

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

Present:

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

Mrs Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Ward Cllr David Tyler

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

To accept apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Flowers, Ward Councillors Keith McLean and Peter Geary and PCSOs Arlene Ormston and 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 7th September 2026.
 The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th September 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 the regulations around Martyn's Law were reassuring because of the way that events were categorised and the parish council would fall into the "standard" tier. Consideration would need to be given to events where there would be a large number of people such as the fete. For the purposes of the regulations the "responsible person" for events on EPC owned land would be the parish council and the "competent person" would be someone who was knowledgeable in health and safety. Cllr Laval kindly agreed to take on this role. It was agreed that procedures and risk assessments would need to be put in place in respect of hiring the field and the Pavilion. If an incident occurred at an event, it would be necessary to go back and revisit what happened. Cllr Palmer asked what the practical things were that the parish council needed to do. Cllr Laval responded that the first measure would be to look at how to secure the building. It was agreed that Cllr Laval would prepare a first draft to present to the other committees. **Action: AL**
- Other risk** – Cllr Palmer reported that the wooden climbing equipment at the playing field had been closed off by MKCC without notifying the committee or parish council. The clerk to make enquiries with MKCC. **Action: KG**
- Grit bins** – Agreed that the grit bins needed inspecting for salt levels. **Action: ALL**

Beacon lighting risk assessment – Cllr Laval advised that there was only one publication to accompany the Beacon lighting risk assessment and this was provided.

2. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND AGREE ANY DECISIONS/ACTION

- 2.1 **Ward Councillors' Report** – Ward Cllr Tyler gave the following report: **Planning** - noted that changes to planning regulations introduced by government meant that some planning applications were now being dealt with by delegation rather than planning committee. Parish councils and ward councillors were losing the right to request certain planning applications being dealt with at committee. Development for less than 500 houses would now be able to be dealt with by an officer under a delegated decision. **A509** – works on the A509 between the Chicheley roundabout and the old Land Rover garage have started following a slight delay. Cllr Laval commented that the recent works on the A509 had been very disruptive mainly due to the poor signage. Cllr Tyler responded that this was an ongoing issue, particularly in the rural area. **Newport Pagnell tip** – The tip in Newport Pagnell would be closing in January and the new site at Wolverton would be opening, using the same booking system. This would increase journey times by 15 minutes each way. Cllr Walker asked what would become of the old site? Noted that it would probably become housing. Cllr Duncan made reference to the play equipment being closed off by MKCC. The TRO for High Street and Gravel Walk was also discussed and noted that a coach had been stuck in the High Street trying to pass a vehicle parked on the bend. Cllr Tyler responded that he had seen the photograph of the bus and vehicle and stated that the 21-bus service for the rural areas had been discussed at a recent Council meeting. Cllr Duncan commented that there was discontent in Petsoe End that cattle were getting out of a field and causing damage. The clerk reported that the Wind farm community benefit fund now administered by the MK Community Foundation was extremely difficult to access with a long application process.
- 2.2 **Update from Thames Valley Police** – Crime stats for Emberton provided by the new PCSO, Lesley Rogers showed that there were no crimes for Emberton between the period 4/9/26 to 5/10/26.
- 2.3 **Parishes Forum (17/9/26)** – Cllr Duncan advised that she had been unable to attend this but having seen the Minutes, did not believe there was anything relevant to report for Emberton.
- 2.4 **SRC (25/9/26)** – Cllr Palmer reported that the financial affairs for the SRC were in a bit of a dilemma; since the last meeting, the walking football team had left which was a good income stream. It was agreed to try and cut back on expenditure for the current year and try and find some savings and understand that the revenue will be down. The cricket and football charges would be reviewed and costs increased. Cllr Palmer requested a breakdown of costs for providing football and cricket hire against revenue. One of the implications was cash flow. Cllr Laval suggested taking back to the SRC that the parish council were looking to see increased control of expenditure rather to make up shortfalls. Cllr Palmer stated that the cost of maintaining the tennis court was re-visited with a booking system being discussed to provide revenue. Cllr Laval to enquire with Olney how their system worked. **Action: AL.** Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Jamieson for cutting back the laurel hedge in the Alison Fraser Walk. Cllr Jamieson commented that the wooden pegs were the boundary. The clerk reported that she had asked the resident to cut the hedge back to the boundary.
- 2.5 **Dates for diaries** – These were noted.

2.6 Clerk's report

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

2.1.85 **Potholes, Petsoe End** – Cllr Duncan emailed Rachel Munday, MKCC highways advising that it would be useful to understand how MKCC kept records of flooding at residential properties - are they routinely shared between Highways and the Milton Keynes Flood Authority? are the records kept by reference to an interactive map, or what other method was used? Are we able to see copies of these records, so we can understand what picture of flooding MKCC are building up, for the parish of Emberton, say over the last three years?

2.1.88 **Wall around electric substation, West Farm Way** – The clerk emailed National Grid on the 14th September 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 White reported that the milestone had been knocked over into the ditch. The clerk to report to MKCC. **Post meeting note:** MKCC advised on the 8th October that the milestone did not meet the criteria for repair and no further action would be taken.

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** – The salt bin has now been removed. Ward Cllr McLean raised the issue of replacement with MKCC.

2.1.99 **Potholes Gravel Walk** – The clerk reported the large pothole outside 4 Gravel Walk to MKCC under reference FS873108413 and requested that the whole of Gravel Walk including the Cul de sac be inspected. Response received on the 21/9/26 advising that works had been undertaken; however, only one pothole has been repaired.

