

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton village Hall on Thursday 6th November 2025.

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

Apologies: Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Longson.

103/25 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2025 were signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Sibley.

Cllr Wootton asked for an amendment to the Minutes, under 99/25 Land next to the Recreation ground, Cllr Booton proposed going ahead with the purchase of the land, seconded by Cllr Ash, Cllrs agreed but Cllr Wootton expressed his concerns and did not agree.

Matters arising: None.

104/25 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None

105/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

106/25 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- CBC have budget meetings scheduled for 15th and 16th December 2025.
- Very good turn out for the 'Flood ready' community engagement in Shefford on 18th October.
- Green garden waste will stop at the end of November and restart 20th February 2026.
- CBC are asking Town and Parish Councils to identify green spaces which are important to their residents for inclusion in the new Local Plan.
- Meeting scheduled for 17th November to discuss the Highways 3-year plan.
- CBC announced success with the new booking system at the tidy tip.
93% of visitors have a booking.
36.5% reduction in visits due to non-CBC residents unable to use the tip.
25% reduction in waste, resulting in savings.
- Cllr Wootton reported that items being reported on Fix my street are not being followed up by a confirmation email and then appearing on the site. Cllr Brown will look into this.
- Clearing and cutting back of the trees and bushes under the underpass have not been completed, Cllr Brown will follow this up.
- Tempsford is going ahead but Government is yet to confirm if the total number of proposed houses will be taken from the overall total that CBC are expected to build
- Cllr Booton thanked CBC for reviewing grass cutting contributions annually from now on.
- A meeting has been arranged with the football club; no games have been played as yet this season. The grass does not need cutting at the moment.

107/25 FINANCES:

Payments: November 2025

C Bain payroll £58.00
D Granger £2,856.00
Talk Talk £33.27
British Hardwood nursery £143.70 (New land purchase project)
Lawsons £807.90 (New land purchase project)
Cloud Next £60
N Power £218.90
Godfreys benches £1484.58 (New land purchase project)
Cottage nurseries £50
Rural village services £63
Broome signs £860.88

Community account £
Business account £38,148.07
Community account £23,873.03

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

Overall, the expenditure is in line with budget forecast. There are two areas that are or may well be overspent. Insurance is £143 over budget and street lighting may well be at least £400 over budget. Playing field maintenance appears to be well within budget but the hedge cutting will not take place until the spring. Grass cutting appears to be within budget and may come in slightly under by the end of the year. On the income side, VAT reclaim will be down but can be off set against increased income from grass cutting contributions from CBC. Just to note, it may appear that VAT will be over in the coming months this is due to claiming VAT back on the area next to the recreation ground but this has been taken into account with the grant funding which takes this provision off before paying the Parish Council.

Cllr Booton asked Cllrs to consider budget items for the next financial year as well projects for a 3-year project plan. Cllr Booton suggested recommendations from the Neighbourhood Plan, suggestions also included The Orchard, Conservation status, new land maintenance, Defibrillator and training.

Cllr Wootton also suggested the Cllrs look at speed cameras, both cost, profit and maintenance.

Cllrs suggested that the PC add a budget item for the Pavillion if the club are no longer going to play matches. The Cllrs will need to look at responsibility and ownership.

A funding request has been received from Campton school for a prize for the PTA raffle, Cllr Ash proposed £30 voucher, seconded by Cllr Booton, all agreed, Clerk will make the arrangements.

A thank you letter has been received from Clophill lakes donation.

A resident has contacted the PC to ask for a donation towards crochet hooks and wool as they would like to crochet a poppy cascade for Remembrance Sunday next year. Cllr Ash proposed a donation of £40, seconded by Cllr Turton, all Cllrs agreed.

108/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

CB/25/03178/FULL 93 Greenway, single storey rear extension and part garage conversion. No objections.

CB/25/03011/GPDE 12 Truman, Clerk will request more information.

