

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held via Zoom on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

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 Garton

1/21 MINUTES:

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

2/21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

3/21 CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR:

Sue Barnard, a Chicksands resident would like to join the Parish Council as a Councillor, Sue has attended previous meetings to experience the work of the PC. This was proposed by Cllr Ash and seconded by Cllr Booton, it will be very beneficial to have a representative from Chicksands on the Council. Sue will complete the paperwork in due course.

4/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident attended the live examination of the Local Plan recently and was puzzled that a representative from Beadlow was attending as this land does not form part of the Local Plan. Cllr Liddiard confirmed that the Local Plan is in its 2nd stage and anyone who made representations in the first stage could make further representations. The inspector has requested that the Plan be 'tidied' up. CBC are currently meeting housing targets, but the Plan will be reviewed almost immediately after it is agreed.

Questions were asked regarding the current Government White Paper on housing. It is requiring each local authority to agree its 10-year plan and zone all land as growth, protective or renewal, the resident was concerned if this would impact on the Neighbourhood Plan? Cllr Liddiard reassured the resident that the White Paper is being reworked due to inaccuracies.

5/21 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- Bollards have been installed on the underpass; Cllr Liddiard is still chasing CBC for reasons why the railings were removed?
- Cllr Liddiard and Cllr Brown will be attending training on the new App 'Fix my street' it has been trialled in the south of Bedfordshire and the feedback has been very positive.
- On Tuesday of this week CBC agreed the budget and went to consultation with residents, there will be no cuts to vital services, there will be a 4.9% rise, the Government allowed a 3% rise for Adult Social care, 40% of CBC costs are allocated to this. It will mean £1.50 a week additional charge for Band D property.

- Paul Middleton from CBC will inspect Greenway and look at the footpaths on 13th January 2021.
- Tree planting grants are available from CBC, the closing date is 28th February 2021. Joe Gregory is the contact.
- Cllr Grant funding is still available.
- New leader will be announced on 14th January 2021.

6/21 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

The Steering Group are due to meet again next week. The Group is continuing to review all of the feedback and preparing draft responses, there are over 350 points to consider and respond to. Once complete the NP will come back to the PC to view and agree the amendments, prior to moving to the next stage. The Steering group are working incredibly hard but do not have a target completion date in mind. Cllr Baker is in discussions with The Greensand Trust regarding changes to the Green Infrastructure Plan. All information will be available on the website and arrangements will be made for residents who do not have access to the website. Cllr Baker will clarify with CBC whether all comments should be responded to?

7/21 RECREATION GROUND:

Cllr Booton had emailed a report around to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

- Play area inspection sheet has been forwarded to Clerk.
- Boundary hedges will require trimming in the spring.
- Football pitch is showing signs of wear and tear and will need to be monitored.
- 2 quotes have now been received for resurfacing the playground surfaces, Cllr Booton will look at like for like quotes, the third company has not issued a quote.
- The Pc agreed previously to cut the hedges back behind the goal, agreed that this should be done before spring. Clerk will obtain an updated quote and email Cllrs for agreement.

8/21 PROJECTS, UPDATE ON RECREATION GROUND FLOORING AND VILLAGE HALL PARKING:

To be combined with finances 9/21

9/21 PLANNING:

CB/20/03847/MW Cainhoe Quarry, no objections.

10/21 FINANCES:

Payments for January:

£664.04 Bedford Borough

£100.00 Eyelid

£100.80 Andy Muskett

£75 Village hall

BATPC invoice has been received, £302 will be payable in April 2021.

Account balances:

£52,381.48
£23,037.37

Bedford Borough will cease their payroll services as of 1st April 2021, Cllr Ash is looking at an alternative.

The draft budget was agreed and an increase in Precept of either 2% or 2.5% to cover expenditure over the next financial year. Clerk will agree percentage rise with Cllr via email.

The JBB held their meeting this morning and some discussion is required regarding finances for next year. The CACS Cllrs sought clarity as to how the share of precept was decided, they felt it should have been a joint decision, however Shefford had previously decided what they would commit in terms of expenditure. The proportion of commitment is 80.5% for STC and 19.5% for CACS, following STC decision CACS would need to commit an additional £1046 this year. There was concern how these figures were formed and whether costs of burials were being covered by fees? Shefford are covering a lot of the admin and the JBB is not being charged. CACS agreed to pay the additional £1046 from reserves but would like to explore the option of employing a Cemetery Clerk to carry out all of the work. They would also like to consider severing the agreement with the JBB completely, leaving Shefford TC to run the cemetery? This would mean that residents would lose their right to burial and would pay non-resident fees, but the PC would no longer pay into the JBB.

Clerk asked the Cllrs to consider future projects as the Auditors have advised the PC to spend some of its reserves.

Future projects were discussed including:

- Resurfacing play area, approximately £15,000
- Small area of land in close proximity to the Brook could be purchased and used as a wildlife meadow and picnic area.
- Increase the number of trees, perhaps on the boundary of the Recreation ground.
- Historical walks for the community to be displayed in both Campton and Chicksands.
- Car parking spaces at the village hall, Cllr Longson researched this before and will look again at costs. The land would need to be discussed with Annington housing.
- The Pc also need to monitor opportunities for the residents of Chicksands, things will be easier once the site is no longer run by Preim Housing.

11/21 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Christmas card from Shefford TC.
CBC emails distributed to Cllrs.

12/21 AOB:

JBB Update following the last meeting:

1. Rules and Regulations will be uploaded to both websites in due course.
2. Clerks worked 1 day in November, 0 in December and plan 1 day for January, February and March plus 1 additional day on data input.
3. Additional work has been carried out on the spreadsheets for grave information.
4. Maintenance works have been carried out:
 - Pine needles continue to be removed.
 - Main entrance has been weeded, paths edged, and clearance will continue.

- 2 Elms regularly collect litter, empty bins, remove spent flowers etc at no additional cost, Chairman will write and thank them.
 - New lockable trade bin to prevent fly tipping. The bin keeps overflowing and is incredibly heavy, JBB would like to purchase an additional bin for £550, Agreed by all Cllrs.
 - Permission given to start soil and seed of graves.
 - JBB would like to carryout the following works: levelling of 2 areas in the car park that are potential trip hazards, painting of railings on Ampthill Rd £750 and cleaning of the Chapel and soffit repair £295 + vat. All Cllrs agreed.
 - New bench to be installed by family member.
 - Hedges have now been cut and reduced.
5. Approval was sought to provide permission for a resident to reserve a grave space following a verbal agreement with Dick Hardwick. The JBB do not reserve grave spaces but as a special exception they would like to honour the verbal agreement. All Cllrs agreed.
- Cllr Booton looked at the Primary Schools consultation, some mistakes were identified, and they were notified.
 - Anglian water provided a response to the suggestion of replacement of the pipes in the village due to the number of burst pipes. They are looking at the programme of repairs and will keep the PC updated.

13/21 DATE of next meeting:

Wednesday 3rd February 2021 via Zoom.