

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in

Campton Village Hall on Wednesday 4th March 2020.

Present: Cllr Ash in the Chair, Cllr Baker, Cllr Longson, Cllr Booton, Cllr Fradd, Cllr Martin and Central Bedfordshire Cllr Tony Brown.

Apologies: Central Bedfordshire Cllr Mark Liddiard, Cllr Martin

41/20 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2020 and 28th February 2020 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

Two letters were received in response to letters sent out by the Clerk. Hanlon and Co responded explaining the movements of vehicles through the village and also commented on the difficulty of manoeuvring around parked cars causing more noise along with the road condition. Clerk will respond to letter thanking them for the considered reply. The other letter commented on the waste by Topps Farm, Cllr Ash will obtain some more information regarding this.

Cllr Ash will contact Joanne Ambrose regarding an appointment to assess suitable areas for the planting of trees.

Following on from the meeting on 28th February the clerk was able to confirm that Cllr Baker and Cllr booton both do have a personal interest in the Neighbourhood Plan but it is not a pecuniary interest and therefore they re eligible to vote. Taking this in to account the vote for the draft Neighbourhood Plan stands at 4 in favour, 1 abstain and therefore the plan can progress to the next stage.

42/20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

43/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

44/20 PHIL ARMSTRONG, CHAIR OF GOVENORS AT THE LOWER SCHOOL TO DISCUSS THE SCHOOL APPLICATION TO JOIN BEST:

The Chair of Governors gave an update on the School, which is a good school, obtaining good results but is dealing with a number of issues. There has been a declining number of pupils on roll for the last few years, for the last two years the reception class has been full when places are allocated in April but by September the numbers have significantly dropped due to parents from the Base being posted elsewhere, currently the school is 16 pupils down and is therefore short of £50,000 in income. There are some SEN pupils who require additional funding, however there is a delay of 6-12 months in receiving this funding and therefore the school has to make the initial payments. The Head teacher resigned, and the governors have tried to recruit new Head, however CBC will not allow this when the School is running at such a deficit. CBC recommended that they merge with

Shefford Lower School and share the Head Teacher and administration of the School, the other option was to apply to be part of the BEST, the Local Trust. The Governors have decided to submit an application to BEST and therefore they are currently consulting with residents and the PC. There is to be an open session at the School on 17th March 2020 5.30-7pm to provide further information. The School is urgently in need of repair and asked the PC to consider if they could make a donation? Clerk will look into this.

45/20 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

A report was provided by the Councillors.

- Local Plan is progressing, With an anticipated decision later this year. Luton Council have instigated a review into the legality of CBC making the decision to go ahead with the M1-A6 link road. This will take a further 6 weeks before it is decided by a Judge whether it is acceptable.
- Due to the planned increase in housing growth in Central Bedfordshire by 2023, 4 additional Councillors will be required, this is based on the 3,600 voting residents per Councillor. After attending 3 meetings to discuss this Cllr Brown was unable to convince CBC that Campton and Chicksands should stay in the Shefford Ward. The Boundary Commission will make the final decision. It was discussed that CACS will possibly fall into a Ward with Southill and Haynes?
- The planned resurfacing of Greenway is still in the programme for the next financial year, patching has now been completed.
- The Develop has not progressed any further with a proposal, they have been advised to hold a public presentation as part of the public consultation exercise.
- Francesca in Shefford has more details of the Town Ranger Plan.
- Cllr Booton raised concerns over the safety of the A507, in light of a number of recent accidents. Chairman will write to Paul Salmon at CBC.

46/20 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the last meeting, Clerk clarified the situation via email and 41/20. The Comments from CBC have been received, the Steering group will meet next week and plan the next stage. Landowners were given the opportunity to comment on LGS and they will have an opportunity again during the Consultation period.

47/20 P3 SCHEME:

The P3 meeting took place on 8th February 2020 in the Village Hall and was a great success. A number of residents have expressed an interest in being involved. Clerk will lead the group for the time being with a view to handing it over to one of the members of the group. A follow meeting will be arranged with Steve Halton, senior countryside officer and Christopher Dorow, rights of way officer from CBC and the interested residents in order to plan some projects within the area. The proposed date of the follow up meeting is 30th March 2020 at 7pm.

48/20 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS:

A number of projects were discussed again, those that will be investigated further included:

- A sign for Chicksands, Cllr Fradd will discuss this with Preim and see if they will part fund it?
- A play area for Chicksands, this will need to go to public consultation. Allocate £2000 for feasibility and consultation.
- Traffic calming through the village
- Parking outside the village hall, approximately £16,000, this will need to be followed up with Aragon Housing.

Agreed allocation of funds for projects:

1. Greenspaces and wild flower areas/ picnic area £1K
2. Village gateway signs £15K
3. Seating/ benches at attractive areas £5K
4. Upgrade to Pavilion grant £3K
5. Children's play area £2K
6. Street lighting £5K
7. Heritage appreciation £3K
8. Parking spaces £16K

49/20 INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR UPDATES:

At the football meeting possible grants available for refurbishing the pavilion were discussed. Cllr Martin will follow this up. The Pavilion flat roof felt has come off.

The Annual meeting with Preim is due to take place at the end of March, Cllr Fradd will attend.

The fence and tree work on the Recreation ground has now been completed.

The bank of the brook has partly collapsed after the recent rain fall, it is quite wet and slippery, fencing has been put around it.

50/20 RISK ASSESSMENT:

The Risk assessment has been reviewed by all Councillors and agreed.

51/20 PLANNING:

None.

52/20 FINANCES:

Outgoing March

Benefice £64

Village hall (NP) £110

Grangers £1831.32

Play Inspection Co £60

A Muskett £100.80

Community account £51,805.40

Business Account £23,019.36

All Cllrs agreed to the Clerk setting up internet banking.

53/20 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Bus timetables for the Local bus route 200 run by Grant Palmer have been updated, Clerk will put new times on the notice board.

Course programme from BATPC

Clerk will look at how many grass cuts the Parish Had last year.

54/20 AOB:

55/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st April 2020.

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