

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

Present:

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

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO (via Zoom)

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 Ward Councillors Keith McLean and David Tyler and PCSO Jo Clarke.

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 July 2026.
The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th July 2026 were signed by the Chair.
- 1.2 **Public questions** – There were no members of public present at the meeting.
- 1.3 **Risk - Martyn's Law** – Cllr Laval advised that she would be attending a virtual seminar covering Martyn's Law this month.

Beacon lighting risk assessment – An amendment was made to the Beacon lighting risk assessment. Cllr Laval advised that there were 2 publications to accompany this and anyone lighting the beacon would need to confirm that they had read these as well. To be carried forward to next meeting. **Action: AL**

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION

- 2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – Ward Cllr Geary gave the following report: **A509 roadworks** – noted that the A509 would be closed from the junction of Newton Road to the Chicheley roundabout from 9.30am on 16th September to 4.30pm on the 17th September to allow for resurfacing to take place. Further road closures on the A509 between the Chicheley roundabout and the old Land Rover roundabout would take place in the autumn for 18 weeks to allow for works on a new roundabout to be undertaken.

- 2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police** – Crime states for Emberton provided by PCSO Jo Clarke for the period 2/7/26 to 4/9/26 were as follows: Public order – dispute over vehicle payment x1. Other incidents not crime related were 1) dangerous dog, 2) suspicious vehicle – suspected drink driving, 3) suspicious persons – males on motorbikes, 4) road related incident – car vs bicycle.
- 2.3 **Dates for diaries** – These were noted.
- 2.4 **Clerk's report**
- 2.1.17 **Bridleway claim at Petsoe End** – Nothing to report.
- 2.1.85 **Potholes, Petsoe End** – Nothing heard from Murray Woodburn. The clerk reported the issues again to MKCC on the 23rd May, detailing the issues from surface water drains. Cllr Duncan to follow this up as it was understood that MKCC had a record of all reports of flooding. **Action: MD**
- 2.1.88 **Wall around electric substation, West Farm Way** – The clerk emailed National Grid on the 20th April to ascertain when the contractor would return to complete pointing works. Nothing to report. The clerk to follow this up. **Action: KG**
- 2.1.95 **Milestone** – Cllr Duncan suggested that work on the milestone could be undertaken during the upcoming A509 closure.
- 2.1.96 **Dropped kerbs** – The clerk spoke to a mobility scooter user who advised that a dropped kerb opposite The Forge would be helpful. The clerk applied to MKCC's accessibility fund for a dropped kerb in Olney Road opposite The Forge.
- 2.1.97 **Damage to salt bin (Stone Court) and resident's boundary wall** – It was noted that the grass cutter had hit the salt bin at Stone Court causing it to be pushed into a resident's boundary wall which then cracked. The clerk reported both incidents to MKCC. Highways advised that the salt bin would be removed and not replaced. The clerk sought permission from Highways to site a new salt bin (if purchased by EPC) on the grass verge by the parking bay at the start of Westpits. Response received from highways that the grit bin should be green (ie owned by the parish council) and the parish council were responsible for filling it. Highways gave permission for the grit bin to be sited on the grass verge by the first parking bay in Westpits. Customer services advised on behalf of landscape services that the damage to the stone wall should be reported by residents to their building's insurance company. It was agreed that the parish council should not be responsible for replacing the bin at its own cost, nor for keeping it filled, because MKCC had caused the damage. The clerk to send the report to the Ward Councillors for action. **Action:KG**
- 2.1.98 **Dog waste bin (Newport Road)** – The clerk emailed Marcus Young Landscapes on 10th August to ask them to re-attach the dog waste bin to the wooden post. 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 – Transfer** – Brent Hill was arranging to register the transfer of the allotments at the Land Registry. The Clerk to contact Brent Hill regarding first registration of the playing field with the Land Registry. **Action: KG**

Plots – Residents have given notice on plot number 4 and this will be vacant from the 1st October. The clerk to advertise. **Action: KG**

Grass cutting – Nothing to report.

