

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held via Zoom on Wednesday 7th October 2020.

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

Apologies Cllr Fradd.

118/20 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2020 were signed as a true record of the meeting and it was agreed that the Zoom recording could be deleted.

119/20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

120/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident requested an update on the rubbish at Top Farm, Cllr Ash confirmed that the PC had contacted the landowner.

121/20 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- There have been 2585 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Central Bedfordshire with an increase of 56 last week, a rise of 5 on previous weeks. Low compared to Bedford and Luton. There has been an 89% attendance at school which is above the national average of 75% attendance.
- The post and rail separating the cycle path and path on the underpass into Shefford has been temporarily removed due to Covid-19, Cllr Liddiard is concerned for pedestrian safety and will follow this up.
- CBC is advertising from Community Champions to relay information from the Council to others e.g. Via social media, volunteers have come forward from Campton and Shefford.
- CALA Homes have removed their interest in the land on Greenway, CBC are not expecting any planning applications for this land in the short term. The landowner has indicated there is a possible problem with the site.
- Cllr Booton asked both Ward Cllrs to comment on the White paper on planning and whether they could confirm a substantial increase in homes? Using the formula set CBC appear to be at the top end of the proposal with 55,000 homes. Ward Cllrs confirmed this is correct. There are 3 documents, which appear to contradict one another. The Chairman, CBC is contacting LGA to query a number of points and requesting that some points be considered again.
- Cllr Booton and a resident requested information from the Ward Cllrs on commenting on planning applications, it appears that residents are submitting their views, but this is not indicated on the portal. The planning officer confirmed that it could take up to 14 days to appear. Ward Cllrs will look into this and will raise the point at their next meeting with planning.

- A new CBC Chief Executive, Mr Marcel Coiffact, has been appointed, he has previous knowledge of the running of the council and will be in position by the end of the year.
- Luton Borough Council have agreed in writing the number of houses as 7,500 re: the emerging Local Plan, this will be reviewed by officers. This could now be changed due to the White Paper.
- There have now been over 33,000 orders for new green bins, they are currently being delivered.

A resident raised concerns over the new road surface in Greenway, Highways removed the major structural defects then laid the top surface, which includes a gravel top. This is normal procedure for a smaller road. Cllr Brown will discuss with Highways if this is an appropriate surface? There is cracking in the centre of the road already.

122/20 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

The planned dates for Regulation 14 consultation are 24th September -18th November, this has now commenced. The pamphlet summarising the plan is very clear and explains thing well, the Steering group were thanked for this. There was early notification and re-engagement for landowners of proposed designation of LGS areas, they were initially notified of proposals in November 2019. All draft documents are available on the website. The consultation is open to all residents, stake holders, businesses and organisations and other landowners.

Cllr Baker and Cllr Booton explained that proposed Local Green Spaces have been identified and any sites going forward after this consultation would not mean any change of ownership or access rights. The plan would be reviewed at the end of consultation by the Steering group and changes will be made dependent on the recommendations and views of residents and all stakeholders. The amended plan will undergo further consultation after submission to CBC and then Government inspectors. The plan is eventually made via a community Referendum. It will become a legal document that will sit under the Local Plan.

A resident was concerned over the proposed designation of Greenspace within Chicksands Private, he quoted the 1906 Open Spaces Act which stipulates change of ownership and required further information regarding how this reflects on the greenspaces within the plan? Annington Housing have also objected to this proposed designated space. The Cllrs were able to explain that there is not a requirement for change of ownership and in identifying the proposed Local Green Spaces the PC will not take ownership or be responsible for the maintenance of such areas. The resident will submit his views regarding the Plan. The Steering group are following the National and Local Government guidelines very carefully. The Chicksands Private residents expressed concern that the greenspace is an area they are particularly proud of and enjoy as a community and they as a community would rather protect their greenspace than have it identified within the plan.

123/20 RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER:

A draft response to the Government White paper has been prepared by Cllr Booton and sent out to all Cllrs. The response expresses the concerns of the Cllrs for the recommended housing, lack of Brownfield space will mean that CBC will need to develop on green spaces. All Cllrs will submit their views to Cllr Booton to be included and submitted prior to 15th October 2020.

124/20 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT NOTICES.

The planning enforcement team have been contacted regarding the Windows at The White Hart, there has been a delay in enforcement, but it will be followed up.

There was a request for an enforcement case be opened for Top Farm, this has been instigated, they have requested additional information, which Cllr Ash will provide ~~it~~.

125/20 RECREATION GROUND AND PLAY AREAS:

Weekly inspections have been submitted to Clerk. There are a number of tiles raised on the play area and have been identified in the inspections. The Council have three options:

1. Do nothing but the area around the roundabout will need to be closed due to safety concerns.
2. Fill in the cracks and lift some matting, will last approximately 2-3 years. Plus, new area around the roundabout. Costs will be £1200 plus £3000 approximately.
3. Total new surface guaranteed for 20 years at a cost of £13000.

All Cllrs agreed for option 3, Cllr Booton will contact those that have provided quotes to ensure they have all quoted for the same work.

Clerk will arrange the Annual inspection.

The spring mechanism on the gate is not functioning and the gate therefore does not close properly. Cllr Booton will obtain quotes for repair.

There are two waste pipes with no covers, Cllr Martin will contact the football club.

126/20 STREET LIGHTING:

CBC have received interest from lots of Parish and Town Councils regarding the adoption of street lighting. They are now processing all applications and in due course will be assessing the condition of the lighting identified. Further updates will follow.

127/20 JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

The Minutes of the last JBB meeting have been emailed to all Cllrs. A number of points were made:

- Fewer funerals have meant a reduction in income meaning there are some financial concerns, particularly in terms of staffing costs. The Clerk currently do not get paid for the weekly hours spent on the JBB but do bill for 2 days a month which they focus on the updating of data on the computer system. The JBB have so far covered the costs of the two days a month but due to lack of income are seeking CACS PC and Shefford Town Council look to cover the costs. Clerk will have full costs for the next meeting for Councillors to decide.
- The Rules and regulations have now been agreed and will be enforced.
- There has been a hold put on maintenance work due to finances. However, in previous months there have been a number of areas that have been reseeded, hedges have been reduced, wasps' nests removed. Neville's have donated granite chippings; a new noticeboard and bin have been fitted that were part funded by the Ward Councillors grant. One bench has been replaced and an additional one installed by relatives.
- Checka has been producing a spreadsheet for all grave information on Rialtas.
- There unfortunately has been a child funeral, the JBB did not charge for this.

128/20 PLANNING:

None

129/20 FINANCES:

Payments for October:

£1,435.44 Grangers

£392.40 Grangers

£84 Character Press

£411.10 Copykatz payable to D Baker (NP)

£604.72 Bedford Borough

£100.80 Andy Muskett

£49.51 Viking Newsletter

130/20 Correspondence:

None

131/20 AOB:

None

132/20 DATE of next meeting:

4th November 2020 via Zoom.