

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Thursday 6th April 2023

Present: Cllr Baker as Chairman, Cllr Ash, Cllr Turton, Cllr Longson, Cllr Booton, Cllr Sibley. Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tony Brown

Apologies:

34/23 MINUTES:

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

Matters arising: The area at Top Farm will be monitored for rubbish.

Hedges restricting pathways will be monitored.

35/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

Cllr Ash declared an interest regarding the Coronation funding request.

Cllr Baker declared an interest regarding the Coronation funding, his company will supply the goods at cost.

36/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Resident commented on the planting on Priory Rd and along Highways land, lots of effort has been put in.

A few residents have commented on the recent works to the lights in Campton, the residents commented on how efficient and responsive the contractor was.

A resident thanked Cllr Sibley for preparing and putting forward the Wi-Fi proposal to the village hall committee.

37/23 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR:

- Cllr Brown met with Terry Scott, Highways, to discuss the footpath around the church, he has inspected and agreed works are required.
- Mill lane, Cllr Brown has requested that CBC add this to their annual list for a complete resurface.
- Shefford, Campton Chicksands, and Beadlow will be the new 2 Cllr ward.
- Cllrs asked if they could have details of the Traffic surveys that were carried out in Bedfordshire? They are interested in the data relating to the A507 and Greenway. Cllr Brown suggested they contact CBC.
- The road to Meppershall has been assessed and is not viewed as urgent.
- Some pot holes by Priory House have been attended to but there still some big ones, particularly the one by the roundabout. Cllr brown will follow this up.

Item moved from 41/23 to enable residents to form part of the discussion.

CORONATION DECORATIONS/SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PLANS:

A resident who formed a group to decorate the village with ribbons and bunting for the jubilee would like to make the same arrangements for the King's Coronation at a cost of £10.50. Proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Councillor Ash, all Cllrs agreed.

A resident put forward a proposal for the Coronation, she would like to arrange:

1. A reflections book to be used by children in the school and any resident during the Coronation weekend to add their thoughts. The book will be on display in the church. Proposed by Cllr Longson, seconded by Cllr Sibley
2. Commemorative coasters, this will be presented to those residents who volunteer within the village, total cost of £166, proposed by Cllr Turton, seconded by Cllr Sibley. 3 Cllrs in Favour, 1 against, 2 had declared an interest.
3. Plaques for trees in the Recreation ground and applying to the Woodland trust for trees. Cllr Baker and Clerk will look at the Woodland application process. A Coronation rose £100 and a plaque £120 was also requested, Proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Sibley, 3 Cllrs in favour, 2 against, 1 declared an interest.

38/23 FINANCES:

Payments: April 2023

CJ Bain Bookkeeping and payroll £55
D Granger grass cutting £1,438.76
A Muskett LED replacements £8,500.80 and £104.40 Maintenance
Climbing wall £7,157.92
BATPC £303
SLCC £88.50
Ashridge nurseries (roses) £147.43

Community account £13,764.05
Business account £23,090.53
As on 31/3/23

Clerk will set up payments for Cllr Baker to authorise.

Barclays have contacted Clerk regarding the changes to the mandate, Barclays have queried Cllr Ash's signature, he will contact Barclays directly to resolve this. Cllr Turton needs to submit her ID.

39/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

CB/21/04901/OUT Land fronting Hitchin Rd, Arlesey. Cllr Baker attended the DMC meeting on 22nd March 2023 to represent the Councillors.

Cllr Baker submitted the views of the PC as agreed by email.

The Parish Council wish to restrict the focus of this representation to the “Biodiversity Net Gain - Habitat Offset” proposal that forms part of this application.

This application for planning permission in Arlesey includes a proposal for a “Habitat Offset” site in Campton Village, some 7 miles from the application site.

Given the long-term importance, implications, and Local Authority management overheads of any “Biodiversity Net Gain Offset” proposal the Parish Council wish to provide some contextual information for consideration by the DMC at this meeting.

Committee members should be aware that the habitat offset site proposed in Campton Village is designated as Local Green Space in the 2021 Campton & Chicksands Neighbourhood Plan, being local in character and having a particular local significance regarding it’s setting adjacent to Campton Manor and Campton Recreation Ground.

Members should be further aware that prior to being notified of this planning application, and the habitat offset proposal within, the Parish Council had registered (with the owners) an interest in the acquisition of a proportion of the site, immediately adjacent to the Recreation Ground. Our consideration being to help address a significant deficit of amenity greenspace in the parish (as identified in our 2021 Green Infrastructure Plan).

