

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Thursday 2nd March 2023

Present: Cllr Baker as Chairman, Cllr Ash, Cllr Turton, Cllr Longson.

Apologies: Cllr Booton, Cllr Sibley.

23/23 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2023 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising: None.

24/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

Cllr Ash declared an interest in respect of the Church burial ground, his wife is a Church warden.

25/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident thanked the Cllrs and members of the P3 group for all the work being carried out. She also thanked Cllr Sibley for attending the Village Hall committee with a Wi-Fi proposal.

There are concerns for the amount of dog fouling both in the village and on the Recreation ground, Clerk will include this in the newsletter.

Concerns raised for the Industrial area and an area being used for dumping builders waste. Clerk will contact the EH team at CBC.

26/23 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR:

- None.

27/23 FINANCES:

Payments: March 2023

CJ Bain Bookkeeping and payroll £55
P3 group litter picker £16.49
D Granger hedge works and fertiliser £960.00
D Granger grass cutting £66.90

Credit CBC- Grass cutting contributions £1058.79.

Community account £30,353.89
Business account £23,061.91
As on 28/2/23

Clerk will set up payments for Cllr Baker to authorise.

The mandate form was submitted to Barclays, unfortunately there was an issue with the authorisation for the changes to the mandate, Clerk had a hard copy at the meeting to be completed and resubmitted.

The Internal auditor has requested the first invoices, interim audit is ongoing.

28/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

CB/21/04901/OUT Land fronting Hitchin Rd, Arlesey. Councillors agreed a representation should be made, to be agreed via email. It is an outline application, which includes a Biodiversity site within Campton in the fields to the rear of Campton Manor and the Recreation ground, the area would be a small orchard and woodland.

29/23 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

The JBB met on 2nd March 2023, Minutes will follow.

Clerks continue to work one day a month together on cemetery management and updating the Rilatas software.

The JBB are on target for their budget for this financial year. Some maintenance works will be required in the coming months and quotes will be sought.

Clerks have carried out Topple testing now in both cemeteries.

A new tap has been fitted in the Campton cemetery.

Tree work is required to three trees in Campton, one is on the JBB area the others are within the area managed by the PC. The tree officer at CBC has been contacted and permission is not required.

The Clerks met Ian Hale, a local architect, on site for further advice and expertise on the repair/replacement necessary for the boundary wall adjacent to the property in Greenway and the planning approval required before any works can commence (as the wall is within the curtilage of a Grade 1 listed building). Mr Hale ratified the health and safety concerns raised in the survey report produced by F&E Surveying Solutions and confirmed that the only options open to the Committee would be to rebuild or replace the wall, the wall is too damaged and beyond repair. Estimated costs to rebuild the wall to the existing height may greatly exceed £60k as the work will be labour intensive (no machinery access, so all work will have to be carried out manually) and there may be issues with human remains migrating from the Burial Ground, especially if there are little or no foundations to the existing wall.

Mr Hale advised the Clerks to liaise with the Ward Councillors to gauge their views on the matter before proceeding with the rebuild/replace options, as their support would be desirable for any planning application to have the best chance of succeeding.

If 'replacing the wall' is the preferred option, his immediate thoughts were for a close board fence with wooden posts (+ caps/balls) and a concrete gravel board, maybe with a brick pillar (from salvaged bricks from the existing wall) at one or both ends. He didn't expect the bricks in the existing wall to have much salvage value; however, the coping bricks may be of value (although he advised to keep some to replace any coping bricks in the remaining wall).

If Mr Hale was engaged to produce the plans and submit the planning application for the replacement of the wall to a fence, he estimated his fees at around £700 + Central Bedfordshire Council's fees.

Cllr ash requested a second opinion from an Architect or surveyor, Clerk will contact the Conservation officer at CBC to see if they can provide a recommended contact? JBB will meet again on 18th May 2023.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

Cllr Ash has requested the file from the Solicitor as Knowles Benning are no longer in practice.

P3 GROUP:

The P3 group was formed to maintain public footpaths along streets and through fields. Throughout the last year lots of effort has gone into clearing these and cutting back during the summer months. Litter picking is an ongoing problem and a significant amount of time is being spent litter picking in the village and along the footpath to the A507. Quite a lot of foliage from properties is overgrowing and obstructing pathways (Clerk will mention this in the newsletter) New members are needed to assist with the work.

30/23 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

1. Climbing wall:
The installation date is 14th March 2023. Clerk has applied to access the S106 money and Ward Cllr grant. Clerk will also update the Insurance company that there is a new piece of equipment, once it has been fitted
2. Burial Ground Campton:
Clerk has contacted CBC for permission for the tree works to be carried out, no planning permission is required therefore the works will now be scheduled.

Working parties have requested to carry out maintenance works to the Churchyard on 25th March and 15th April, Clerk has asked that the group do not remove Ivy from the wall as the PC are currently looking to have the wall valued and assessed for repairs.

Rev Roni Goodman met with Clerk to discuss a natural area, where the grass would be left uncut from end of May until August to allow for wild flowers to grow and reseed, Cllrs discussed the request, Cllr Longson proposed permission be granted for this, seconded by Cllr Baker. Clerk will check with the grass cutting contractor that this will cause no issues and then confirm the decision with Roni.

The church wall will need to be valued for Insurance purposes, clerk will contact CBC for a contact.

3. Street lighting:

Clerk has instructed Andy Muskett to carry out the works to the lights in the village, permission is not required from CBC.

4. Defibrillator:

East Of England Ambulance have confirmed that no ongoing maintenance is required for the defibrillator, just the pads, batteries and casing need checking.

Clerk has invited anyone interested in defibrillator training to contact her, once the PC are aware of numbers a decision can be made regarding training, 4 have confirmed so far.

5. Wi-Fi

Cllr Sibley attended the VPMC meeting with a proposal, they will now seek permission from the church.

6. Recreation ground:

The maintenance contractor has recently cut back hedges and removed dead wood, he has also fertilised the football pitch. Cllr Booton continues to carry out weekly inspections of the play area and is dealing with the rabbit holes.

31/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Dropped kerbs. A resident has contacted the PC concerned with the lack of dropped kerbs in the centre of the village, the PC will raise this with the Ward Cllrs and include it on the next Agenda.
- Greensand Country festival.
- Design Guide Topic session offered by CBC 1st March.
- All Age skills strategy engagement event 23rd February.
- Waste Reduction Topic session feedback.

32/23 AOB:

- Clerk has given her apologies for the next meeting, she will be recovering from surgery.
- Local elections will be held in May, including the Parish council, Clerk has put notices up on the noticeboards.
- The May meeting may have to be moved from 11th to 18th due to allow for the Agenda to be displayed post elections, Clerk will confirm with BATPC.

33/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be.

Thursday 6th April 2023 7pm in the Campton Village Hall.