

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Apologies: Cllr Booton, Cllr Sibley, Cllr Ash, Cllr Wooton, CBC Cllr Liddiard.

209/24 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2024 were deferred until the next meeting, due to only two Cllrs from the last meeting being present.

Matters arising:

The dead tree Elm drive still hasn't been removed, Cllr Brown will follow this up, Cllr Baker will forward photos of the tree.

210/24 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None

211/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident attended via Zoom to test out the new IT equipment, Cllr Baker thanked the resident for his help. The Zoom worked well, the visuals and sound were both adequate and Cllr Turton managed the Zoom aspect during the meeting. Cllr Baker also thanked the ward Cllrs for their funding, which enabled the PC to buy the equipment. Cllr Brown asked Clerk to write an update for him to pass onto CBC.

212/24 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- Crematorium Open Day 14th September, contact Calvin Taylor if more details are required. The crematorium has recently had an audit and achieved 99%.
- Electric car charging information has been issued by CBC.
- Cllr Brown is looking into the bridge by the river.
- Cllr Brown has asked for an update regarding the change to the 30mph zone.
- A428 Black cat roundabout information has been sent to Cllrs.
- Active travel (e.g. paths and trees) is now under Highways.
- The charges for using the tidy tip at this stage is all speculation, CBC will need to discuss the concept fully.
- There is no further update on Schools in the cluster and one is not expected for the next 18mths.
- Cllr Turton raised concerns for safety at the Chicksands roundabout, a number of cars travelling along the A507 towards Shefford are not stopping at the roundabout and those coming from Shefford turning into Chicksands are having to break heavily to avoid a collision. The attending resident endorsed this concern.

213/24 FINANCES:

Payments agreed: September 2024

C Bain payroll £62
D Granger £1,423.20 Aug £1,580.40 Sept
Talk Talk Wi-Fi £31.14 Aug & £31.14 Sept
P Booton Planning application £214.50
N Power £230.23 Aug
D Taylor, village planting £99.98
Mazars £252.00
D Baker Application Plan £21

Credits:

National lottery funding £20,000
Recreation ground hire £5.00

Community account £45,277.70
Business account £23,543.63
As on 31/08/24

Payments agreed, proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Turton, all agreed. Clerk will set up payments.

The External Audit is now complete, the recommendations made were for box 11 to be ticked next year.

As part of the External audit a resident approached the Clerk asking to see the accounts the Clerk wrote to the resident explaining the process for reviewing the accounts. Following this the resident withdrew his request.

Clerk has updated the accounts information with Barclays, Cllr Turton will contact Barclays regarding online banking.

214/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

None to review & comment, only the change of use application relating to the proposed recreation ground extension submitted by the PC.

215/24 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

Works have been completed on the Church wall, a further quote has been sought for the front of the wall on the JBB side and for works to trees and overgrown foliage. Next JBB meeting is scheduled for 24th September 2024.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

The Annual report and finance report has been submitted to the Charity Commission. The land registration is on-going.

P3 GROUP:

Trimming back is taking place in Campton Plantation and around the Parish.

216/24 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

Campton Churchyard:

The clerk has now written to CBC providing them with invoices for the cutting of the grass since April in an attempt to get some action from them re: requested transfer of maintenance responsibility to CBC.

Recreation ground:

Purchase of land next to recreation ground Update: On 18th July the PC were awarded £20,000 by the National Lottery. This was £2,000 more than applied for and the maximum that can be awarded under this lottery scheme. On 19th July the PC withdrew their bid for the UKSPF/REPF Community Grant Fund.

On 18th July the PC put in a planning application for change of use of the land. The cost was £214.50 cheaper than we had first been quoted, On 23rd August the PC were informed the planning application is valid.

The PC approached Pelly's on several occasions to seek representation for the land purchase but received no response. Cllr Booton approached several other companies locally; only one Solicitors responded, Foreman and Law of Hitchin. Cllr Booton contacted all councilors. One councillor had had poor experience but as no one else was prepared to take on the work, so the PC instructed them.

Cllr Booton has been in touch with vendors who are very pleased the PC has raised the money for the purchase of the land.

On 20th August the PC Contacted Woodland Trust regarding trees, they have confirmed they will provide the trees free of charge.

On 29th August Cllr Booton had discussions with the Planning officer over the fact that the PC may have filled in wrong form. She won't know until she has looked at the site and talked to her line manager.

Way forward:

1. Need to get change of land use agreed. Should know by the end of September.
2. Look for other funding for benches.
3. Once we have ownership get the school involved in a writing competition

Roundabout. As had been reported at previous Parish Council meetings and highlighted in the inspection report, the roundabout needed to be repaired.

