

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held via Zoom on Wednesday 3rd February 2021.

Present: Cllr Ash in the Chair, Cllr Baker, Cllr Longson, Cllr Booton, Cllr Garton, Cllr Barnard, Central Bedfordshire Cllr Mark Liddiard,

Apologies:

14/21 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2021 were signed as a true record of the meeting and it was agreed that the Zoom recording could be deleted.

Matters arising, the Cllrs agreed to a 2% increase in the precept. Anglian water is losing a considerable amount of water and are investigating a leak in the area.

15/21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

16/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- A resident wish to confirm that all pre purchased plots at the cemetery are still reserved? Clerk confirmed that all existing pre purchased plots are reserved but it is no longer possible to pre-purchase a plot.
- A resident requested that the Ash seedlings by the sub-station be looked at, they are tall and unsightly, the whole area needs attention. Cllr Ash will confirm if permission is required.
- A resident questioned where the PC are looking to plant new trees? Cllr Booton was able to confirm that three suitable sites had been identified, Recreation ground, Entrance to the village from Chicksands and along Greenway. Cllr Booton will submit an application before the deadline later this month. The PC have a licence for maps online, Cllr Baker will forward the details to Cllr Booton.
- A resident commented that the hedges on the Recreation ground have been cut back and look good, however the Leylandii by the school require attention. Clerk will obtain a quote for cutting them back along with contacting the school for permission.
- Concerns were raised over a recent incident with a Hanlon delivery, the delivery required residents to move their vehicles as the load was too wide. The residents felt that they were treated with contempt, the route had clearly not been planned, there was no social distancing and the drivers stated that they had Legal dispensation to have cars removed. Cllr Liddiard advised the Chairman to contact Lisa White at CBC to discuss the incident and Chairman will then write to Hanlon.

17/21 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- Fix My Street has now been launched and is available for Cllrs and residents to report Highways issues.

- The Consultation on Council tax has received approximately 900 responses. The Government has allowed a 3% increase to Adult social care, which at the moment accounts for 45% of the budget. There will be an increase of 1.95% on general items. The response has been mixed but CBC do plan to keep all services operational.
- The Local plan has now received responses from the Government inspectors, the information is on the CBC website. This will be the last response, approximately 6 issues require further clarification, mainly policy wording.
- There are currently a number of water leaks in the area and Anglian water are working to try and fix them.
- Shefford TC has started an Emergency group for issues within the town e.g., gas leaks, burst water pipes etc, Cllr Liddiard offered to help the PC if they would like to set one up for the Parish. Cllr Ash suggested the Good neighbour group may get involved?
- The Revenues and benefit team have been supporting businesses that have been closed due to the current lockdown.
- The Community safety team are offering webinars to introduce their services.
- Cllr Liddiard confirmed the boundary changes now mean Shefford and Campton are forming a ward with 2 Ward Cllrs.
- Paul Middleton from CBC inspected Greenway and was happy with the road surface, the footpaths will require attention.
- Cllr Grant funding has been awarded to the PC for a noticeboard for walks, each Ward Cllr awarded £250, the PC thanked the ward Cllrs.

18/21 RECREATION GROUND:

Weekly inspection report has been sent to the Clerk and a COVID-19 risk assessment has been carried out, residents seem to be adhering to the rules and it was therefore agreed by all Cllrs that the play area should remain open.

Cllr Booton has received quotes for the replacement of the safety ground surfaces and it was agreed that the main area would be resurfaced at a cost of £14,280 + vat. Cllr Booton and Clerk will make arrangements.

19/21 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

The Steering Group have been looking at the representations and preparing responses to them along with liaising with the Greensand Trust, they are coming towards the end of this. The Consultation statement, which is a large document will provide the evidence alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. Once this is completed it will be shared with the PC. All information will be available on the website and arrangements will be made for residents who do not have access to the website. The Parish Council will view the documents and assess whether due diligence has been applied when preparing responses and presenting the data.

Cllr Ash thanked Cllr Baker and the team.

20/21 PROJECTS:

The PC have been awarded £500 towards the noticeboard, Cllr Booton would like to explore if further funding is available alongside this from the Matthew Good Foundation, Gatwick Community trust or For Britain charities, all agreed.

Cllr Booton will also look at National Lottery funding for the possible area by the river.

It was suggested that the PC perhaps look at traffic calming through the village as a project, it was agreed that this should be looked at on completion of the N Plan, residents had shown a preference in the plan to the speed being reduced rather than physical calming measures. Parking is also an ongoing issue.

21/21 JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

The planned soiling and seeding works at a cost of £1824.00 will be carried out.

The Rules and regulations for the JBB are now on the PC website, additional information will be added once prepared.

22/21 PLANNING:

None

23/21 FINANCES:

Payments for February:
£664.04 Bedford Borough
£212.20 Eon
£240.00 Mazars
£1020.00 Grangers

Clerk has submitted an invoice on behalf of the PC to the JBB for £667.85 for hours working on data input until the end of the financial year.

Clerk has also prepared an expense claim for £226.97

A new laptop has been purchased for the Clerk's use in conjunction with Silsoe PC, each Council will have a 50% share of the PC and will contribute 50% of the net cost of £540.83 (£270.42 each PC)

Account balances:

£51,897.19
£23,037.37

Bedford Borough will cease their payroll services as of 1st April 2021, Cllr Ash has found an alternative and will arrange a meeting with Clerk and Cllr Baker to make arrangements.

24/21 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Greensand County call for local voices.

- The Village hall committee, following the guidance from ACRE regarding the running of village halls in lockdown are looking to continue their meetings and AGM online, ACRE have suggested approval be sought from the PC. All councillors agreed for meetings and the AGM to be held online.
- Louise Ashmore from BATPC is retiring on 31st March 2021. Louise recently advised that no provision as yet has been made for PC meetings to be held online after 10th May 21, she advised all Councils to hold their May meeting prior to this. The PC will hold their meeting on 5th May 2021. Clerk will look at possible training programmes for the new Cllrs and forward the details.

25/21 AOB:

- Cllr ash confirmed he is progressing with the Land registration for the land owned by Campton United Charities, this will cost approximately £1000 in solicitors fees.
- The Recreation ground will also need to be registered in due course, the Government will be stipulating that all land owned by local authority be registered, this will also need to be discussed by the JBB as the cemetery will need to be registered. The PC have documents showing the purchase of the land in 1956.
- Assets will need review shortly; the PC need to establish ownership/responsibility of the church wall. Cllr Baker may have some documents that could assist.
- Greenway is still identified as a potential site under the Local Plan, however, there still remains an issue of the size of the site, the size quoted in the Local Plan does not equate to the size required for 66 homes.
- The PC declined the offer of a presentation for future development of Bead low Manor.

26/21 DATE of next meeting:

Wednesday 3rd March 2021 via Zoom.