

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton village Hall on Thursday 2nd October 2025.

Present: Cllr Booton, Cllr Wootton, Cllr Ash, Cllr Sibley, Cllr Turton, Cllr Griffiths. Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tony Brown.

Apologies:

92/25 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2025 were signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Sibley.

Matters arising:

Barclays mandate has been updated, Cllr Wootton still hasn't received his card for the pin sentry device, clerk will chase this.

The proposal for 270 houses is not yet open to consultation.

Cllr Booton has met with David Granger to discuss grass cutting, he has agreed that if the PC notify him that a cut is not required, he will not cut but he will still do his contracted 14 cuts over the year.

The football club have been approached, there are no games being played at the moment, they are still required to carry out the works to the pavilion.

93/25 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None

94/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident asked who is responsible for the grass by the 30mph sign on Priory Rd? Cllr Booton will go and have a look at the area which is not being cut.

Opposite 12 Priory Rd is an almond tree that requires attention, Cllr Booton will look.

A resident was concerned that volunteers for the Good Neighbour scheme were not receiving emails> Clerk confirmed that emails had been sent, and a number of people had responded.

A resident attended to discuss the possibility of the PC applying for conservation status for the village. The resident has submitted a formal complaint to CBC as due to staff shortage they no longer have the capacity to undertake conservation work, it would need to be a private appraisal. Cllr Booton thanked the resident for the time spent on this; the Cllrs would have to consider the application as it would impact on homeowners in terms of works to their properties and the likelihood of CBC awarding the status. Cllr Griffiths agreed to look into this further and update Cllrs on his research.

95/25 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- CBC are currently conducting a survey called 'Roads and Transport Across Central Bedfordshire' which is due to end 28th Feb 2026. Categories are Accessibility, Active Travel, Communication, Highway Maint, Public Transport, Road Safety, Congestion.

For details see website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/surveys.

- Tidy Tips will from 8th Oct be barrier controlled. To gain entry you must have booked a 20 min slot on www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/hwrc
The barrier will only open if it recognises your number plate. If you are not on the internet, then you can book a slot by ringing Customer Services on 300 300 800 between 08.30 and 17.30
- A 'Flood ready Together' presentation at the Shefford Community Hall starting at 10.00am on 18th Oct.
- Shefford/Campton underpass. Fix my Street 427422 issued to remove over hanging tree branches from cycleway and to remove all lateral branches to a height of 6 foot from the trees between Greenway and the underpass. Order number 00987957 issued 22nd Sept to remove all weeds growing in the cycleway gutter. 28 day working order.
- 12 New Towns Planned for England by Labour Government. Tempsford is one of the first expected. It could be up to 40,000 new houses. Milton Keynes is also included for expansion. An Emergency Full Council Meeting has been arranged for 9th Oct. Government haven't committed to whether this will be included in the five-year housing criteria.
- CA3 Footpath bridge. Construction expected to start April 2026. The Internal Drainage Board will need to be involved; Cllr Brown will follow it up.

96/25 FINANCES:

Payments: October 2025

C Bain payroll £58

D Granger £1,325.12

Talk Talk £33.27

Clerk expenses £322.94

Play inspection Co £93.90

Lawsons £1778.40

A Muskett £104.40

CBC Credit- precept £16,247.50

CBC Credit-grass cutting contribution £1793.10.

Community account £

Business account £43,487.78

Community account 320,814.33

As on 29/0925

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

Clerk requested to submit a vat return to the value of £1318.88, all agreed.

The Audit has now been completed, there was a minor scope for improvement, Clerk should provide more detail in terms of variance, on being asked the information was provided.

There are some adjustments that need to be made to the clerk's salary next month to the value of £137.33.

Cllr Booton requested that Councillors come to the meeting with any suggestions for next year's budget. It would be good if we can confirm the budget at the December Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Turton suggested a defibrillator for Chicksands, all agreed. The village border volunteers have requested £250 for planting in the village.

97/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

A developer has contacted the PC regarding an area of land in the village, Cllrs agreed that they would not engage with the developer.

98/25 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

No update

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

No update

P3 GROUP:

Towards the end of the growing season now.

99/25 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

LOCAL PLAN:

No further update

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Discussed under Public participation.

RAIZER LIFTING CHAIR.

Cllr Turton would like to consider purchasing a Chair that would assist people when they fall. The Chair could be owned by a couple of Parish Councils and shared, with qualified members able to use it. It was suggested that the chair could be stored at the car home and maybe the Good Neighbour volunteers could be the ones qualified to use it? Cllr Turton will send more information to clerk who will approach Shefford TC and Meppershall PC to see if they're interested?

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING:

The Village Hall have approached the Clerk and would like the Cllrs to consider offering further Defibrillator training to Committee members and residents. It was agreed that this could be considered for the next financial year and could link with the purchase of the Defibrillator for Chicksands.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:

Cllr Ash and Cllr Booton will be present for remembrance Sunday, Cllr Booton suggested a donation of £50 to the RBL, seconded by Cllr Griffiths, all agreed.

LAND NEXT TO THE RECREATION GROUND:

The Solicitors have confirmed that the land has not been Registered by the current owner, and it could take 12-18 months for the Registration to be complete. The grant needs to be spent by 31/12/25 so unless the PC go ahead with the purchase it will be lost. Cllr Booton proposed going ahead with the purchase, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed.

Land purchase update The Parish Council have signed the purchase documents and are now waiting for the vendors to sign. It is hoped completion will be in the next ten days. The Parish Council have been awarded a grant of just under £13,000 for the purchase of gates/ benches/fencing/signs. This money must be spent by 31st December. Dave Granger is to install the gates - 2 singles (which are wide enough for a wheelchair access) and a five-bar gate to allow maintenance vehicles access. We hope this will take place second full week in October.

Signage, Cllr Booton has emailed Cllrs examples, it contains the National Lottery Logo, the words supported by the Government Funding, support given by Central Bedfordshire Council.

Trees: The PC have been successful in one of the bids for trees and are waiting to hear on our bid from two others. The trees will arrive in early November. The school have agreed that some of their students will plant the trees. Still to do: Obtain funding for wildflower seeds. Obtain a quote for four cuts of pathways a year. The aim is that this site will be fully operational within the next two years. For information the costs so far:

Land purchase £22000

Solicitors' fees £1500 (to be confirmed)

Planning application £600

Total £24100

Grants: National Lottery £20,000

UKSPF £12,878 Tree Value £420

Value £33,298

Parish Council Contribution to date £4100

FOOTBRIDGE OVER THE RIVER:

Discussed by Ward Cllr.

100/25 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Playground Inspection training, Clerk will find out more information.
- Crime update. 1 incident of Shoplifting and 1 incident of Harassment, both in Chicksands.
- Community and Partnership updates
- 25 Year Waste Consultation and Teams session
- Green Spaces consultation and Teams session. Cllr Booton attended this session. CBC are trying to increase the number of allocated Green spaces which will then hold the same status as green belt land. CACS identified areas in the Neighbourhood Plan, it was agreed that these would be resubmitted, along with the evidence of resident's view as collated for the Neighbourhood Plan. Dave Baker, who originally led the Neighbourhood plan is happy to help with this, Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Turton will also get involved.

101/25 AOB:

Alaistair Strathern is holding a meeting at the Pub on 16th October to discuss potential planning.

The Good Neighbour meeting has been arranged for 22nd October 6pm in the Church.

Greenway, lots of soil is still being delivered and good topsoil taken, Cllr Booton will approach planners.

102/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 6TH November 7pm.