Over the month prior to the company coming out to look at the roundabout the movement had got worse. When the engineer came to dismantle it, he discovered that it was not the bearings that had gone but that the main spindle had snapped. Following advice from the engineer the roundabout was dismantled for health and safety reasons as the parts were going to take several weeks to arrive as they have to come from France. The cost of the repair is far greater than expected. An email to councillors was sent out on 2nd Aug. New Cost £1389.09 which means we will be way over budget for recreation ground maintenance. The roundabout was due to be fixed today.

Cllr Baker reported that the recreation ground was being used by an unknown group for an organised football training session on a Thursday night. They were spoken to, and it was pointed out they could not just turn up and hold a training session and if they wanted to use the recreation ground, they must contact the clerk. No further sessions have taken place.

During the very hot weather a request was made to use the recreation ground for Yoga that evening. As the Parish Council had agreed this in previous years Cllr Booton agreed, and they made a donation to the Parish Council. Unfortunately, some of the people who attended parked their cars on the footpath. The chair did speak to the organiser about the issue.

A start has been made on repainting the frame as it is three years since it was last painted and parts of it were showing wear and tear. There is no cost as the PC still had paint left over from the last time the frame was repainted.

Village hall land:

Clerk has received the Transfer of Deed from the Solicitor which needs to be signed by both Cllr Longson and Cllr Booton and returned to the solicitor.

Football Club Agreement:

The football club were sent in advance of the meeting with Cllr Booton and Baker on 5th Aug a copy of the agreement. They replied that they were unhappy with the increase in pitch hire. Following a meeting at the recreation ground the agreement was signed with the increase and there was an agreement to draw up a programme for improvements to the pavilion. However, they did point out that there were a lot of mole hills which were a safety issue, and that the nettles by the pavilion stopped them marking out the full-size pitch. There will also only be one team playing there so the number of fixtures will be less so hopefully there will be less of a problem with parking.

Good Neighbour Scheme:

Some eight parish residents have now volunteered to assist in the running of a resurrected Good Neighbour Scheme. Clerk will look to arrange an initial meeting of these residents at the Village Hall to discuss how the scheme might work and will see if someone from a similar scheme run at Silsoe will come along to describe how the scheme works there. Cllrs Turton & Baker, if available, indicated they would assist the Clerk in facilitating this initial meeting.

Local Plan Update:

The Parish Council requested leaflets for each household in the Parish, 15 posters and 30 questionnaires. These were free of charge from CBC. The leaflets were distributed, and posters went up from 22-24th August. So far two paper copies of the questionnaire have been given out. The deadline for responses is 23rd September. As of 22nd Aug, only 5 people have responded from Campton and since then there has been a steady number of responses. CBC have also requested comments on Green open spaces as part of the exercise. The PC will continue promoting the engagement of residents via our website and social media.

Village flower beds:

During the hot weather a number of residents have given up their time to water the plants as well as weed the flower beds. Cllr Booton suggested it might be nice if the Parish Council wrote a letter to the organiser of the group saying thank you. Cllr Baker & Clerk will write to the organiser.

Budget for 2025/26

Budget 2025/26. Cllr need to start considering what expenditure they would like to be considered for next year's budget so that we can obtain costings. For example, we will need to cut back the hedging at the end of the recreation ground next year as it will have been three years since it was last trimmed.

Street names:

A brief discussion took place, but Cllrs will decide via email to ensure all Cllrs can submit their choices. Cllr Baker to initiate an email process.

217/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Local Plan consultation 23rd September
- Children and Young People's survey 8th September
- Health watch Festival for Older People, 4th October 10-2 at Rufus centre, Flitwick.
- CBC Rural local cycling and walking infrastructure consultation, 23rd September.
- Crime statistics.
- BAPTC training.
- Electric vehicles charging in Central Beds.
- Donation request from Marie Curie. To be considered when more Cllrs are present.
- CBC S106 training.

218/23 AOB:

- Neville Funerals in Clifton rd., Shefford are holding a Macmillan Coffee morning on 4th October 10-12, all Cllrs are invited.
- The Parish PCSO will be in the Parish on 28th September 15.00-15.30 at Chicksands and 15.35-16.05 in Campton.
- Remembrance Sunday- PC will use the wreath from last year and make a donation to the Royal British Legion.
- The Neighbourhood plan will need to be reviewed, it is now 3yrs since it was adopted and it should be reviewed within 3-5yrs, Clerk will add this to the November agenda.
- Clerk's appraisal was completed over the summer.

219/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be:

Thursday 3rd October 7pm.