109/25 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

A Shefford resident has approached the JBB to request a Memorial wood in the cemetery. Details had been sent to Cllrs in advance of the meeting. Cllrs agreed that they would like to explore this further. Clerk will investigate this further.

The bank balance for the cemetery account on was as of 15/08/25 £58,773.08.

- There is an ongoing issue with molehills in the cemetery. Cllrs agreed to monitor this.
- The front hedge on Campton Rd requires the width to be reduced so that it does not encroach on the pathway. This was last reduced about 10 years ago, the quote received from 2 Elms is for £870, proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed.
- The plaques are overgrown and need cutting back. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- The Yew tree needs pruning. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- Branches need lifting on several trees. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- One of the benches which is cemented into the ground has sunk, mainly the back legs, this will require work to make it sturdy. TM will look at the bench, proposed by Cllr Ash to make it safe, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- The hedge dividing the old part of the cemetery and the field has brambles growing through, these need to be removed. Cllrs will view this before committing.
- Some of the plastic edging around graves has been removed on the unkept graves due to it catching on the mower, there is more edging that needs to be taken up. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- There are two waste bins as you go into the cemetery, 2 Elms have suggested that one be moved to the other side of the cemetery, so bins are more accessible from both sides. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- There is a small bin in the old part of the cemetery by Ampthill Rd, it is only ever used for dog mess, Cllrs proposed that a dog bin be installed on Ampthill Rd by the gate that would be emptied by CBC along with the other dog bins? Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- Some of the unattended graves need cleaning. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr King, all agreed.
- Cllrs considered a policy for all dogs to be on the lead. A number of dogs are allowed to roam and are urinating up the sides of memorials and plaques. Signs would need to be installed to update dog walkers. Proposed by Cllr Mackin, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed. Cllr Wootton suggested that the JBB consider a No dogs policy completely.
- Cllr Ash for clarification of whether a piece of land is still owned by the Diocese in the cemetery, Cllr Mackin confirmed it is planned for future burials.

Neville's memorials have contacted Clerk to discuss a memorial stone. On a full burial plot a memorial stone contains the details of the two people buried, since then 3 ashes burials have been added to the plot, and the family would like to include the names of their loved ones. It was suggested that either names could be included on the back of the memorial stone or if the memorial was put on a plinth names could be added to the plinth or a book placed leaning against the memorial for names. The family originally wanted a memorial plaque in front of the memorial stone, but this would not be permitted.

Cllr Wooton proposed agreeing the recommendations from the JBB, seconded by Cllr Sibley, all agreed.

Next meeting 22nd January 2026

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

No update

P3 GROUP:

Boards over the River Flit are slippery when wet, they have been reported on fix my street, Cllr Booton will write to CBC. The track through to the golf club has been cut back, this may encourage motorbikes again, Cllr Booton will take a look and speak to those cutting the hedges back.

110/25 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Cllr Griffiths has carried a lot of research into this, and his documents are attached. A big thank you to Cllr Griffiths for looking at this. Cllr Booton proposed a steering group being set up to extract the information from the Neighbourhood plan, to consult with residents and then present the information to CBC. CBC may require a professional submission, the PC would then have to discuss funding, this may be £3- £4000.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS:

A resident has suggested that the PC apply for TPOs for trees in the Parish. A number of trees have been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, it was agreed to apply for TPOs for trees in the Parish, Cllr Booton will ask for the help of a resident.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

Cllr Ash and Cllr Booton will lay wreaths, the Lord Lieutenant's Deputy will attend, meet at the Church at 10.45.

LAND NEXT TO RECREATION GROUND:

We are still waiting to gain ownership of the land. The previous owners paid for a speedy land transfer which has now been completed, and the transfer should take place in the next 10 days.

The owners of the land have been outstandingly helpful, supportive and understanding and have allowed us full access to the land allowing us to install gates, plant trees and install fencing.

