

## MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

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

Apologies: Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Sibley

### **114/25 MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Ash.

Matters arising:

Speed cameras have been investigated, and they are beyond the PC budget, CBC will be looking at restrictions along Greenway as part of the new development.

A thank you email has been received from the school PTA for the raffle prize.

The bridge is slippery, no works are planned, it will be reviewed in April 2026.

The Good Neighbours group has elected a Chair and secretary; a follow up meeting will be arranged.

### **115/25 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:**

None

### **116/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

### **117/25 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:**

- CBC have budget meetings scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Its going to be a difficult budget, the auditor has confirmed that there are no reserves. A S151 notice may be considered whereby CBC will only be permitted to spend on Statutory expenditure.
- The 3 to 2 tier school system is ongoing; CBC have approved a plan to focus on the Cranfield cluster in 2026. CBC initially thought the Shefford cluster would be straight forward, but it is proving more difficult. There will be engagement of proposals Feb/Mar 2026. Due to the decline in birthrate, it is predicted that less schools will be required and some will therefore close and the Shefford new school could be unlikely. Most schools needing converting from Lower to Primary have challenges in terms of accommodating more pupils.
- The Campton school will have new windows fitted once planning has been granted, should be fitted in the spring half term.
- PCC have reported that there is a 30% increase in Community Police officers,
- Local Plan is progressing with the draft expected July 2026.
- Cllr Brown has been investigated a report regarding oil and waste leaking into the River Flit from a car storage and break up yard which has taken over the site of an old garden centre in Clophill. A CBC Enforcement officer and the Environmental agency are investigating.

- Cllr Wootton confirmed that information Cllr Liddiard submitted to fix my street was not actioned, Cllr Wootton re submitted it. Cllr Brown commented that sometimes when cases are closed, they have actually been passed to a different department.

#### **118/25 FINANCES:**

Payments: December 2025

C Bain payroll £58.00  
 D Granger £300  
 Talk Talk £33.27  
 Lawsons £483.84  
 RBL donation £50 (payable to T Medley)  
 School raffle donation £30 (payable to P Booton)  
 L Bishop (newsletter printing) £217.76  
 HRL Foreman, legal fees £2,566.80

Credit CBC £4,269.15 funding

Community account £  
 Business account £13,292.16  
 Community account £23,873.03

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

Cllr Booton presented the draft budget for Cllrs to view and discuss, based on the budget as it stood the precept would need to be increased by 14.2%, if £1000 for projects was removed then the precept could need to be increased by 11.6%.

Cllr Wootton proposed a 14.2% increase, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed. This will be an increase of £7.36 per band D property.

Projects to be included:  
 Registration of Recreation ground £2000  
 Legal costs for Poor field £3000  
 Defibrillator £1000  
 Glebe field purchase  
 School purchase, if closed, for a community hub

Proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed.

CBC have overpaid the PC for grass cutting contributions, Clerk will arrange the refund of £734.31.

#### **119/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

CB/25/02953/LB The White Hart, Mill Lane, Campton, Shefford, SG17 5NX. Replace hardwood doors, to the rear of the property. No comments.

CB/25/03571/DOC 1 The Old Dairy, Beadlow, Shefford, SG17 5P Discharge of Condition 3 against planning permission CB/21/04079/FULL (Proposed change of use and conversion of existing storage barn into a residential annexe. No comments.

CB/25/02760/LB Chicksands Priory. Replacing of fire doors. No objections.

## **120/25 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

### **JOINT BURIAL BOARD:**

Clerk requested a dog bin on Ampthill Rd, CBC have confirmed there is no money available, so they are unable to install a bin.

Next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

### **CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:**

No update, next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

### **P3 GROUP:**

No update, 4 trees are now down in Campton Plantation, Cllr Wootton has reported to CBC, there is no budget to cover works.

