

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr Booton as Chairman, Cllr Baker, Cllr Wooton, Cllr Turton, Cllr Longson, Cllr Ash, Central Bedfordshire Cllrs Tony Brown and Mark Liddiard.

Apologies: Cllr Sibley.

242/24 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2024 were signed as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Baker, all agreed.

Matters arising:

The Planning application submitted by the PC for change of use has been granted.

Cllr Booton has emailed CBC regarding S106 money, no response as yet.

Clerk emailed Phil Martin at CBC regarding the long-term precept for the Parish.

243/24 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None.

244/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- A resident queried why there were so many road works in the village? PC confirmed that there had been a repair to the water main at the end of Gravenhurst Rd, a valve has been leaking on the T junction requiring a repair and the ongoing issues with the sewerage pipe in Greenway. It has been confirmed that the pipe will be adequate for the new 66 houses. Anglian water did request a closure of the A507 to carry out works to the sewage pipe, but CBC have declined it due to the number of road closures currently in place in the area. Resident commented that the increase in road closures as exasperated the issue with Hanlon vehicles through the village, unfortunately there is no short-term solution, the resident did suggest an alternative entrance may be considered in the long term.
- A resident raised concerns over parking in the village, both generally and when there are specific events at the school and pub. The PC will be looking at the issue of parking as a whole as Cllrs do not wish to solve an issue in one area only to create an issue in another. The resident stated that since the pub closed the car park during covid to accommodate more people the issue has become worse. When the last planning application was granted a percentage of the parking should have been put back in use and it hasn't? Cllr Booton and Cllr Liddiard will follow this up.

245/24 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- Bin collections over Christmas have been posted.
- Dates have been published for the collection of green bins for those not wishing to have them collected next year.

- The change to the 30mph zone on Gravenhurst Rd is scheduled for mid-January.
- Dead tree in Elm close, Cllr Brown is following this up with CBC.
- There is a Schools for the future meeting which Ward Cllrs will attend.
- The PC submitted a letter of complaint and have had no response for 2 weeks, Cllr Brown will chase this up with Gavin Coombes, who should have responded.
- Ward Cllrs were due to attend a Highways meeting, but it has been postponed, Highways will be presenting a 3-year programme of works, but this will be reliant on the budget.
- CBC have dropped the idea of charges at the tidy tip but will be implementing the booking system again.
- Cllr Liddiard is looking into the grass cutting contributions paid to PCs across CBC and how there has been no increase for inflation for a number of years.
- CBC are preparing the budget, there is currently a shortfall, the Executive met on Wednesday, and it is now due to go to full council.
- Cllrs thanked Tony and Mark for the help and support.
- Clerk submitted a request to Highways for a traffic assessment of the village and has received no response, Cllr Liddiard will chase them.
- Cllr Liddiard requested ideas from the Cllrs regarding traffic calming in Greenway, Cllr Liddiard would like to ensure that the Developer and Planning officer adhere to the application in terms of traffic calming. So far, the developer has recommended a bigger 30mph sign.

246/24 FINANCES:

Payments agreed: December 2024

C Bain payroll £62

D Granger £284.40

Talk Talk Wi-Fi £31.14

Village hall £66.00

Play inspection Co £108.30

Community account £36,060.94

Business account £23,543.63

As on 28/11/24

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

Budget 2025/26

The tax base number of band D properties for 2025/6 is unchanged from 2024/25, so any percentage change to the per household precept charge will result in the same percentage change to the total precept received by the Parish Council.

Cllrs discussed at length ways to reduce the budget and make savings. It was agreed that the responsibility for the cutting of the grass in the village hall garden will be handed back to the village hall committee as the PC currently pay for it. The PC will also reduce the number of village cuts by 1 over the next financial year. The budget was agreed and an increase in precept amounting to £5.63 to a Band D property was proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Baker, all agreed.

247/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The application for the Rectory required a bat report, this has been updated to state that 2 further surveys will be required between May and September 2025.

248/24 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

No further update.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

There is still a backlog at the Land registry. There has been some activity from the land agents, a meeting with the trustees will be organised.

P3 GROUP:

CBC have cut back the area on the entrance to the village.

249/24 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

Parking in the village:

Cllr Booton will prepare a paper outlining the points for Cllrs to discuss.

Good Neighbour Scheme:

Clerk recently met with BRCC to discuss setting up the Good Neighbour Scheme for the Parish. Cllr Ash proposed the PC cover the cost of insurance, telephone and DBS checks for the volunteers, seconded by Cllr Turton, all agreed. Clerk will now arrange a meeting with all of the volunteers to discuss what services they would like to offer as volunteers, a chairperson and secretary will be required to run the group alongside a rota of volunteers to hold the phone.

Grounds maintenance:

Clerk recently met with the contractor to discuss the grounds maintenance within the Parish, he highlighted a couple of issues:

1. Trees under the underpass have become overgrown and there is a dead tree. The clerk will report on fix my street.
2. Silver birch by the school is dead and needs removing. Cllr Brown following this up.

3. The hedges that were repaired on the Recreation ground are becoming overgrown and may damage them. Cllr Booton will look at this and report back.

Meeting dates:

Councillors agreed that they would like to continue with meetings being held on the first Thursday of the month throughout 2025, Clerk will book the village hall for meetings.

Campton Churchyard:

Cllr Booton suggested due to not receiving a response form CBC that the PC should write to the Ministry of Justice, all agreed.

250/24 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Topic session and update for Freight strategy consultation.
- Street Trading Policy consultation.
- BLMK ICB Communication and engagement update.
- CPRE hedgerow update.
- Royal British Legion newsletter and Christmas card.
- The landlord from the Pub has contacted the PC regarding a Christmas tree in the centre of the village for next year, clerk has invited the landlord to the next meeting and will include it on the agenda.
- Crime Statistics.

240/24 AOB:

- Due to the Christmas bank holidays and an early meeting in 2025 clerk will issue the agenda for the next meeting prior to Christmas.
- Clerk would like to take the SLCC Civility and Respect pledge, proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Baker, all Councillors agreed, Clerk will prepare the information and add it to the next agenda.
- The village hall management committee are querying the boundary for the land next to the hall and where the PC land meets the Diocese land? Cllr Longson will look into this.
- Cllrs agreed to contact residents in Greenway, either offering a Microsoft form to complete or a door survey to gather views of residents for traffic calming. Cllr Turton and Cllr Wooton will look into this.

241/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be:

Thursday 2nd January 7pm.