Tree planting. There are several parts to this, there will be a number of groups involved in planting. The school, councillors and ex councillors, residents who contribute to the Parish such as the village boarder working party and volunteers from a charity providing some of the trees and the Odell

family. Planting will start from mid-November. The volunteer charity donating the trees will start the hedging on 19th November. They are going to work with school on 21st planting the trees and hopefully finish on the 23rd. Pupils will come out a class at a time and be split into small groups 4/5 and plant at least one tree each. They will have their photo taken doing so (thanks to Dave with help taking pictures) they will then, at a later date, be presented with a certificate of planting with their picture on it, the type of tree they planted and a picture of what it will look like in the future. Small woodland will be planted by members of the village. The line of lime trees will be planted by the Odell family. It is hoped that by the end of the month all the trees will be planted. The Parish Council are in the process of applying for grants for the wildflowers, which is hoped can be sown in the spring.

RECREATION GROUND:

The grass is in a poor condition due to the warm summer, the rabbits digging holes and the mole hills. At some point during the next two years the Parish Council should consider seeding the area and getting it rolled. The hedging at the end of the field is due to be cut back in March. One of the benches needs to have a piece of wood replaced as it is rotten and they all need painting to help increase their life. BAPTC are organising play inspection training, a one-day course at a cost of £130, Cllr Sibley will check if he can attend, proposed by Cllr Turton, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed.

FOOTBALL GROUND:

Discussed earlier

VILLAGE MEETING WITH MP:

Our Local MP set up a meeting on 16th October to talk to residents in the White Heart. Despite concerns being expressed to his office about the size of the venue they decided to proceed. Between 50 and 60 residents attended. Unfortunately, a number of residents could not hear what was being said. This was the fourth such meeting he had held and at the other meetings the attendance had been between 12/20 people. He began with an outline of his stance on the proposed new development, then covered a wide variety of topics where he has supported the community. There then followed a question-and-answer session most of which was about the development on Greenway other topics that were raised were the lack of support for hospices, state of roads around Morrisons.

A group of residents who oppose the possible development on Greenway have met three times.

GREEN OPEN SPACES:

Local Green Space Dave Baker and Cllr Turton have very kindly been working on identifying further Local Green Spaces for protection which can be added to our Neighbourhood Plan. We were encouraged to carry out this process by CBC. They have identified four possible sites.

Sports Island site (formally known as site 10 in the GI/NP Plan) to LP Assessment Process.

New Site A (Parkland & Gardens of Chicksands Priory) to LP Assessment Process.

New Site B (land to the north of Parkland & Gardens of Chicksands Priory) to LP Assessment.

New Site C (grassland & small orchard adjoining Campton Plantation) to LP Assessment Process.

Closing date is 26th November.

Cllr Booton proposed submitting all 4 sites, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed. Cllr Booton thanked Dave Baker and Cllr Turton.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME:

A meeting of volunteers has taken place and a representative from BRCC was also able to attend. One volunteer has offered to be Secretary a Chair still needs to be appointed. A follow up meeting will be arranged to discuss the group further, but it does look viable.

111/25 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Crime update
- Community and Partnership update
- Tree tally survey
- Green spaces reminder
- Priority setting meeting dates.
- Police and Crime commissioner survey
- CBC Carbon literacy sessions
- Grass contributions review
- Governance Review, Clerk will add this to the next agenda, no recommendations for Campton and Chicksands, both Meppershall and Shefford have received a recommendation for reduced Cllrs. Responses are due before 26/1/26. A resident had contacted the PC suggesting that the parish boundary with Mepershall should be further past it's present boundary the river as Woodland farm had more in common with Campton than Meppershall.

112/25 AOB:

Cllr Longson has resigned from the Village Hall committee; Cllr Wootton will take his place.

A resident has asked the PC to consider a 20mph speed limit in Gravenhurst Rd, Cllrs will discuss it with Ward Cllrs at the next meeting.

The likely start of the 66 houses on Greenway is the summer 2026 as the developers website site says houses will be available autumn 2026

113/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 4TH December 7pm.