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

- 3.6.118 **Drain cover Olney Road (junction with Hulton Drive)** – Nothing heard from Murray Woodburn. The clerk emailed Highways Escalations on 23/5/26 to request an update. Repair to the pothole surrounding the drain cover has taken place. It was noted that during the heavy rain at the end of August that there was heavy surface water in this area. The clerk to raise this with highways. **Action: KG**

- 3.6.122 **Road bridge over Barrells Brook, between Threeways and the Chestnuts, Newton Road, Emberton** – The clerk sent a follow up email to MKCC on 23/5/26. Confirmation received on the 2nd June advising that this had been passed to Highways. The clerk emailed Moses at highways on 1st September requesting permission to erect a sign “Barrells Brook” at the location what3words “tastes.thuds.throat” and asking for details of a contractor to provide and put up sign.

- 3.6.123 **Crest for EPC** – The draft crest was discussed and agreed to add Emberton Parish Council wording. **Action: KG**

- 3.6.125 **Loose fence post A509** – Noted that the fence panel had been replaced but unsure whether the loose fence post had been replaced.

- 3.6.128 **Parking on bends** – The clerk submitted an article to the Well & Towers asking residents to be mindful of parking on bends. A complaint regarding parking in Olney Road opposite Manor Croft has been received from a resident which was one of several complaints received. The clerk contacted the resident of Manor Croft who advised that the vehicle (a van) belonged to a resident further along Olney Road.

- 3.6.129 **Trees overhanging parking bays in Westpits** – The clerk reported the overhanging trees in the parking bays of Westpits to MKCC on 9th June under reference MKCC845565360. MKCC have advised that the trees will be cut back during the winter pruning schedule. Cllr White reported that some work had been undertaken to cut back the trees but not all. Cllr White to notify the clerk of the additional work required so that she could report this to MKCC. **Action: HW/KG**

- 3.6.130 **Faded double yellow lines (Olney Road)** – Initially reported in 2023 and EPC advised by MKCC that they did not meet the criteria for repair. The clerk reported again on 9th June under reference FS845950799. MKCC advised on 10th June that this request had been passed to parking. Highways advised that Olney Road would be closed between 18th and 24th August to allow jet washing to take place. At the same time, the yellow lines would be refreshed. This has now been undertaken and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

- 3.6.131 **Trees overhanging rear of the Pavilion** – The clerk reported trees overhanging the rear of the pavilion to MKCC on 9th June under reference MKCC845577278. MKCC advised they would be cut back within one month. The clerk advised MKCC that permission needed to be sought for access. These have now been cut back and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- 3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**
- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker advised that he had been contacted by Noel Sibbald to ask how the trustees could get a bit more interest from residents regarding applying to the VSF for funding. A suggestion was made that a resident that had been refused funding, challenged it with the trustees. It was agreed that the trustees needed to be a bit more specific with their advertising and perhaps give examples of projects that would qualify. Cllr Walker to liaise with Noel Sibbald regarding advertising in the Well & Towers. **Action: JW.** It was noted that the VSF were looking for a trustee. Cllr Laval to ascertain what was involved. **Action: AL**
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Cllr Palmer reported that no meeting had taken place but the clerk was in the process of arranging one. An update on the budget showed that there would be a small loss this year due to one youth team not returning this season and Walking Football moving their training to Newport Pagnell.
- 3.103 **Proposed Traffic Order 0449 for High Street, Olney Road, and Gravel Walk** – The clerk emailed MKCC on the 7th July to ask for an update on the TRO which was approved on 10th November 2025. Response received from MKCC parking on the 23rd July as follows: Thank you for your email. We are currently making further enquiries in relation to the matters you have raised to ensure that we provide you with a full and accurate response. As we are awaiting additional information, we are not yet in a position to respond fully. We will contact you as soon as this information has been received and our enquiries have been completed. The clerk chased parking at MKCC on 1st September. Response received on 1/9/26 as follows: - Thank you for your email which has been passed to me for response. Apologies that we are not yet able to provide you with a definitive update regarding TRO-4 0449. We are continuing to make internal enquiries to establish the current position and anticipated timescale for implementation. I appreciate that the Parish Council has been awaiting an update for some time, and I am sorry that I am unable to provide anything more substantive at this stage. As soon as we have confirmed the position, we will come back to you with a further update. Thank you for your continued patience.
- 3.113 **Climate change** – Nothing to report. Noted that the flowering cherry in the High Street which had died was due to be replaced. Cllr Duncan to arrange estimates. **Action: MD**
- 3.118 **New City Plan** – This was now with the Examiner.
- 3.125 **Flooding and water management – maintenance of pumping station, flooding at lower Petsoe End and Olney Road, EPC flood plan** – Cllr Duncan stated that MKCC had advised that they would not attend a site visit unless a project had been put forward. Cllr Duncan shared a suggested draft letter to be sent to residents in Petsoe End regarding a project for leaky dams. It was agreed that this should be sent. Cllr Laval commented that during a recent visit to Emberton by the MP, Chris Curtis stated that, because of the village's small size, it did not meet the threshold for a standalone flood mitigation scheme.