## **121/25 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:**

### **NEW AREA NEXT TO RECREATION GROUND:**

Since the last Parish Council meeting the Parish Council have now taken ownership of the land. The registration of the land has been sent off by solicitors. Tree and shrub planting has taken place with over a 1000 shrubs and trees planted. The hedging has been carried out by a team of volunteers from CPRE Bedfordshire and pupils from Campton Academy. The pupils had an assembly on the project. Cllr Booton thanked everyone involved.

A small woodland has been planted with various residents. The last trees to be planted will be on the 6th December by the family who sold us the land. Fencing of the area begins on 15th December. which is a safety issue.

### **Further ahead:**

1. Footpaths will need to be created between the avenue of trees. We are hoping this will be started from funding from our bid money. Once the footpath has been established a resident has kindly agreed to maintain them.
2. Most of the centre of the area will need to be levelled. We are hoping a local farmer will do this. It will then need to be seeded with wildflowers. Grants are available for this.

### **Longer Term:**

1. Maintenance: Pathways should be maintained by resident. As CPRE have agreed that we are now part of the project we will have on going help in maintenance either in cash or labour support or replanting of any shrubs/trees which have died.
2. A resident has agreed to create drawings of the area and sell them for the long-term support of the area.

The new will be referred to as Healthy living field, to be formally named at a later date. The family are planting trees at the weekend.

## **SAVE CAMPTON UPDATE FROM RESIDENTS:**

A group of residents have been knocking on doors asking people to sign a petition regarding the possible development on Greenway of approximately 290 homes. They have also set up a Facebook page. From the information Cllr Booton has received, in excess of 700 people have signed the petition and a further 209 have signed online. The aim is to give this to the leader of the Council. They are waiting for the Council leader to confirm a date. From Campton and Chicksands only 9 houses refused to sign and from 15 there was no answer.

#### **GREEN OPEN SPACES:**

Following on from the last Parish Council meeting we have submitted the four further areas for consideration. These will now be judged against the criteria for Open Green Spaces to see if they qualify.

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.

#### **MEETINGS:**

It was agreed to continue meetings in 2026 on the first Thursday of the month with exception to January, due to the first Thursday being a bank holiday, it will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **FUNERALS:**

Clerk is covering funerals at the moment due to staff absence at Shefford TC, Cllr Booton asked if Cllrs could assist? Cllr Wootton and Cllr Ash have offered to do so.

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

A group of residents are meeting regularly to crochet poppies for a display from the church tower next year. A quiz night was organised on 28th November in aid of MS by Cllr Ash. Cllr Booton offered a big thank you to all organisers of events. There is the normal monthly coffee morning on December 5th at the church. On 14th December 2.30- 4.30 there will be tea and cakes in the Church in aid of Church funds.

#### **ISSUES OF POLLUTION- THE RIVER FLIT UPSTREAM:**

Discussed with ward Cllr.

#### **VILLAGE HALL:**

- The hearing loop doesn't seem to be working.
- The Committee would like to raise the profile of the hall and private 100 club. They would like an advertising board by the noticeboard in Chicksands, Cllrs advised that agreement would need to be sought from Chicksands Private management company,
- The defibrillator needs weekly checks which should be reported online. Clerk has emailed the Committee and is awaiting a response as to whether they would like to be registered to file the report?
- The Committee have requested Defibrillator training, Clerk has advised that the Cllrs would like to arrange for a new defibrillator in Chicksands and once this has been installed, training will be arranged.

**122/25 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was received:

- Crime update
- Community and Partnership update
- CPRE update
- Green spaces consultation
- Communication and data compliance training
- Rural services network.
- Precept information
- Play Inspection training.
- Governance Review, Cllrs will agree what to submit outside of full council.
- Leisure Parish Schedule, Clerk will submit, the Glebe, School future use as a Community Hub, defibrillator for Chicksands. Small Orchard.

**123/25 AOB:**

Cllr Wootton reported the car has been removed from the Recreation Ground.

**124/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 7pm in the Church.