

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr Baker as Chairman, Cllr Longson, Cllr Booton, Cllr Sibley, Cllr Wooton, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Liddiard.

Apologies: Cllr Turton, Cllr Ash, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tony Brown

105/23 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2023 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising:

There has been positive feedback from the defibrillator training that was arranged for residents.

Clerk has reported the dead tree on Elm close.

106/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

107/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident enquired whether there is any support in the village for residents in terms of transport to Drs, hospital appointments etc? Cllr Booton reported that there are residents that support each other through groups e.g., the church but no official helping group. Clerk will find out if the Shefford group would cover Campton? Clerk will put this item on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

108/23 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- The resurfacing of mill Lane is on the 3-year programme for highways, the team will monitor the condition.
- There is a meeting with the highways team on 11/11/23, please let the Ward Cllrs know of any defects that need looking at,
- The highways team have discussed extending the 30mph limit further along Gravenhurst Rd to the village entrance sign, they have agreed to propose the change as resources allow.
- The dip in the end of the road by the bridge to Meppershall will be discussed with the highways team.
- Deadline for UKSPF and REPF funding is 3/11/23.
- CBC are consulting on Planning obligations supplementary planning, Cllr Booton will respond to the consultation.
- BT payphones are out for consultation, this will be for removal of old public pay phones.
- There is a consultation for Open spaces protection orders.
- Walking and cycling infrastructure consultation.
- There has not been a Road safety officer appointed as yet.
- Clerk will chase Scott Terry regarding overgrown foliage.
- Cllr Booton asked if CBC are looking into retention of staff within CBC. Cllr Liddiard reported there are some training schemes now available within CBC e.g., in planning and social care and CBC actively support working from home, there does remain an issue with retention, particularly in departments like highways.

109/23 FINANCES:

Payments agreed: November 2023

C Bain payroll £58

D Granger £1,053.14

Clerk expenses £389.79

Defibrillator training session £465.00

JBB contributions £3,666.98

L Bishop (newsletter) £235.81

Community account £24,721.52

Business account £23,200.67

As on 2.11.23

Payments agreed, proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Booton

Clerk will set up payments for Cllr Baker to authorise.

A budget meeting will be arranged for end of November, the PC look to be on budget so far, this financial year.

Barclays now have accounts designed for Local authority rather than using a clubs/groups account. Clerk is looking at the charges that may be incurred and discussing the new account options with Barclays.

110/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

CB/23/03208/FULL Opposite 3 the Old Dairy, Beadlow. Change of use from a paddock to residential garden and construction of a garden building. Cllr will look in more depth at the application prior to responding.

CB/23/02818/FULL 41 Greenway. Part single, part two storey side and rear extension and single storey front extension. Cllrs are concerned that the size of the extension is out of proportion with the size of the property.

There have been no further updates regarding the Greenway site.

111/23 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

Meeting held on 2/11/23.

- The Rialtas system has been upgraded.
- Clerks have worked one day a month with the exception of August and September.
- It was proposed that the cemetery fees be reviewed for adoption April 1st, 2024, a 10% increase was proposed so as to be inline with other local cemeteries.
- Both Councils have received their external audit report; no recommendations were made for the Joint Burial Board accounting. Therefore, it is proposed to follow the same procedures

regarding recording the income and expenditure for the cemetery for 2023/2024 as in previous years. Leena Bains will continue as both Councils' Internal Auditor for 2023/2024.