By way of follow-up to this, Chris's office has now written to Milton Keynes City Council to ask whether the Council has considered whether Petsoe End could instead be included within a wider catchment-based approach to flood management, so that residents are not disadvantaged by the scale of their community. Cllr Duncan stated that in recent correspondence from highways, she had noted that MKCC wished to be notified on when flooding occurred at Petsoe End so this could be included in their records. It was not known whether the records appeared as an interactive map. Cllr Duncan to contact highways to ascertain this. **Action: MD**

Flood plan – The clerk to contact Lavendon to ask the lead of the flood group to contact Cllr Laval. **Action: KG**

3.131 **New Towns Taskforce** – Nothing to report.

3.132 **River Ouse – water quality** – Cllr Flowers reported that this was ongoing.

3.133 **20mph speed limit in Emberton** – Noted that Red Rose Travel who operate the number 21 bus service had stated that they had no objection to a 20mph speed limit. From a poll taken on the Emberton Echo, around 100 residents were in favour of a 20mph speed limit, with 4 voting against it. Following a discussion, it was agreed to put together a petition for residents to sign to send to MKCC. **Action: ALL**

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – The clerk commented that she had submitted an application to the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund via the MK Community Foundation for a grant for additional solar panels at the Pavilion on behalf of ESSC. The clerk reported that the application process was rather challenging. The clerk to take this back to the Ward Councillors. **Action: KG**

4.352 **Acorn Nurseries** – correspondence with MKCC re: hedgerows and trees. The clerk wrote to MKCC's tree officer to request a TPO be put in place for the trees that were highlighted in the previous planning application. No response has been received. Agreed that the clerk should raise this with the Ward Councillors. **Action: KG**

4.394 **SDC community orchard at Prospect Place** – noted that SDC had provided an F1 simulator for the fete, free of charge. Agreed that the clerk should pursue the possibility of SDC making a public right of way through the orchard. The clerk to write to SDC. **Action: KG**

4.424 **PLN/2026/1124** – Replacement of partial thatch roof with tiles at Dove Cottage, Petsoe End - **approved**.

4.425 **PLN/2026/1373** – Listed building consent for the proposed widening of the existing opening between the kitchen and informal dining spaces, including the partial demolition of an existing wall and bulkhead at 19 High Street – **approved**

4.426 **PLN/2026/1591** – The proposed erection of a residential annexe at The Paddock, 36 Gravel Walk. The underlying policies and planning conditions were discussed and it was agreed to object to this application. Cllr Duncan to put together a draft response for circulation and approval. **Action: MD**

5. ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 **To receive EPC's RFO's Report for the 7th September 2026** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Palmer that the payments for EPC be approved. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.** Cllr Laval referred to the new salary scales for the clerk received from NALC. A discussion took place on the discrepancy in timing of the salary review stated in the clerk's contract and in the Standing Orders, which needed to be amended to be consistent, as each stated a different month for the pay review to take place. There was a further discussion regarding NALC's recommendation for retrospective pay reviews and how or whether this could take place in the context of budgeting. It was noted that the current fee scale had been chosen on the basis that reviews were not retrospective. The clerk to send her contract and the Standing Orders to Cllr Laval. Cllr White suggested that the review procedure should be looked at in the context of the next draft budget and this was agreed. **Action: KG**

To receive EPC Sports & Recreation Committee RFO's Report for the 7th September 2026 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.**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – nothing to report.

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – School House Fund, 20mph speed limit
- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – Cllr Flowers stated that the biggest concern should be what was going to happen to the site now Acorn Plant nursery had vacated it. Cllr Jamieson reported the poor condition of the highway in Gravel Walk. The clerk to report. **Action: KG.** Cllr Laval reported that there was a tree in the layby on the A509 that looked like it was about to fall. The clerk to report this. **Action: KG.** Cllr Flowers made reference to the area in Westpits between properties 12 and 13; a resident had suggested using this area as a flower meadow. **Post meeting note** – Noted that this area belonged to MKCC.
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as the parish council meeting on Monday 5th October 2026 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm