

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in

Campton Village Hall on Wednesday 4th October 2017.

Present: Cllr Ash in the Chair, Cllr Baker, Dr Willis, Cllr Longson, Cllr Martin, Cllr Booton, Central Bedfordshire Cllr Tony Brown and Mark Liddiard.

107/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident reported that there has been some recent flooding within the villages and the drains outside the village hall are blocked. Cllr Brown indicated that CBC is running an 18 month programme to unblock all drains in Central Bedfordshire but on looking at the photographic evidence agreed that this was a matter of urgency. **Resolved:** Cllr Brown will arrange for the drains to be unblocked, the photograph was emailed to him.

Concerns were raised over the A507/A600 roundabout, appropriate signage and road markings are required to prevent accidents at the roundabout. Cllr Brown advised the Clerk to email Paul Salmon at CBC. The branches surrounding the junction are also very overgrown, Cllr Brown advised the Clerk to report this to the transport officer as it is outside the 30 mph zone.

On the entrance to Greenway, the lights on the Island are still not working. **Resolved:** Cllr Brown will follow this up.

A new system of reporting faults on-line has started, residents can now report lighting, road issues etc direct to CBC, The Clerk will advertise this in the newsletter and on the web page.

At the junction on the A507 turning to Campton, bollards are not lit. **Resolved:** The Clerk will report these.

A pedestrian crossing was suggested at East Lodge going into Shefford. Cllr Brown will look into this however Cllr Liddiard suggested that the Chairman may wish to attend a full Council meeting to discuss this further. Cllr Liddiard will forward the meeting details to the Chairman. Cllr Brown suggested it was perhaps something to look at along with Shefford Town Council for Rural Match funding. It was also suggested that a survey of residents in terms of accessing the school and facilities may be beneficial.

A resident reported a number of fires taking place at the Manor; it has been reported to CBC. The Parish Council felt they needed to leave it with CBC to resolve. He also reported a situation on Gravenhurst Rd, cars are parking on the verge and there is minimal room for trucks to get through, they then have to mount the curb. As the weather deteriorates these verges are going to get very muddy and spoil the look of the village. **Resolved:** The Clerk will report this in the newsletter.

A resident suggested that the PC consider writing to Bishop Smith concerning the withdrawal of the Glebe from the Call for sites. Councillors agreed to discuss this at an alternative date. She also suggested that the PC consider applying for Tree Preservation Orders for the Oak trees on the Glebe.

This will be a discussion that will form part of the Consultation of forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan. Residents can apply for the TPOs individually. **Resolved:** Cllr Ash will look into this.

108/17 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2017 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

109/17 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

110/17 REPORT BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR:

Cllr Liddiard reported that CBC now have a 5 year School Organisation Plan, the pressure is on for Campton and Shefford Primary school places and Robert Bloomfield is also in demand. Ward Councillors are monitoring admissions and places available and looking at ways to recruit teachers.

There has been a significant increase in the use of libraries and the libraries in Bedfordshire have now been categorised in terms of size. Shefford is an area library and the new opening times are now available.

The Gully cleaning programme is still ongoing and will run for 18 months.

The Jet patcher has completed over 5000 holes across central Bedfordshire, residents are urged to log their enquires with regards to pot holes, lighting etc on-line.

The Bedfordshire Commissioning group have a consultation running until 15th October and would like to seek the views of residents in terms of GP care and the hours of care currently provided.

CBC has been refreshing the Empty homes strategy and this will be again referred to the Executive this month. The penalty for having a house empty for six months is Council tax payable at 150%

Cllr Brown updated the PC with a report on the Consultation White paper. The Clerk will email the report to all Councillors and a copy is attached at the back of the Minutes.

The Parish Council are in full support of this and will take action to make people aware of it. They will encourage residents to look at the impact on the infrastructure. Cllr Brown will email the motion put forward by James Jamieson, the Cllrs will then format a response on behalf of the PC.

111/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

The priority for the Neighbourhood Plan is to establish a steering group and the relevant working parties. The PC will need to seek the support of the Community to make this happen. It was agreed that drop in sessions would be run for residents to find out more. The Councillors will need to agree the format of the drop-in and what they aim to achieve? There will be problems reaching and engaging all residents and therefore it was agreed that an on-line questionnaire would be used as well as having paper copies and a drop-in. The Bristol on-line survey costs £175 and provides a year service, as many questionnaires as is required and analysis of those used.

A resident is in the process of connecting a Face book page for Chicksands and Campton so will advertise on there.

Six people will be required to head up the working parties and a steering group will be overseen by the Councillors. All volunteers will need to be briefed either by Councillors or a paid consultant.

A meeting has been arranged with Siobhan Vincent for 18th October 2017.

Possible dates for the drop in:

Saturday 11th November 2017 11.30-1.30

Wednesday 15th November 2017 6.30-8.30

Dr Willis will confirm these dates.

112 RECREATION GROUND:

The mower chairs and rubbish on the ground has been removed. The moles have been removed; the company may need to be instructed to remove more.

The paint to the play area has now been completed, as an interim measure till spring. The concord net still needs re-tensioning. The clerk has a quote of £514 for the re-tensioning and has approached CPM playgrounds for a quote; this will be delayed until the October inspection takes place.

113/17 INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR UPDATES:

Defibrillator:

Dr Willis and the Clerk have submitted the Lottery funding application.

Campton United Charities:

Registering of the Charity has been submitted.

Additional Parking:

The estimated costs for the possible car parking area is in the region of £18,500 plus the cost of purchasing the land and planning costs. It was suggested that alternative quotes be obtained including matting. **Resolved:** Cllr Longson will look into this further.

Street Lights:

Cllr Martin having looked at the electricity bills estimates that it will take approximately 4-5 years to gain back the expenditure on lighting rather than the original 18years on average. The Steel columns are okay but some columns may need alterations or may not be suitable. Cllr Martin will meet with Andy Muskett to discuss this further.

Loop-system

Cllr Longson has been investigating the loop-system, a replacement will vary from £1600-£2200. The Sound wave Boundary microphone system is approx £2100 plus £300 per extra microphone.

The cost for an inspector to look at the existing system is £250+vat and £330+vat to replace the amplifier.

It was agreed that a stereo should be purchase for people to play music on and then the loop system will be entirely to help those hard of hearing. Cllr Longson will look into the loop-systems in greater depth and try to obtain some recommendations. He will also speak to Mike Tyler.

Document Review:

The previous Clerk's family have been in touch and there are a considerable number of documents that need returning to the Parish Council, Cllr Baker will arrange this.

The Glebe:

Cllr Ash has spoken to tenants on the Glebe and they do now have their agreement reviewed yearly and they will not be compensated for the loss of any barns. Cllr Ash will initiate emails to discuss Bishop Smith.

Charles Ash ref - minute 12/17

Burial Ground:

The Burial Board are looking to increase the precept next financial year; the payment will amount to an increase of £54. In an attempt to avoid future damage and vandalism they intend to permanently fix the benches in the graveyard. The Clerk has spoken to the Police on several occasions and there have been increased Police patrols around the recreation Ground and the underpass.

The Clerk will chase up the reported works to the trees on the underpass that needs to be carried out and update the residents on this via the newsletter.

Appraisal:

The Clerk's appraisal has been carried out by Cllr Baker and Dr Willis and this has highlighted a lack of the following policies:

Equality and Diversity

Equal Opportunities

Complaints procedure

Dr Willis will look at the documents and will have drafts available for next meeting to be discussed or agreed.

COUNCILLOR ASH HAD TO LEAVE THE MEETING SO CLLR BAKER TOOK OVER AS CHAIRMAN.

114/17 FUTURE PROJECTS:

Street lighting and parking have already been discussed. Cllr Baker is looking into road safety. He produced a document on pedestrian safety approximately 18 months ago which he has adapted and will re-circulate to all Councillors, giving five options and the costings. Cllr Baker will also be looking at speed limits for the Rural match funding.

115/17 PLANNING:

PLANNING APPLICATION CB/17/03832. The Parish Council considered the application and feel there is no need to object.

A resident stated that airplanes are flying over Campton and how this relates to the planning application at the airfield some months ago? **Resolved:** The Clerk will contact the planning officer and inform them that aircraft are passing over the village.

116/17 FINANCE:

Outgoing for October:

Benefice £64

Grangers £55.38 £419.58

Salary £465.34

C&R Pest Management £90

CPM Playgrounds £144

Andy Muskett £198.72

Good Neighbour scheme £325.00

Clerk expenses £360.78

Bank account balances:

Community account £52,089.33

Business Account £22,923.72

117/17 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Girl guiding flyer

118/17 AOB:

The Clerk requested a change of meeting date in December; this will now be Monday 11th December 2017.

Cllr Longson, Cllr Baker and the Clerk will look at the finance sheet and produce a new document,

Action plan from the Clerk's appraisal was to be discussed by the Councillors after the meeting.

119/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st November 2017.

Charles B
3.1.18. ANS