

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Thursday 3rd October 2024.

Present: Cllr Booton as Chairman, Cllr Baker, Cllr Sibley, Cllr Ash, Cllr Wooton, Cllr Turton, Cllr Longson.

Apologies:

220/24 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2024 were signed as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr Wooton.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2024 were signed as a true record of the meetings, proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Longson.

Matters arising:

The PC submitted 4 street names at the request of CBC for the new street in the village.

221/24 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

Cllr Booton regarding the village planting.

222/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident raised concerns over road safety. Clerk will be writing to CBC to request a full traffic survey and assessment.

A resident raised concerns over the leaking sewage pipe in Greenway, Anglian water sub-contractors are currently assessing whether part or the whole pipe will need replacing? Residents are having to clear up the mess left as a result of the leak. Cllr Wooton will contact Anglian water and the CBC Environmental health officer.

223/24 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

No update.

224/24 FINANCES:

Payments agreed: October 2024

C Bain payroll £62

D Granger £1,135.20

Talk Talk Wi-Fi £31.14

Proludic £733.70

A Muskett £104.40

Royal British Legion donation £50

Community account £45,277.70

Business account £23,543.63

As on 30/9/24

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

Budget 2025/26

David Granger will be increasing costs by 5%, a request for a budget of £250 for village planting has been received, Cllrs requested a breakdown of these costs. A bench will need to be replaced at the Recreation ground next financial year and hedge cutting will need to be budgeted for.

Clerk will submit a VAT claim.

A grant application has been received from a resident who would like to set up games nights in the village during the winter months, she is asking the PC for a donation to cover the cost of the Oak room hire at the Church. The cost of the hire will be £22 a session and there will be two sessions per month, Cllrs agreed to fund the sessions through till Christmas, proposed by Cllr Wooton, seconded by Cllr Sibley, all agreed.

225/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

None for discussion.

226/24 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

The JBB met on 3rd October:

1. Cllr Pollard requested to step down from the position of Chair to the Committee but would remain as a Cllr.
2. Clerks have discovered several files of copied historical burial record; therefore, SE has concentrated her efforts on integrating these documents (where not duplicated) into the paper filing system
3. Due to other commitments and surgical procedures, the Clerks have only out joint working in May on 16th (Full day), a half day on 9th August for a site meeting, and a further half day on 26th September to prepare for the JBB meeting. SE has completed an ICCM online Cemetery Management and Compliance training course in September 2024.
4. Members agreed to review the cemetery fee structure on an annual basis in line with the current RPI (currently 3.5%), or would preference be given to reviewing the fee structure on a more infrequent basis, which may result in higher increases in fees in any given year. Comparable cemetery facilities are inclined to review their fees on an annual basis.
5. A draft budget based on estimates + expected increases was presented to the Committee to review. Approval was sought to incorporate the relevant proportion of the budget into the Councils' revenue budget for the year ending 31 March 2026.
6. The bank balance on 26th September 2024 is £41,172.21 in credit.

7. Following approval at the last Committee meeting, a price comparison was carried out and we entered a new electrical supply three-year contract for the Cemetery Chapel with Valda Energy on 6th August 2024.
8. The Oak and Yew trees have been watered by the Groundsmen and volunteers during the summer.
9. A metal slam plate has been fitted to the main entrance gate to prevent it being pushed the wrong way and getting wedged on the new granite setts.
10. Research will be carried out to identify companies/memorial masons that offer a topple testing of memorials and the results (and any costings) will be brought to the next meeting for review by the Committee.
11. The remedial works to the unsafe side perimeter wall in Campton Church yard have been carried out satisfactorily. A further quotation has been obtained from English Building and Restoration for review by the Committee to carry out additional remedial works to the front perimeter wall (adjacent to Greenway) totalling £7,260. Approval is sought from the Committee to raise an order for this work to be carried out in April 2025.
12. A quotation was obtained from DJ Granger Grounds Maintenance Ltd to carry out essential grounds maintenance, including removal of green fly tipping for the safety of grass cutting operations and public access totalling £490.00. Agreed.
13. In order to reregister the Campton Burial Ground in the ownership of Campton and Chicksands Parish Council and Shefford Town Council (the ownership is currently registered in the name of St Albans Diocese), approval was sought from the Committee to pay for the architects drawing in support of this application totalling £350. The application is being made by the Diocese, who are meeting all the other legal fees and charges.
14. Cllr Ash thanked the Committee for the works to the wall in the Churchyard, Campton, residents are appreciative of the works to upkeep historical masonry.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

The Trustees are obtaining two no obligation views from land agents for potential future development of the land.

