

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Wednesday 5th June 2024.

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

Apologies: Cllr Ash, Cllr Turton.

187/24 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2024 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising:

188/24 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None

189/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

190/24 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- Limited information is now available due to the forthcoming election.
- Funding is now available for additional defibrillators.
- Cllr Liddiard requested information on the priorities for Highways, Cllrs agreed speeding was the main issue, parking was also a concern, but it was agreed the benefits of putting white lines down were minimal if they were not to be enforced. Cllr Liddiard recommended that the PC write to CBC and formally request a speed check for both Greenway and Gravenhurst Rd.
- Mill Lane will be refurbished it is in the long term plan.
- The signage for the new start to the 30mph on entering the village has still not been installed, Cllr Brown will chase this up.
- Cllrs raised concerns over the new consultation method being used by CBC, there seems very few comments have been logged for a number of consultations. Cllr Liddiard stated that comments will increase regarding the Local Plan as the Call for Sites stage is reached.
- Ward Cllr grants are available for projects within the Parish.

191/24 FINANCES:

Payments agreed: June 2024

C Bain payroll £62
D Granger £1,670.40
BATPC £315.00
ICO £40

L Bishop (newsletter printing) £185.92
Talk Talk Wi-Fi
Community account £34,159.06
Business account £23,455.91
As on 3/6/24

Payments agreed, proposed by Cllr Sibley, seconded by Cllr Booton, all agreed.

192/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

None

193/24 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

CQ/FF/TM attending a networking and training session in London in April are due to attend the first meeting of the ICCM East Anglia Branch (newly formed) on 2nd July 2024 in Huntingdon.

Approval was sought from the Committee for SE to attend an online Cemetery Management and Compliance course (cost £145 + VAT). Proposed by Cllr Mackin, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed.

The new fee structure for the Cemetery will come into force on 1 April 2024 as agreed at the last Committee meeting and ratified by both Councils.

The bank balance on 10th May 2024 is £54,410.28 in credit.

Max Medley has volunteered 3 days work helping 2 Elms of Shefford maintain the grounds in Campton and Shefford Cemetery over the past two months. This was organised through the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Awards, and Max was awarded a 2024 Shefford Town Community Award for his endeavours.

The red engineering bricks at the main entrance gates have been replaced with salvaged granite setts; however, the opened gate has since been pushed the wrong way, resulting in it getting wedged on the tarmac roadway.

The resurfacing/repairs to the tarmac paths around the cemetery have been carried out. A Ward Cllr grant of £500 was applied for and it was granted for contribution to these works.

The levels of grave spaces in the Q section have been topped up (with soil and grass seed). The next sections of grave spaces that have very uneven ground to tackle are W/T/Y/X/V.

The tap on the water standpipe has now been replaced.

There has been a gradual build-up of unauthorised stones/memorials surrounding/on the ashes' plaques, including small trinket memorials (e.g. heart shaped, animals, beach stones, glass jars etc). Approval was sought from the Committee to publicise a notice from the Chairman of the Committee (displayed in the Cemetery noticeboard + on posts adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance + on the Council's social media) that all unauthorised memorials that are deemed to be unsafe or preventing the grounds maintenance contractor from carrying out routine maintenance tasks will be removed from grave spaces.

Due to the wet then sunny weather (ideal growing conditions!), an extra grass cut was carried out in April, and it is expected an additional cut will also be required in May.

2 Elms of Shefford Gardening Services have carried out the recommendation made in the recent Tree Safety Reinspection Survey for T1 (cut overhanging branches to 2.5m high) during the summer months. TM/CQ/FF will monitor T2 over the summer season under the guidance of Cllr Jez Perkins.

Following the wet weather spell, CQ + 2 Elms of Shefford Gardening Services carried out a topple test of half of the old section of the cemetery + R + Q section – seven memorials were laid flat due to safety concerns, and one memorial requires further attention.

The English Building and Restoration company have been delayed with work due to the wet weather, they anticipate being on site at the end of May 2024.

There has been no further progress on the restoration/refurbishment project for the Chapel.

We have received a request for permission to be buried in a grave plot in Campton and Shefford Cemetery by a former resident of Shefford, Cllrs agreed.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

The new email account has been set up. Japanese knot weed has been found at the entrance to the land owned by the charity, CBC has cleared this, Cllr Ash will inspect the land.

P3 GROUP:

Brambles have been cut back.

194/24 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

Campton Church yard:

Campton Churchyard is split into two sections, part is owned and managed by the Joint Burial Board, the other part was owned by the Diocese, but on closure it was passed to Mid Beds Council. The PC then took over the grass cutting and are currently in the process of handing this back to CBC. The Diocese, when they registered the land, registered it all, they

have agreed to cover the cost of amending the Land Registry to correct the area that is owned by the JBB. Cllr Booton has agreed the areas with the Church.

Recreation ground:

The bearings on the roundabout need replacing, Clerk will look into this.

Village hall land:

Clerk emailed the resolution to the Solicitors and Cllr Longson has emailed his ID. The Solicitors have suggested that the PC have two Cllrs as signatories for the land, all Cllrs agreed.

The Parish Council agreed to pass a resolution to approve Cllr Paul Booton to sign Land Registry documents on behalf of the Parish Council for land to be transferred from Paradigm Housing to Campton and Chicksands Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Longson, seconded by Cllr Sibley, all agreed.

Cllr Booton will provide ID and proof of address for the Solicitors.

Email addresses:

All Cllrs have new accounts, and they are all working.

Hedge maintenance:

When CBC inspected the hedges, they did not feel action was required. It was therefore agreed by Cllrs that a piece would be included in the September edition of the newsletter asking residents to cut back their hedges in September, if they have not been cut back by November and the PC agree that they are infringing on the pathway, CBC will be contacted and asked to inspect and send a letter if they deem necessary. Proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Baker, 4 councillors in agreement, one against.

Local Nature Strategy:

The PC would like to thank residents for their efforts in responding to the Strategy. There have been 149 comments in total made and 64 of those are from Campton and Chicksands, this is a fantastic response from the Parish.

195/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- CBC Police and Crime Advisory Panel survey
- Rural services network group, deferred until next meeting.
- Topic session, trees follow up.
- UKSPF/REPF Community Grant fund and Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Booton will submit another application, no further update from the National Lottery.
- Topic session follow up Library services Strategy and Arts Culture Strategy.
- CBC Police and Crime Advisory Panel survey, completed by Cllr Baker.

196/23 AOB:

- Clerk will attend the next Police Priorities meeting, Cllrs agreed, speeding is the main issue.
- An email has been received from a resident regarding the football club, this will be listed on the next agenda for further discussion.
- Good Neighbour leaflet has been agreed and will be delivered with the next issue of the newsletter. The cost of printing will be approximately £36 for 400 copies, proposed by Cllr Sibley, seconded by Cllr Baker, all agreed.
- IT equipment for the Village Hall has been agreed, storage will be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting, if agreed, Clerk will order the equipment.

197/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be:

Wednesday 3rd July 7.45pm, the meeting will be finished at the latest 9.45pm to allow the Hall to be set up as a Polling Station.