2.1.100 **Overhanging trees A509 (old layby)** - The clerk reported the overhanging trees from the old layby on the A509 to the bridge to MKCC under reference MKCC875208106. **Post meeting note:** Response received from MKCC as follows: We have reviewed your enquiry and will not be undertaking any action at this time. I have undertaken an inspection of the trees at the area and I could find no issue, the trees all meet with the contract specification.

3.6.15 **Rat running and restricted access** – Noted that Sentinel had now been repaired and Emberton remained on the rota whereby parishes would have the use of it for one month.

3.6.30 **Allotments – Transfer** – Awaiting to hear from Brent Hill.

Plot – Vacant plot advertised in the Well & Towers. A discussion took place regarding the cost of water usage versus allotment revenue and it was agreed to look at this next September.

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)** – Repair to the pothole surrounding the drain cover has taken place. Noted that during heavy rainfall, surface water remained. The clerk reported this to MKCC on the 15th September under reference FS8740590. The clerk requested an update from highways to ascertain whether there was any further information following the jetting.
- 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. Quotation received from Street Name Plate stating that if the sign was to be mounted on the railings, then it would be best for it to be channelled and supplied with fixings for the railings. £84.50 plus £15 carriage, lead time approx. 4-5 weeks. Agreed that the clerk would contact MKCC to ask Ringways to quote. **Action: KG**
- 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 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.
- 3.6.132 **Trees overhanging footpath (Olney Road)** – The clerk reported trees overhanging the footpath opposite properties 47 and 57 Olney Road to MKCC under references MKCC875680941 and MKCC875679813 on the 21st September. MKCC advised on the 1st October that they would be arranging works with their contractor based on what they have found on site.

3. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

- 3.85 **Emberton School (School House Fund)** – Cllr Walker advised that Noel Sibbald had forwarded an advert for the Well & Towers and had stated that he would make JW aware of any interest but was not able to disclose whether the trusts had awarded any grants. Cllr Laval stated that she would contact Noel Sibbald with regard to the vacant position of trustee. **Action: AL**
- 3.97 **Sports & Recreation Committee** – Reported on previously.
- 3.103 **Proposed Traffic Order 0449 for High Street, Olney Road, and Gravel Walk** – An email was received on the 1st October from MKCC’s parking officer as follows: I can now confirm that we have established that the Traffic Regulation Order can be progressed and arrangements can be made for the approved restrictions to be implemented. Apologies for the delay in being able to provide you with a response, and thank you for your patience while we clarified the position.

- 3.113 **Climate change** – Cllr Duncan reported that Alban Hill Nurseries had both white and pink flowering cherries which were around £86. The clerk stated that there was £200 allocated in the budget. Cllr Jamieson offered to source the tree, remove the old one and plant the new. **Action: CJ.** The clerk to speak to Alban Hill regarding payment. **Action: KG**
- 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 reported that she had hand delivered letters to landowners in Petsoe End, including the EUC trustees and the owner of Hollington Wood, regarding flood alleviation schemes such as leaky dams and asking if they would be willing along with other community members to meet with representatives from the Local Lead Flood Authority to discuss such measures, for which grants would potentially be available.
- Flood plan** – Cllr Laval stated that this was on her “to do” list. **Action: AL**
- 3.131 **New Towns Taskforce** – Nothing to report.
- 3.132 **River Ouse – water quality** – Nothing to report.
- 3.133 **20mph speed limit in Emberton** – The clerk to take this to the North East Rural Community Forum. **Action: KG**
- 4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**
- 4.2 **Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Agreed to address this with Ward Cllr Tyler. **Action: KG**
- 4.352 **Acorn Nurseries** – Agreed to ask Jo Payne to see if she was able to provide an update. **Action: KG**
- 4.394 **SDC community orchard at Prospect Place** – Email received from Adam Knaggs who advised that he would look into this. Cllr Duncan stated that a permanent dedicated right of way would be the appropriate request.
- 4.426 **PLN/2026/1591** – The proposed erection of a residential annexe at The Paddock, 36 Gravel Walk - **pending**
- 5. ACCOUNTS**
- 5.1 **To receive EPC’s RFO’s Report for the 5th October 2026** and approve payments. It was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Walker that the payments for EPC be approved. Cllr White to approve the payments online. **Action: HW.** The clerk reported that a letter had been received from MKCC regarding the Crisis Resilience Fund which had been accessed in previous years in the form of a grant awarded to All Saints’ Church to provide a warm hub for residents. It was agreed to apply to the fund and find out more details on the voucher system referred to in the letter. **Action: KG**

To receive EPC Sports & Recreation Committee RFO's Report for the 5th October 2026 and approve payments to include a late payment to ESSC of £40 for disposal of rubbish following the fete. 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.**

- 5.2 **Clerk's salary review** – It was agreed to look at this next month when discussing the budget and amend the Standing Orders accordingly. **Action: KG**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 **Email from resident** – Urgent road safety and speed limit review request – Newton Road/A509 Emberton. An email from a resident was sent to MKCC Highways, with a copy to the parish council regarding safety on the Newton Road, in particular for horse riders. The request from the resident was for a speed reduction to 30mph from a national speed limit. It was agreed to write to MKCC Highways in support of the request. **Action: KG**

7. PARISH RELATED MATTERS

- 7.1 **Village publicity** – Pot holes and damage to vehicles, clearing path of leaves, tip closure, tree maintenance, cherry tree, Newton Road speed limit, 20mph speed limit
- 7.2 **Cllrs' concerns** – There were no councillors' concerns.
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The date of the next meeting was confirmed as the parish council meeting on Monday 2nd November 2026 at 7pm to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm