

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Thursday 4th January 2024.

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

Apologies: None

127/23 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2023 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising:

Leaves on the underpass have been cleared.

128/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

Cllr Booton and Cllr Ash regarding planning application CB/23/03902/FULL All Saints Church.

129/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

130/23 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- CBC Budget consultation is ongoing, the £1.9million shortfall discussed last month is actually closer to £4million, this doesn't take into account the £16million already earmarked from reserves. CBC will confirm the budget on 24th February 2024, the Consultation will be running until 9th February 2024.
- Statutory services have to be provided, core provisions in CBC are better than the statutory minimum. There are no core grants planned from the Government, short, small grants may become available during the year.
- In respect of a specific project Cllr Booton asked if some of the S106 money for the Greenway development could be available earlier. Cllr Liddiard confirmed that 50% would be available when development commences. The site is in the Local plan so will be developed at some stage, but no date fixed as yet. Cllr Liddiard stated that the public loans board may be an option for project funding.
- Nearby Residents have received letters regarding the 30mph zone being moved on Gravenhurst Road, if there are no objections it will not be necessary for it to be discussed at the DMC. Residents may submit a letter of support, which would help. A resident asked Clerk to pass on their thanks to the Ward Cllrs for their help in taking this forward.
- CBC are holding an Evening meetings consultation, looking to adopt a more hybrid approach.
- There is a Home to School transport consultation, looking at whether transport should be funded for 16-18yr olds to just their catchment school rather than others?
- Campton school has required works to be carried out for some time. Ward Cllrs are due to meet with Best Academies to discuss this. The Regional Schools director would have ultimate responsibility.
- A resident requested more information regarding the S278/S138 agreements for the Greenway development, particularly concerned for pedestrian safety, including children walking to school when large vehicles are entering and exiting the site. Ward Cllrs will raise this with the planning officer and look at the Construction management plan. Parked cars also

become an issue, developer will need to address this, and road safety linked to the S106 agreement.

- Cllr Wooton asked for an update regarding the lack of handrails on the bridge walking to Beadlow manor, Cllr Liddiard will look into this.
- Cllr Wooton raised the issue of the piece of metal still in the plantation, he will forward the what3words to Cllr Liddiard.
- Clerk will be copying in Ward Cllrs on the document submitted for planning application CB/23/02702/RM.

131/23 FINANCES:

Payments agreed: January 2024

T Medley JJB hours for 2023 £1,295.70

C Bain payroll £58

D Granger £55.02

Eyelid website support £100.00

Campton village hall fees £346.50

A Muskett £104.40

Community account £17,545.54

Business account £23,281.46

As on 3/1/24

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

Clerk will set up payments for Cllr Baker to authorise.

Clerk went out to tender in December 2023 for the grass cutting and maintenance contract, the quotes varied in price, including vat:

Emery £15.7K

Reynolds £15.5K

Grangers £10.4K

Countrywide £10.6K (with a 20% increase over the next 2 years)

Cllr Baker proposed David Granger, seconded by Cllr Turton, all in agreement. All Cllrs agreed to a 3-year contract with a possibility of extending it by 2 years. Clerk will inform all contractors.

The budget was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Booton, all agreed.

Cllrs discussed the precept and agreed a 7.1% increase, providing a total income of £28,979.00, an increase of just under £3 for the Band D property. Clerk will submit this to CBC.

132/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Consultation A00429, change to the 30mph zone at the village entrance on Gravenhurst Rd. All Cllrs fully support this.

CB/23/02702/RM Outline application: Erection of 66 dwellings with associated car parking, landscaping, layout and scale. The PC agreed to submit points on the following areas:

- Site outline-Countryside gap between development and A507.

- Site outline LEAP play area central to the development.
- Site outline- Block plan.
- Site levels-Ensure building heights respect the surrounding and are in context.
- Landscaping.
- Houses- General and tenure.
- House design-Mixture of design and materials.
- Additional comments.

The Parish Council are grateful for all the comments residents have submitted regarding this application, the planning officer has been working hard to take on board everything the PC have commented on and action what is within policy.

CB/23/03902/FULL All Saints Church. Alterations to the stone threshold and tiled floor levels (south porch). Widen existing path and create a new mobility scooter parking area and turning circle. New bonded gravel finish to the path. Cllrs fully supportive of this application.

133/23 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

No update.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

No update.

P3 GROUP:

No update.

134/23 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

Campton Church yard:

Cllr Booton has contacted CBC and told them that the churchyard maintenance is their responsibility from April 2024, he is awaiting a response.

Village support:

Clerk has received an email from 1 resident asking the "Good Neighbour" support to be set up again, on reflection the Parish Council feel maybe it was the wrong time to ask residents as it has been busy over the Christmas period. Clerk will submit another piece in the newsletter for February and the PC will review responses in March 2024.

Recreation ground:

There has been an increase in dog fouling on the recreation ground, Clerk will include this in her monthly report. The goal post covers have gone, Cllr Baker will contact the football club. Part of the pavilion roof has blown off in the recent winds, Cllr Booton will ensure it is safe and Cllr Baker will report to the football club.

Wi-fi at the village hall:

Clerk applied for the £500 Ward Cllr grant and is awaiting an update. Cllr Sibley will make the Wi-fi arrangements.

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

The Parish council had confirmation from CBC in late December that they had not been successful in their UKSPF & REPF funding application, but they have been successful in agreeing a potential purchase price for the proposed site. The PC are now looking at the following alternative funding options.

- S106 money, early release of the funds for the Greenway development.
- National lottery bid; this will take 3 months for confirmation.
- Community assets fund for communities to buy buildings or land.
- Loan in conjunction with the precept.
- Use the PC reserves.

The PC agreed that they need to update the vendors and request some extra time to obtain funding as well as contact the land agent.

Cllr Baker proposed asking the vendors for additional time and to look at funding from the above sources, seconded by Cllr Sibley, 6 Cllrs in agreement.

The Military will be closing the Chicksands base in 2030, which will change land use in the area.

Village hall parking/land:

Cllr Longson has had confirmation of the fees involved, £1020.00 fees for Grand Union and £600-700 for the PC conveyancing costs. Cllr Longson will contact the solicitor to check if there are additional disbursements costs? Clerk will then write a letter of instruction to the solicitors.

Cllr Baker proposed the PC acquire the land, seconded by Cllr Wooton, all agreed. The PC will then decide whether to progress with additional parking on the land at a later stage.

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.

135/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Survey launched to understand views on how you get involved in Central Bedfordshire Council's decisions.
- CPRE have confirmed the PC are through to the next stage for hedge allocation.
- Bus users group meets 11th January at 11am at Luton Town Hall.
- Hedgehog awareness poster.
- Shefford community festival, the organiser has asked if the PC would advertise updates? Proposed by Cllr Turton, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed.
- Police Priority setting meeting 10th January, Kempston.
- A new PCSO has been assigned to Campton and Chicksands

136/23 AOB:

- Cllr Wootton raised concerns that a number of the hedges that have been cut back within the village are still obstructing the pathways so that a mobility scooter or double buggy would have difficulty passing. It was agreed that Clerk would write to all residents and ask them to cut back the hedges further to help improve pedestrian access. If there is no response within 2 weeks, the Clerk should then contact CBC Highways regarding the concern. Cllr Wootton to provide location details to Clerk.

137/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be:

Thursday 1st February 2024 7pm in the Campton Village Hall.