- The crack that appeared in the perimeter wall by the main entrance gates has been repaired.
- It was proposed to make another application to Central Bedfordshire Council for a tree planting grant this winter for a replacement Irish Yew tree (one of the trees planted earlier this year have failed to establish) + a specimen oak tree.
- FF met with the Facilities Manager at ACO to discuss the company's involvement in the Town, which may include volunteer work parties by their staff on green projects such as tidying up untended graves in the Cemetery.
- Approval was sought from the Committee to commission a Tree Safety re-survey (was due in September/October 2023).
- The tree works recommended in the Tree Safety Survey Inspection were carried out.
- We have provisionally instructed English Building and Restoration to carry out the remedial works to the unsafe perimeter wall as per their quotation totalling £7.8k. The works are scheduled for early 2024 (weather dependent).
- Rev Roni Goodman contacted TM regarding repair maintenance works to the pedestrian gates (one being under the ownership of the Joint Burial Board Committee). TM advised RG that any quotations must be approved by the Committee before any works commence.
- A resident arranged for the funeral of her daughter in advance of her death. The grave space was purchased in 2013 (Y section) for the charge of £165.00. Once the interment form was received on 23rd October, it was discovered that the measurements of the coffin were not able to be interred into the grave space due to the coffin being an American casket with a width of 90cm. An alternative plot was agreed, and the Clerks felt that, under the circumstances and to lessen the distress caused to the resident, it would be appropriate to waive the fee. In due of this, the grave in the Y section would then become available for resale. Approval was sought from the Committee to ratify the Clerks' recommendation to waive this fee.
- Although there is nothing specified in legislation to say what size a grave space should be, the guide for a normal grave space is 8ft by 4ft, allowing for a coffin size of 7ft by 2ft 6in. As the Campton & Shefford Cemetery graves do not fit an American casket, this issue has been highlighted (and may be repeated, particularly in respect of different cultures/traditions and the increasing obesity in the population). Therefore, it seems prudent to add a stipulation into the Cemetery's Rules and Regulation that any outsized coffins and caskets (including American) would not fit into our normal grave spaces and contact would need to be made to the Clerks before the funeral can be arranged (and the fees will be reflected accordingly, depending on the size of the grave).

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

No further updates.

P3 GROUP: No updates, there is not so much work now its Autumn. The steel is still in the Plantation and there have been no repairs to the bridge that was reported, Cllrs will speak to the ward Cllrs next month.

112/23 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

Campton Church yard:

CBC are to survey the Church yard to see what condition it is in prior to agreeing to take on responsibility. Cllr Booton remains in touch with CBC and MOJ

Recreation Ground:

The rabbits are still on the field. The roundabout bearings will need replacing, the PC will look at it in the new year.

Additional Accessible green space for recreation and leisure (UKSPF & REPF Community grant fund application)

Cllr Booton has submitted an application for funding in order to purchase land for additional greenspace within the village.

The PC have been exploring opportunities for additional greenspace and have become aware that land to the rear of the Recreation ground may be sold in the near future and this would offer an opportunity for the PC to purchase the land as an area for residents. The size of the plot is 2.2 acres, which is larger than originally thought. The PC have submitted a bid but due to the larger size of the land would like to increase the bid. One Cllr is not in favour of obtaining the land, all other Cllrs agreed it was a good opportunity and the PC should proceed. Cllr Baker proposed pursuing this further, seconded by Cllr Booton, supported by two Cllrs, Cllr Wootton voted against the proposal.

A resident has contacted the PC suggesting that the existing Recreation ground be adapted to exclude football and provide a greenspace for residents.

Wi-fi at the village hall:

Clerk and Cllr Sibley will set up the DD for the Wi-fi at the village hall with TalkTalk. The Ward Cllrs have funding available, Cllr Sibley will look at additional equipment required that the funding could be used for.

113/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Topic session sustainability 6/11/23
- All Saints' plans for porch and access improvements, the church will be looking to make changes to the porch and widen the path to improve accessibility. There will also be an area for mobility scooters to be parked.
- Mental Elf run 10th December Shuttleworth
- CPRE hedgerow plan, Clerk will respond and express the PC's interest.
- Best academies brochure.
- Recreational open spaces strategy survey, to be completed by 22/12/23, Cllr Booton will respond.
- Garden and waste recycling update
- Planning obligations supplementary planning document consultation 30/10/23-11/12/23, Cllr Booton will respond.
- Culture, media and sport funding opportunity 24/11/23.

114/23 AOB:

- The pads on the defibrillator need changing, clerk will order some. There was a question over whether a contact number should be on the device, Clerk will ask the ambulance service.

- Cllr Longson is in discussion with Grand Union, regarding the land to the side of the village hall, the PC solicitor has been in contact with GU legal department.
- Cllr Baker and Cllr Booton will arrange a follow up meeting with the football club to review parking.

115/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be:

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