Clearly, any proposal to retain and improve rural habitat within the parish is of interest to the Parish Council, but the we would like to air a word of caution regarding the proposal for extensive woodland planting. In many ways this site is identified as, and has habitat value as, established grassland. Sensitive improvement to the existing habitat type might well be preferable.

This would certainly be the Parish Council’s approach should we become able to acquire a proportion of the site.... Providing a sensitively managed greenspace for both leisure, well-being and nature.

The Parish Council understand that this application is outline at this stage and this “Biodiversity Net Gain” proposal will most likely be addressed under reserved matters should a full application be submitted.

The PC will continue to enter into discussion with the owners of the green space.

It was questioned as to whether the land owner is aware that the land has been included in the application? It was also questioned as to whether more than one developer can use the same piece of land as offset land?

40/23 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

The rules and regulations of the JBB are being enforced and unauthorised items will be removed form graves. CBC could not offer any details of contractors to survey the wall so the Clerks are looking into this.

Cllr Booton has received a response from the Ministry of Justice and it has been confirmed that the PC can hand back the responsibility of the Churchyard to CBC at any point. This does not include the JBB area. Clerk will include this on the May Agenda.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

The file has been retrieved from the Solicitor and the Registration of the land is in progress but not yet completed. The PC will need to appoint a solicitor for the land by the village hall to be acquired.

P3 GROUP:

New members are needed to assist with the work, Clerk included this in the newsletter

41/23 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

1. Climbing wall:
The climbing wall was installed on 14th March 2023. Clerk has applied to access the S106 money and Ward Cllr grant. Clerk has contacted the Insurance company to notify them there is a new piece of equipment. Cllr Baker thanked everyone involved in the project.
2. Street lighting:
Andy Muskett has carried out the works to the lights in the village, Clerk has submitted the updated schedule to UMSO power networks so that the charges can be adjusted accordingly.
3. Emergency Plan:
Clerk has prepared a draft Emergency plan which has been circulated for Councillors to view.
4. Insurance:
Clerk has completed the questionnaire for cover for the next year and has requested cover for the new climbing wall and church wall, subject to valuation.
5. Recreation ground:
Cllr Booton continues to carry out weekly inspections of the play area and is dealing with the rabbit holes. There has been good feedback from the addition of the climbing wall. Fertiliser has improved the condition of the grass; the entrance also looks improved now that it has been cleared.
6. Elections:
All election documents have now been submitted to CBC and Clerk has provided Councillors with their copies. CBC has confirmed the election will be uncontested.
7. Defibrillator:
East Of England Ambulance offer training sessions for the defibrillator, Clerk requested any residents that were interested contact her and 6 residents have confirmed they would like to join a session. Clerk will advertise again on FB, website and newsletter, agree a date at the next meeting.

8. Coronation decorations/ support for Community plans:

See above.

9. Working group at the Churchyard. Burial Ground Campton:

Clerk has contacted the Diocese for permission for the tree works to be carried out, no planning permission is required from CBC. Working parties have requested to carry out maintenance works to the Churchyard on 25th March and 15th April and now the first May bank holiday. Clerk has asked that the group do not remove Ivy from the wall.

42/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Card from Buckingham Palace thanking the PC for their kind words on the passing of the late Queen.
- Have your say survey is being run by Beds Police to allow residents to raise their concerns and to allow the Police to plan and prioritise.
- Cycling without age, this is a scheme whereby residents can obtain use of a bike which allows someone (who would not be able to ride a bike) to sit on the front of the bike and enjoy a bike ride. Clerk will speak to Shefford TC to see if they would be interested in a joint project, along with the Ward Cllrs?

43/23 AOB:

- Football club parking. Cllr Baker will discuss the ongoing issue with the football club over the summer. The Community Policing team have confirmed they are only able to enforce parking restriction that are in place. The PC could consider discussing parking restrictions with CBC?
- There is a wall down by the cemetery in Shefford, Clerk will contact Shefford TC.
- The Village Hall committee are happy to proceed with Wi-Fi and are looking at a cabinet to hold the equipment and to arrange installation. They are happy to offset the Wi-Fi cost with the hall hire fees.
- Cllr Booton outlined the S106 money that will be available from the development on Greenway. Cllr Booton and Baker have tried to make changes to the funding in order to benefit the parish and maximise the money.

44/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be.

Thursday 11th May 2023 7pm in the Campton Village Hall.

