

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Thursday 7th December 2023.

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

Apologies: Cllr Sibley, Cllr Wootton, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Liddiard.

116/23 MINUTES:

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

Matters arising:

The dead tree in Elm close that Clerk reported to CBC has been referred to the Rights of way officer.

The CPRE expression of interest for hedges has been submitted.

A review of the football parking has been carried out and will continue to be monitored.

117/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

118/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- A resident attended to discuss the possibility of additional parking at the village hall and the installation of the Wi-fi. There have been delays with the Wi-fi, but the PC are hoping to have it up and working at the beginning of the year.
- A resident enquired if the parking signs for the village hall had been ordered? Clerk was aware permission was granted but not aware of what signs were required? The village hall committee will arrange them.
- A resident raised concerns over the condition of Priory Rd, Cllr Booton will look and report it on Fix my street. Cllr Baker will report the leaves under the underpass.
- A resident attended to discuss the village support which was raised at the last meeting. Clerk confirmed that the Shefford help scheme was restricted to only Shefford for insurance purposes, Clerk will include a write up in the newsletter to see if any residents would be interested in being part of a group.

119/23 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- Cllr Brown is happy to agree a grant of up to £500 for equipment for the use of Zoom.
- CBC have a £1.9million shortfall for the budget and therefore are looking to make savings. The precept increase is likely to be 5% for 24/25 and then 3% for the following 3yrs. Of this 5%, 3% will be for adult care.
- They aim to reduce subsidies by £1.2million.
- £0.3million savings by diming lights.
- 6.7% reduction in fees and charges.
- £126,000 reduction by the removal of the Ward Cllr scheme.
- The planned crematorium will still go ahead.
- £16million will be taken from reserves.
- Food waste bags will be removed and not available to residents.

- The period of no green waste collection will be extended.
- The new school project in Shefford has been frozen and will not now be completed until at least 2026/27.
- Cllrs asked if there were plans to carry out required works on Campton school? That will be the responsibility of Best academies.
- 66 houses on Greenway have been granted planning permission, still under reserved matters.
- An article will appear in the local news on 21/12/23 stating that CBC plan to extend the 30mph zone along Gravenhurst to include the barns at the entrance to the village. The public will have 28 days to comment.

Village hall parking 123/23 was brought forward:

There has been an ongoing project looking at purchasing the land running alongside the village hall in Brookside to create additional parking space for village hall users, Cllr were requested to consider if to continue with the project? Fees for acquiring the land were discussed, the PC would be required to pay both parties legal fees. Cllr Baker proposed continuing to purchase the land, seconded by Cllr Ash, 4 Cllrs in agreement, 1 against. Cllr Longson will obtain up to date quotes for the works required.

120/23 FINANCES:

Payments agreed: December 2023

C Bain payroll £58

D Granger £

Replacement defibrillator pads £119.99

Website fees £119.99

RBL £50

Credit VAT return £1,759.66

Community account £

Business account £23,200.67

As on 4/12/23

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

Clerk will set up payments for Cllr Baker to authorise.

A budget meeting discussion was arranged for end of November, the PC look to be on budget so far, this financial year. The forecast for 2024/25 was discussed and provisionally agreed. Full agreement of the budget and precept will be in January, once the grass tender is discussed and a contractor appointed.

Precept will be agreed in January.

121/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

None

122/23 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

No update.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

A new solicitor has been appointed.

P3 GROUP:

Nothing to report.

123/23 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

Campton Church yard:

CBC have yet to survey the Church yard to see what condition it is in prior to agreeing to take on responsibility. The Pc have provided them with the last tree survey.

Village support:

A resident at the last meeting asked if the village had a support group for residents e.g. taking residents to medical appointments, collecting prescriptions etc. The group that used to run in the village was closed as there was little need for it. Clerk contacted Shefford and Silsoe groups to see if their services would extend to Campton and Chicksands, unfortunately due to insurance they can only cover their defined area.

Defibrillator:

The defibrillator pads have been replaced recently. There was a discussion during the training concerning the defibrillator being registered on the correct site, Clerk can confirm it is listed on 'The circuit'. There was also discussion regarding a contact number being put on the device, so that in the event of it being used and taken to hospital it is labelled for return,

Grounds maintenance tender:

Clerk has prepared the information and has gone out to tender for the grass cutting within the village, the tender has gone to six companies and clerk has met with some. All tenders are to be submitted by 22nd December to enable the PC to review them and appoint a new contractor at the next meeting.

Recreation ground:

Weekly checks continue, rabbits are still an issue near the football pitch and Cllr Booton keeps filling the holes. There have recently been some cars parked outside in the evenings, maybe a resurgence in drugs? Clerk will contact the community officer.

Wi-fi at the village hall:

Ward Cllr Tony Brown has provisionally agreed to part fund some equipment for the Parish Council to assist with meetings via Zoom. The Cllrs agreed to a spend of £900 on equipment 50% of which will be funded by the PC.

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

An offer has been made for the land to the rear of the Recreation ground, this was subsequently increased via a second offer. The PC are awaiting confirmation as to whether they have been successful? An application has been submitted to CBC for their Community grant scheme, the outcome of the application will be published in January 2024.

Village hall parking/land:

Discussed above.

JBB data entry/admin funding model:

Cllrs will raise and discuss the data entry requirements for the JBB at the next JBB meeting, including funding of the data entry.

124/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Planning Obligations supplementary consultation, Cllr Booton has prepared a response which was agreed by Cllrs, Clerk will submit it. Cllrs thanked Cllr Booton for the considerable time he has spent on this.
- Christmas waste and recycling update.
- New Cllr training is available through BATPC on 13th December 2023 and 24th January 2024
- Adult social care strategy and survey.
- National tree week, CBC planting grant scheme, deadline 31/01/24
- ID is now required at the tidy tips, Marston Moretyne PC are appealing against it and have asked for support from other PCs and Ward Cllrs.
- CPRE planning workshop 3/2/24.
- Clerk attended Priority setting meeting, speeding being the main issue.
- Office of Police and crime commissioner open meeting 14th December 2023, Luton Hoo.

125/23 AOB:

Cllr Booton commented that there have been several events organised within the village over the last few months, all of which have been successful. In the latest crime figures, for the last two months Campton has been one of only two villages that have had no crime.

126/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be:

Thursday 4th January 2024 7pm in the Campton Village Hall.