

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Apologies: Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Liddiard.

71/23 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2023 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising:

The volunteers that water the village planters have requested £30 for some water bags to make the watering easier, these have now been purchased and are very useful.

A complaint was made concerning straw left over the roads in the village. Cllr Baker contacted the farms concerned; a contractor transports the straw for the farms, but they will request that the contractor looks at the viability of covering the straw.

Cllr Booton has contacted CBC on three occasions over the last month to discuss the Churchyard responsibility and has received no response, Cllr Brown will look into this.

72/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None

73/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident attended to discuss the issue of vehicles through the village, the noise and aggressive braking is an issue. The resident understand that legal options are not always enforced but wondered if there were any practical solutions, Cllr Baker mentioned an item later on the agenda was a follow up to a meeting with Highways to try and address traffic and road issues.

74/23 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR:

Cllr Brown reported the latest survey figures of interest 2022/23:

1. Housing provided for Domestic abuse victims 125.
2. Library visits (including online) 68,215.
3. New homes built (target 1,968) 2,294.
4. New affordable homes (target 408) 671
5. Empty homes returned to occupation (target 60) 113.
6. Economically active residents (16-65) 79%
7. Jobs in CB area. (Working age) 82%
8. Town centre vacancy rates (Nationwide 13.8%) 8%
9. Shefford has 43 units with 2 empty.
10. Council tax collection (target 98%) 97.17%
11. Council rent collection (target 100%) 99.6%

12. Telephone calls to council waiting times. (Target 180 seconds) assessment of 122,014 calls 135 seconds.

Schools for the Future has been suspended, this includes the Shefford/stotfold cluster. Its unlikely the change will be made by 2025.

Cllr Brown has a meeting scheduled with Highways for 3/8/23 to discuss priorities, number one will be resurfacing of Mill Lane, Campton.

Planning officer is awaiting S106 arrangements for the Greenway site, there is a new developer involved.

Cllr Booton expressed safety concerns over the speed humps in Ampthill Rd, Shefford, the ones that do not have an island in the middle mean the cars cross them at an angle. Cars are also scraping over them. Cllr Brown will follow this up.

75/23 REPORT- HIGHWAYS WALKABOUT WITH CBC:

Cllr Baker suggested two items from agenda item 10 be brought forward to this item due to relevance, seconded by Cllr Booton, all Cllrs agreed.

The PC have received communication that hedge trimming has been undertaken by a Cllr, the resident has asked for details of the complaint procedure and Clerk has referred them to the Monitoring Officer at CBC. The PC did not sanction the activity and have concerns over potential liability. There is a high level of scrutiny for Cllrs and the work of the PC, if Cllrs are unsure of what action to take, please discuss it with the Clerk.

A resident has contacted the PC regarding road safety in Rectory Rd, inconsiderate parking at school times restricts the view for residents pulling onto Rectory rd., the resident is also becoming increasingly concerned for pedestrian safety, particularly children walking to school.

Cllr Baker and Clerk met with Cllr Liddiard and Principal Highways Officer from CBC to discuss Highways issues in the village, a follow up meeting with the Highways safety officer will be required as will consultation with residents:

1. Road surface and gulley's in Priory rd. and Greenway- these will reoccur but if reported on fix my street will be actioned. There is no solution due to drainage.
2. Interest has been expressed for a dropped kerb in the centre of the village to allow access for prams, wheelchairs and mobility scooters. It was advised that this would be dangerous without some parking restrictions. Limited and strategic use of white lines was discussed but a full safety assessment will be required.
3. A white H bar outside the Recreation was discussed to try and discourage parking allowing the entrance to be accessible at all times.
4. Ward Cllr was supportive of proposed improvements to Village Hall parking.
5. A507 crossing lights were discussed, there is a wait for pedestrians crossing, however CBC are weighing up traffic flow and pedestrian wait time, a review can be requested.
6. Data from the last traffic survey was requested, Cllr Liddiard will follow this up.

7. CBC discussed 20mph zones but were of the view that the benefits would not likely outweigh the cost, parked cars do restrict the speed of vehicles.
8. Rectory Rd footpath was discussed with the suggestion of increasing the length of the rumble strip and perhaps white adult/child markings?
9. Roadside hedges, CBC will contact residents if the PC are unsuccessful in their attempts.
10. Verge side rocks and posts- Highways safety do not actively remove them as they 'seldom give rise to issues' however, if the PC adopts a policy, then CBC will remove them but under direct instruction of the PC. Cllr Baker proposed that Clerk includes a section in the newsletter advising residents of the dangers of the rocks and posts, but the PC do not agree a policy and do not request their removal, seconded by Cllr Booton, all agreed.

76/23 FINANCES:

Payments: July 2023

CJ Bain Bookkeeping and payroll £58
 D Granger grass cutting £1,535.66
 D Taylor (water bags) £24.39
 A Muskett £104.40

Credit:

£5 Pilates, use of the Recreation ground.

Community account £35,828.54
 Business account £23,138.67
 As on 5/7/23

Clerk will set up payments for Cllr Baker to authorise.

Barclays have confirmed that the changes to the mandate have been made, Cllr Booton and Cllr Turton are now on the mandate, they will request online banking.

77/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

None.

The retrospective application for the White Hart has been approved, along with no amplified music or voice in the building.

78/23 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

Clerk has sent out photo examples of the supporting columns that could be used to support the wall in the Campton Church yard, this will be discussed at the JBB in September.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

A meeting of the trustees took place on 15th June 2023, yearend reports were agreed. Cllr Ash is chasing up the land registration.

P3 GROUP:

Clerk arranged hire of a strimmer from CBC, the work was carried out.

CBC have confirmed that the P3 group are only insured to work on the public rights of way network, public footpaths, bridleways and byways. They are not insured to work on footways, pavements or the Highway as they will not be insured.

Cllr Baker thanked the volunteers for their work.

The underpass is overgrown, broken glass is on the floor and there has been some additional graffiti, this will be reported on Fix my street.

79/23 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

Football club representation and 2023/24 agreement:

The agreement is due to be reviewed prior to the next season. Cllr Baker stated that all PC representation with the football club should be based on actions agreed at the council meeting. It was agreed by all Cllrs that Cllr Baker as Chair and Cllr Booton as responsible for the Recreation ground should continue as representatives for the football club.

An email of the draft agreement was emailed to all Cllrs prior to the meeting, three changes have been made:

1. Increase in grass cutting contributions, proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Booton, all agreed.
2. New condition: 2.18 **The Club** will take all steps that are practical to promote considerate and safe parking on Rectory Road by visiting teams, club players, officials and supporters throughout the season. Proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Turton, all agreed.
3. Primary team manager providing a WhatsApp to away teams, including a map of appropriate places to park. The map will also be laminated and put on the Recreation ground gates. Proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Sibley, all agreed.

The Cllrs will also discuss the condition of the pavilion with the club, suggesting some steel shutters for security, the PC will try to assist them in seeking funding. Proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Sibley, all agreed.

Cllr Sibley suggested a review with the club after a few of the games to see if there has been an improvement in parking? Seconded by Cllr Baker, the review will be planned for October.

Churchyard maintenance:

Cllr Booton is trying to discuss this with CBC, Cllr Brown will assist.

Overgrown foliage within the village:

The owners of the identified overgrown properties have all been contacted and indicated that they will carry out work, 5 of the 9 have been completed, the remainder will be after the nesting season.

Clerk has contacted the agent of the unoccupied property and asked them to contact the vendor.

Cllr Baker proposed that all property owners be contacted as a reminder in September and outcomes reviewed at the October meeting, seconded by Cllr Booton, all agreed.

Cllr Baker will report the overgrown trees in Priory Rd that the buses catch to CBC.

Review of the Code of conduct for Councillors:

Clerk requested that all Cllrs re-read the Code of conduct to familiarise themselves with the guidelines and restrictions of a Cllr, any questions should be directed at the Clerk. In terms of actions, only resolutions agreed by full council can be actioned. These resolutions will be proposed, seconded and agreed by a majority at a full council meeting, Cllrs must be respectful of the decision that the PC take.

Training for new Cllrs is available from BATPC and clerk advised Cllrs to attend.

Wi-fi at the Village Hall:

The PC will be able to go straight for the fibre option, Cllr Sibley is making arrangements for installation, however, there has been a delay from BT due to a backlog.

Pilates at the Recreation ground:

A resident recently held a Pilates session at the Recreation ground, as per the session last year.

80/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- A resident contacted the PC regarding hedge trimming in Priory rd.
- Annual Police meeting, October 2023.
- CBC Pink cluster meeting 17/7/23.
- Resident contacted the PC regarding traffic in Rectory Rd and concerns for safety.
- CBC Consultation into Supplementary Planning documents, topic session to be held via Teams 19/7/23, Cllr Booton to attend.
- N Power, EBRs discount explanation.
- Recruitment posters for Police Specials, Clerk has placed them on the noticeboards.
- CBC are running two new programmes, Plat streets involves closing a road for play, Cllrs felt this was not needed in the Parish due to open space and lack of an appropriate road. A reduction in traffic at drop off and pick up times from school, Cllrs will look at this in more detail.

81/23 AOB:

- The Village Hall have received a complaint regarding the noise levels during a Saturday morning fitness class, the Committee will discuss this with the instructor.
- A resident has suggested a cycle rack at the village hall, will be discussed alongside the additional parking.

- Cllr Longson asked if there had been a reduction in energy costs following the new lighting. An N power invoice is due so Clerk will update Cllrs in due course.
- Cllr Longson is still in talks with Grand union re the additional parking.

82/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be.

Thursday 7th September 2023 7pm in the Campton Village Hall.