No further update from the land registry.

P3 GROUP:

Paths are flooded at the moment so not much work has been carried out, the hedges along Priory Rd will need a significant cutting back.

227/24 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

Campton Churchyard:

There has been no further response from CBC to the many emails sent by Cllr Booton, or the letter written by Clerk in August. It was agreed that Cllr Booton would seek the assistance of the Ward Cllrs and then look to submit a complaint to CBC.

Recreation ground:

The roundabout is now fixed, and Cllr Booton is on the process of painting the climbing frame.

Village hall land:

The PC thanked Cllr Longson for his perseverance on this. The documents have now been signed and returned to the solicitor to progress with the conveyance of the land. The PC will now need to look at what do we want to do with the land? And how do we achieve this? It was agreed to invite a representative from the Village Hall Committee to the next meeting for a more in-depth discussion.

Local Plan update:

The latest round of consultation on the New Local Plan concluded on Monday 23rd. The long questionnaire was completed in full or part by 1854 residents, the short one was completed by 351.

In drop pin exercise there were 532 comments of which there were 47 related to Campton and Chicksands Parish, the largest number of any parish or town.

Eight town or Parish Councils asked for leaflets or posters to be printed by Central Beds.

The total number of residents in Central Bedfordshire is just over 300,000.

Good Neighbour Scheme:

Clerk has contacted BRCC for advice regarding the Good Neighbour scheme and to resister the scheme, a meeting with them has been arranged for November 2024.

Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr Booton has been looking at whether now is an appropriate time to review the Neighbourhood Plan? This is to ensure that it cannot be challenged by developments as it will be up to date and relevant. During the last few weeks, he has been investigating the process via Central Government documentation and examples of how other Parishes have tackled the task. From this a number of questions have arisen.

1. Should the PC be attempting to carry out a review at the same time as the New Local Plan is being formed? Does the need to wait until we have a clearer picture of what might be in the New Local Plan and any changes to CBC policies that might come from it?
2. The new National Planning Policy Framework document keeps being promised to be published but so far this has not happened. Does the PC need to wait until we have a clear picture of its contents?
3. Are there enough changes in the Parish to warrant a review at this stage? The development on Greenway has not started and Cllrs are unclear of what is happening to Chicksands Base.

The present Neighbourhood Plan is still legal and has significant weight. Cllr Booton proposed that the PC agree the process by July 2025 with a start date of September 2025 with an aim for completion by September 2026. Cllrs all agreed to the timescales.

Bridge over river:

Ward Cllr Tony Brown has been looking into this and Cllr Booton has been in contact with CBC.

Pedestrian safety:

Residents have contacted the PC regarding pedestrian safety, one concerned for overgrown hedges blocking pathway and others regarding the speed of vehicles travelling through the village, the lack of dropped kerbs for residents in wheelchairs, mobility scooters and parked cars. It is also dangerous for those with hearing or sight impairments to cross.

It was agreed Clerk will write to CBC to request a speed check.

Clerk did put a request in the newsletter for residents to cut back hedges, this will be reviewed at the November meeting and hedges causing an obstruction will be reported to CBC.

228/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Topic session, Community Safety team and Gypsy Traveller unit, 8th October.
- NHS Beds, Luton, MK, breaking down barriers, reducing health inequalities, 7th October 2024, Rufus Centre, Flitwick.
- BAPTC Training programme.
- Police and Crime Launch Event 3rd October.
- Crime Statistics.
- BLEVEC appeal for volunteers to assist with flooding, Clerk will add this to FB, Cllr Baker will advertise it on the website and notice boards.
- Town and Parish update from CBC.

229/23 AOB:

- Rural villages service group, annual membership is £50, Clerk will sign up the PC and Cllr Turton will be the representative.
- Street lamp PC3 is on during the day, Clerk will report this.

230/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be:

Thursday 7th November 7pm.