

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Thursday 7th November 2024.

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

Apologies: Cllr Sibley, Cllr Ash, Central Bedfordshire Cllrs Tony Brown and Mark Liddiard.

231/24 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2024 were signed as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Baker, all agreed.

Matters arising: Cllr agreed residents should request a meeting Zoom code 24 hours in advance of a PC meeting.

232/24 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

233/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- A representative of the Village Hall committee attended to discuss the use of the land to the side of the building. The committee have no agreed idea for use but highlighted the importance of retaining the emergency exit access.
- A new Community games group is to be set up in the village, the PC have agreed to fund the group until the end of the year, the organiser asked the Cllrs to consider extending the funding until January? Cllrs reaffirmed their decision for the funding until the end of the year and would then like the group to become self-funding.
- A resident attended to discuss the parking and speeding issues in the village, Clerk requested a traffic assessment for the village from CBC.
- Anglian water still has the road closure in place and are still assessing the sewer pipe. Unfortunately, the issue may be under the A507, and they are not sure if it is a blockage or collapse. They will look to line the pipe from Greenway through to Shefford, this should last several years.
- Two residents from Brookside attended to discuss the use of land to the side of the village hall that the PC have just acquired. The Cllrs will be considering options for the land and will look at the implications on residents. The earliest the PC are likely to make a decision would be the February meeting.

234/24 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

Apologies sent.

235/24 FINANCES:

Local Government pay award. Last week the Local Government pay award was announced which covers the financial year 2024/25. The award was very close to that which we had entered into the budget.

Payments agreed: November 2024

C Bain payroll £62
D Granger £1,089.60
Talk Talk Wi-Fi £31.14
P Booton, planning fee £359.00
P Booton, trees online £119.00
Play inspection Co £85.20
Pelly's Conveyance fee £678.00
N Power £220.27 (paid 7/10/24)
E bishop, newsletter £208.28
T Medley Cloud next website £119.98
T Medley expenses.

Community account £37,610.00
Business account £23,543.63
As on 31/10/24

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

Budget 2025/26

A meeting will be arranged via Zoom for Cllrs to discuss the budget prior to the next meeting. Cllr Booton urged Cllrs to look at supporting documents in preparation for the meeting and try to identify areas where costs could be reduced.

236/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- CB/24/02974/FULL Land Adjacent to Campton Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Campton. Change of use from agricultural land to public open space/ meadow land, ancillary boundary treatment, gates, landscaping, signage, benches and waste bins. PC submitted the application
- CB/24/01737/FULL and CB/24/01737/LB Copper Beeches, 6 Rectory Rd. Single storey rear and side extension. Refurbishment of existing house including the removal of a 20th Century Mezzanine floor. Removal of existing garage and construction of a double garage. Retention of close-boarded fence along rear garden boundary with 8 Rectory Rd. Cllrs agreed with the Ecology report suggesting a bat survey and they would like to reiterate their previous comments regarding the wall.

237/24 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

No further update.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

No further update.

P3 GROUP:

No further update.

238/24 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

Campton Churchyard:

CBC have responded, they agreed to look into the case and be in touch but there have been no further updates. Cllr Booton proposed escalating this to a higher level, a formal complaint to the Chief Executive, seconded by Cllr Turton, all agreed.

Recreation ground/New land purchase:

This has unfortunately been delayed. Cllr Booton has met with CBC to discuss a Government tree scheme that CBC are involved in, the trees will be fully funded with stakes etc.

Sewage works:

Discussed under Public participation.

Village hall land:

The options look to be tree planting or additional parking. Cllr Booton will investigate the S106 money for Greenway to see if it would be available to support a parking project. Cllrs are aware there already are parking issues in the village and do not want to make this a bigger issue.

Overgrown hedges:

Clerk will report overgrown hedges to CBC to investigate.

New Development/ New Local Plan/ Chicksands Base:

Cllr Booton attended a meeting on the New Local Plan. At the meeting were representatives from Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. Both authorities are going through new Local Plans but at very different stages. The key points which seem to be common to both are:

1. The Inspectors have been told to reduce the time it takes to get plans through.
2. There must be a five-year land supply for housing at all times.
3. If you build more houses in one year it does not count against the next years targets.
4. Targets have been increased for the number of houses to be built per year. Failure to meet the target allows developers to build houses outside of the identified sites in the Local Plan.
5. Neighbourhood Plans have to identify areas for development.
6. The new National Planning Framework document is due out by the end of the month. The consultation period only finished few weeks ago with 200,000 comments but the new document will be published by December.

Central Beds The call for Brown Field sites will be started on the 5th November. The call for Green Field sites starts in December. The aim is to have the new Local Plan in place by 2028.

Traffic during school events:

There have been a few evening events at the school recently, with Greenway closed the traffic along Rectory Rd has been an issue and inconsiderate parking has caused an issue.

239/23 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Barclays have written to confirm interest rates are coming down.
- Topic session, Electrical charging infrastructure.
- Electric charging infrastructure sharing analysis. Chicksands has been labelled as a red zone, meaning there are insufficient areas for charging, its high priority on the list.
- Consultation draft Policy and Principles for the School organisation plan 2025/30.
- Carbon Literacy Action Day, information sessions available 5th and 12th November.
- Food fairness Grant scheme has opened.
- BEST Brochure.
- Shefford Town Council have arranged a Santa's grotto for 13th December, free of charge for children to visit, Cllrs agreed Clerk can advertise it to Parish residents.

240/23 AOB:

Outside the school the bus timetable has come down.

241/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be:

Thursday 5th December 7pm.