.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 **Emberton Park** – Nothing to report.

3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Duncan reported that a copy of the Charity Commissioners' Scheme dated 11 March 1998 had now been obtained which had clarified quite a few things, namely that the capital was to be invested in trust for the charity known as Emberton School House Fund. The charity trustees nominated were to be the headteacher and governors of Emberton School, so this was no longer applicable to the current trustees of the charity. Cllr Walker confirmed that the school house sold for £76,000 in 1995 and in the year 2000, there was £97,000 in the fund. The current accounts show about £57,000 in the fund presently. There was a clear indication in the Charity Commissioners' Scheme that the income of the fund was intended to be used for special educational benefits for the children of Emberton Primary School. With Emberton School no longer open, arguably the income of the fund should most appropriately be used for the special educational benefit of the state educated primary school children of Emberton, whichever primary schools they now attended. Best practice would be to seek a clear direction on this from the Charity Commissioners, as set out in the Scheme; it would also be advisable for the charity trustees to give the Milton Keynes education authority an opportunity to comment on the proposed parameters for the grants, given the wording of the Charity Commissioners' Scheme. However, these were obligations for the charity trustees who were currently registered with the Charity Commission as responsible for administering the fund. Cllr Walker would now write to the current charity trustees to ask them what the income was and how they proposed to make the awards. Cllr Walker stated that he would suggest a deadline to the charity trustees of the end of January for the income money to begin to be made available to make awards. Cllr Walker to send a copy of the Charity Commissioners' Scheme dated 11 March 1998 to EUC for their information. Cllr Walker to continue to copy in the Clerk on all correspondence, so the parish council would have a complete record of events. **Action: JW**

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

- 3.103 **Proposed Traffic Order 0449 for High Street, Olney Road, and Gravel Walk** – The clerk reported that there were no objections received and the traffic order was made on the 10th November. No dates had been provided for when the lining works would take place.
- 3.113 **Climate change** – nothing to report.
- 3.118 **New City Plan** – Reported on under item 2.1.
- 3.125 **Flooding and water management – maintenance of pumping station, flooding at lower Petsoe End and Olney Road, EPC flood plan** – Cllr Duncan commented that MKCC did state that improvements were likely to be required at Anglian Water pumping station. The clerk to write to Anglian Water. **Action: KG** The clerk reported there had been no volunteers yet to set up a flood group.
- 3.130 **Local Transport Plan (5)** – Nothing to report. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3.131 **New Towns Taskforce** – Nothing to report.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- 4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr White commented that the most recent update was that MKCC had lost the cheque sent by the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and had asked for it to be re-issued.
- 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 – **permitted**
- 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 – **refused**
- 4.415 **PLN/2025/2188** – Removal of a Sycamore tree at 16 High Street – **approved**
- 4.416 **PLN/2025/2304** – Reduction in height from 5m to 4m and pruning by 0.5m-1m all round of Cherry (T1) at Church House, West Lane – **approved**

New applications

- 4.417 **PLN/2025/2714** – Approval of details required by condition 10 (ecological enhancement scheme) of permission ref. PLN/2025/2026 at Springside Pasture, Petsoe End – Cllr White took the chair for this item. It was agreed by the meeting (except for Cllr Duncan who did not participate) that there were no objections to this application. The clerk to respond accordingly. **Action: KG**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive EPC's RFO's Report for the 5th January 2026** 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 5th January 2026 and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Palmer that the payments for EPC Sports & Recreation Committee be approved. Cllr Walker to approve the payments online. **Action: JW.**

- 5.2 **Website** – The clerk confirmed that the new website was now working but a few changes were still required. Cllrs had been provided with new .gov email addresses and these should be used going forward. The clerk to send Cllr Jamieson his information. **Action: KG.**
- 5.3 **Clerk's salary review** – Cllr Duncan reported that Cllr Laval was going to check the clerk's pension and NI status. A staff appraisal also needed to be undertaken for the clerk. **Action: AL/MD.**
- 5.4 **Draft budget** – The clerk presented the revised draft budget for 2026/2027. It was noted that there would not be any additional premium following the transfer of the allotments from MKCC to the parish council. The clerk reported that the Ward Cllrs had asked whether Emberton PC wished to put forward an application for the ward-based budget. It was agreed to put forward an application for repairs to the well at Petsoe End. **Action: KG.** It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Walker that the budget be approved with a precept of £20,795; an increase of 3.72% on last year.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Consultation on Ousedale School admissions – the clerk to circulate so that a response could be formulated. **Action: KG**

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Car sharing, name signs
- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr Duncan reported that the railing of the road bridge over Barrells Brook, between Threeways and the Chestnuts, Newton Road had been removed or fallen away and replaced with a red plastic barrier. The clerk to report this to MKCC. **Action: KG** A discussion took place regarding erecting additional signage to remind residents of historic names for sites within Emberton. It was agreed to investigate this. **Action: KG**

Cllr White reported that the milestone at the southern end of the A509 was in a poor condition. Agreed to put this on the clerk's report. **Action: KG**

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as the parish council meeting on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm.