

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in

Campton Village Hall on Wednesday 5th December 2018.

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

128/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

129/18 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2018 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

130/18 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None

131/18 REPORT BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR:

- The Draft Budget will be available in January 2019.
- Rural Match Funding has changed, the requirements are now that each council highlights two major highways issues and CBC will then prioritise the most urgent and process it. It is the problem that is required not the anticipated cure. There is no need to pay an initial payment this year.
- Parking strategy will be available in January, this includes parking on verges.
- Covanta have received the final approvals from the Environmental agency which will allow them to commence construction of the planned incinerator at the Rockery South pit.
- The target for new homes in CBC for this year is 1600 as per the Local Plan. So far CBC have registered that 976 have been completed in the first six months, with a further 1422 under construction.
- At the Executive meeting on 4th December it was agreed that changes to the current 50% premium empty homes charge would be increased to 100% from April 2019 for homes that were over two years empty. It was also agreed that additional charges would be implemented at 200% in 2020 for homes empty between 5 and 10 years, and 300% in 2021 for empty homes of 10 years or more.
- CBC Council Tax Collection rate for 2017/18 was 97.95% amounting to £179.3 million, the average figure for all Unitary Authorities was 96.9%.
- Town and Parish Conference dates: 21st May 2019 and 14th November 2019.
- Consultations for the 2/3 tier education system are on-going.
- No further discussions or plans to replace the portacabins at Campton Lower School.
- The dangers on the A507 as highlighted by the PC are being addressed by CBC. Speed cameras have been assessing vehicles, Police have been out educating drivers, new signs have been installed. CBC have decided to go for a deterrent rather than make structural changes to the road.

132/18 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Dr Willis raised the question of Volunteers within the village and whether training and equipment will be available to them. The Clerk has set up a meeting with a Countryside officer on 7th December at CBC to discuss what is available, Dr Willis will also attend the meeting.

A new banner will display the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and what steps have yet to be reached.

Joh Balaam from the Greensand Trust has met with members of the Environment group and Dr Willis to discuss the Green spaces within Campton. John has identified a number of sites and is seeking views of further locations. One of the criteria is size and unfortunately the whole of the Glebe cannot be included as Green space, the part adjacent to the A507 does not meet the criteria. John will meet with an Ecologist to carry out surveys of the areas prior to confirming them.

The Recreation ground and play area has been included as Green space, however it was recommended to not include the Pavilion or surrounding area as this will prevent further development of the pavilion in future years.

A Consultation is planned for February, where all residents will be able to view the draft policies along with the Village design statement. This will be to ensure all residents are happy and nothing has been missed. A meeting will be arranged with Cllrs in January to view the policies prior to the Consultation. All residents who own the land which is to be designated a green space will be contacted, however permission does not need to be obtained.

133/18 GRASS CUTTING:

David Granger hasn't been able to locate a copy of a contract, he has the initial letter but that is all. It was agreed that the Clerk will obtain quotes from other contractors for 10-12 cuts per season and flexibility for further cuts as required.

134/18 RURAL MATCH FUNDING:

Discussed under 131/18, it will be on the Agenda for January to discuss further.

135/18 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

The Village hall committee will be required to present at this meeting, date agreed for 3/4/19.

It was agreed that the PC would act as guarantor for the village hall, to cover the £1500 rent to the Diocese if the income had not been obtained. It will be included as earmarked funds rather than an item on the budget.

136/18 LIGHTING:

The Cllrs looked at the Neighbourhood Plan responses to lighting within the village. Residents are keen to have both LED and period style lanterns. The Clerk will contact CBC to see if they are planning to replace any lighting within the village prior to the Cllrs reaching a decision.

137/18 PLAY AREA INSPECTION:

A number of items were raised in the Annual playground inspection:

- Signs play equipment and seating/tables are covered in moss and algae and require cleaning, low risk and a task for the spring.
- Multiplay has rust, which is not extensive but needs removing. The equipment also requires painting, CPM playground would charge approximately £900 or they are happy to supply the paint for a volunteer to do it, Cllr Booton will take on the task.
- The shelter requires 12 bungs, CPM will quote for this.
- A number of items do not meet the current regulations; however, these regulations have changed since the equipment has been fitted and when fitted the equipment did comply and therefore does not need replacing.
- The net climber was reported as loose but low risk. CPM cannot gain access to the fittings as they are underground and therefore it cannot be tightened.
- The bridge requires tightening and some links need replacing, CPM will quote.
- Gates do not spring open and are catching on the grass, classified as low risk, approximately £3000 to replace the two gates.
- One area of the metal fence requires tightening.
- There are openings within the safety mat tiles, CPM will quote to have them re-grouted, however with changes in the weather it will probably be required annually, low risk.
- Picnic bench needs fixing, CPM will quote.
- Surrounding surfaces beneath the benches require reinstating.
- General graffiti which needs removing.

The Pc will discuss this further once the quote has been received.

138/18 INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR UPDATES:

FOOTBALL CLUB:

A meeting took place between the football club, Cllr Baker and Dr Willis, there were no major issues or concerns. Dr Willis is investigating funding for the Pavilion.

Regarding potential Sunday league football, the football club were not averse to the idea and were willing to share the Pavilion and goals. Certain issues with regards to wear and tear, duties and responsibilities, disputes, and financial implications will need to be discussed and a three-way agreement formed. The PC will also need to consider resident's views on this, parking issues, language and availability of the Recreation ground to residents. In first instance the PC will now contact The White Hart and discuss all of these issues and ascertain what league the team will be and whether they still wish to go ahead? Once this is established residents will be consulted.

TREES:

There is a tree by the underpass which requires attention, the Clerk will arrange for Grangers to deal with it. There is also a tree on the recreation ground which is leaning and requires cutting back, Cllr Baker will speak to the resident who lives in close proximity and then Grangers can be instructed to carry out the work.

POLICE:

Dr Willis recently called the Police to attend a report of youths attempting to cause damage on the recreation ground. No damage was actually caused.

SPEED WATCH EQUIPMENT:

Meppershall have purchased new equipment so CACS now have full use of the equipment.

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

The board will be made up of 4 Councillors from Shefford and 2 from CACS. Cllr Booton and Cllr Longson will stand, this was proposed by Cllr Cash and supported by Cllr Baker. All agreed. The following were also agreed:

- The percentage paid will be determined by the Precept Band D figure.
- The Shefford Clerk and CACS Clerk will jointly manage the JBB until further notice.
- It was agreed that the JBB purchase the Rialtos computer system.
- Both Clerks will attend raining.
- Change of fees as to the JBB minutes.
- Both Clerks will be paid the same rate of pay.

REMEMBRANCE:

Cllr Booton thanked all those involved with the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.

139/18 PLANNING:

CB/18/04389/FULL- The Manor. Extension to be sought from CBC.

CB/18/03959/FULL- Highlands Farm. The PC were concerned by the number of additional employees and associated traffic.

140/18 FINANCE:

Outgoing October:

Benefice £64

Grangers £768

Greensand £2136.00

Clerk Salary £488.63

Community account £57,159.95

Business Account £22,962.05

141/18 BUDGET:

The Budget for the following financial year was discussed and agreed. Some of the reserves are to be earmarked to cover the guarantor for the village hall as well as additional funds for the JBB, if required. In order to cover outgoing payments for next year there will be a 2.5% precept increase.

142/18 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- War Memorials Trust Catalogue.
- Becoming a Cllr flyer.

143/18 AOB:

- A new Cllr from Chicksands will be Co-opted in at the next meeting.

144/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next meeting will take place on Wednesday 2nd January 2019.

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