

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in

Campton Village Hall on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

Present: Cllr C. Ash- in the chair. Cllr D .Baker Cllr and Cllr Longson, Cllr Westgarth, Dr Willis and Central Bedfordshire Councillor Cllr Tony Brown.

1/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Councillor Baker acted as Chairman during this part of the meeting due to Councillor Ash declaring an interest.

A number of residents attended the meeting to discuss planning application CB/16/05293/FULL, upgrade of telecommunication tower which includes a 5m increase in height. A petition had been circulated around the village and three Councillors had signed the petition, the Councillors took advice as to the legal position from the Clerk prior to the meeting commencing. Two of the Councillors disclosed an interest, had signed the petition and felt that they were unable to proceed with an open mind and therefore would not vote. The remaining Councillor who had signed the petition felt that he was declaring a disposition, did not have a personal interest so could remain impartial and be included within the vote. With three Councillors able to vote the Parish Council was quorate and able to proceed.

The main concerns raised by the residents were:

- Permission from the land owner had not been sought prior to the planning application being submitted.
- The proposed 5m increase in height of the tower would have a visual impact on the community. The extended mast would dominate the skyline on the “rural” Priory Rd approach to Campton village and would negatively impact the visual amenity of local residents.
- The residents were critical of the process with which the planning application has been submitted and the lack of clarity on the two documents. Questions were raised in reference to natural justice and the withholding of information from the community.
- A resident questioned how on the original application it could be called to committee, however this was not the case on the subsequent application, Cllr Tony Brown explained the process and will investigate this further, and the residents were in favour of it being called to committee.
- A petition signed by 157 residents was presented to Cllr Tony Brown who will deliver it to the planning department on behalf of the residents.
- The original application did not appear in the local newspaper, however the amended copy did.
- The Council have a duty of care to the residents and the health implications of the tower, specifically with regards to the close proximity of the school.
- It was questioned if this was land being considered for the ‘call for site’; Cllr Brown confirmed it is not.
- The mast is within 3km of Brinkley Aircraft, Meppershall Airfield, Campton Rd. The Civil Aviation Authority should have been notified and the application does not stipulate this.

- Residents did also comment on the need for increased coverage, people do struggle to get a signal and this needs to be taken into account for smart meters. Giving the growing importance of mobile communications for both business and leisure activities this is an important consideration.

The three Parish Councillors had differing views, one was in favour of the extension to the tower for the benefit of the community, one was against having the tower and one could see the benefits of both arguments. It was suggested that rather than object to the application the Council put forward the views and concerns of both the residents and Councillors. This led to further debate and discussions. A second vote was called for and one Councillor remained in favour whilst two voted against. The Parish Council will submit the concerns and views of the residents and object to this planning application on the grounds of its height, impact on the visual amenity of the village and the safety aspects with regards to its close proximity to the school, housing, factories and MOD. The Clerk will circulate the objection for the Councillors to read prior to it being submitted before 11th January 2017.

2/17 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2017 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

3/17 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

Cllr Ash and Dr Willis signed the petition and therefore declared an interest and would not partake in the planning discussions or vote. Cllr Longson declared a dispensation; he had signed the petition but could remain impartial and therefore be involved in the discussions and voting.

4/17 REPORT BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR:

Cllr Tony Brown attended the meeting and was able to give the following updates:

- The next Town and Planning conference focuses on Emergency planning, it takes place on 22nd February and 2 Councillors may attend.
- The draft budget will be available on the website and will be up for consultation until 30th January 2017. £189 million is required to cover all services, which includes £73.5 million for adult services and 36 million for children services.
- 1.75% increase for Council Tax for Central Bedfordshire and the additional compulsory adult care of 3%.
- CBC has made £104 in efficiency savings since 2009 and this should increase by a further £14 million in the coming year.
- The Local plan has been put on hold until the government white paper on housing is issued. The open days will still take place and advice will be given on how to write the plan. Cllr Brown will research how previous meetings have taken place and update the Council further at our February meeting.
- Cllr Brown thanked the residents for their work on the petition.
- Talks are still taking place over the Cambridge-Oxford link.

5/17 INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR UPDATES:

Campton United Charities: No further updates.

Football club:

A meeting with the football club took place in December and 7 games have been played so far this season. They have been encouraging parking on one side of the road and they will continue to do this. There has been no further progress with regards to securing the goalposts. Finally moles have been causing a problem and the Parish Council agreed to contribute to the costs of rectifying this situation, Clerk will list it as an item on the next Agenda.

Speed watch:

A resident has shown interest in joining the speed watch team; Councillor Baker will ask him to contact the Clerk.

Waste bins:

The Clerk has now arranged for the waste bin on the Recreation ground to be emptied weekly by CBC. Cllr Ash has contacted CBC with regards to a new waste bin being fitted by the bus stop in Priory Rd.

Lorries:

Cllr Ash has been in contact with Hanlon concerning the time and speed of Lorries passing through the village. The Director has spoken to the drivers and they are restricted to 25mph, if anyone witnesses a driver travelling faster we were advised to report this along with the number plate to Hanlon. If an alternative access was available in future years the company would be happy to use it. Concerns were raised over the speed of Lorries delivering to the site; Cllr Ash will speak to Hanlon to see if the same 25mph restriction can be put in place.

Welcome Card:

Dr Willis presented the new card with a drawing of the church on the front, the Priory on reverse and the relevant information printed inside. Dr Willis has agreed to print 50 at her own expense to keep the village going whilst the Parish Council looks into printing costs. Cllr Ash thanked Dr Willis for this.

6/17 BUDGET AND PRECEPT:

The budget for the next financial year was agreed in a meeting held on 19th December 2016. The precept will increase by 7%, all five Councillors agreed. The Clerk will submit the relevant documents to CBC.

7/17 STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENT:

The Financial regulations and risk assessment were agreed by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman to be held on file. Councillors looked through the Standing orders, however more time was required to thoroughly read them and they will be agreed at the next meeting.

8/17 STORAGE OF DOCUMENTS:

The Clerk ordered the fire and water proof boxes which have now been delivered to Cllr Baker and some of the documents have now been moved to the Village Hall. A date will be organised when Councillors can get together to sort through the documents. Cllr Baker will chase up the previous Clerk again to try and obtain more documents.

9/17 PLANNING;

Planning was discussed under Public Participation; the Clerk will submit the objection on behalf of the Parish Council.

10/17 FINANCE:

Outgoing payments:

£64 Newsletter

£1205.16 Grangers

£460.72 Staff salary

Bank Balances:

Community account: £48,748.97

Business account £22,923.72

The Clerk has received a draft report from the Auditor; she will read it and respond, the report will be available by next meeting. The Clerk will also forward Cllr Longson's financial document for the Auditor to look at.

11/17 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Invitation to be entered into the ballot for afternoon tea with the Queen, The Parish Council decided not to enter.

12/17 AOB:

Clerk will contact Cllr Brown to notify him that we would like to discuss speed through the village at the next meeting.

13/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2017