

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton village Hall on Thursday 8th January 2026.

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

01/26 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2025 were signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Turton, seconded by Cllr Ash.

Matters arising: None.

02/26 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None

03/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

04/26 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

- CBC Administration is working on balancing the budget for 2026/27 whilst addressing a £17million shortfall. A consultation is now open to Town and Parish Councils as well as residents to comment on possible savings ideas. It is looking as though there will be a 5% increase in the precept. Possible savings include reducing staff, operating the tidy tip two days less a week, close libraries and Theatres or reduce hours. There will also be an increase in charges, the list is extensive. Cllr Booton asked if the blank spaces on the list meant that all funding had been cut and no money would be paid? Two examples were the Mental Health Team, this had £277,055.00 allocated for this financial year and yet the space is blank for next financial year, same with the Disability Centre in Silsoe who were allocated £25,370 this year but the space is blank for next year, Ward Cllrs will look into this. Ward Cllrs grants are a savings consideration as is removing notifying residents of forthcoming planning applications, it has been suggested that this could be allocated to Parish councils.
- Cllr wootton questioned how much Fix My Street costs and if this could be a cost saving? Cllr Turton asked how much the number plate recognition at the tidy tip had cost to install?
- Cllr Booton commented that there was no further update regarding future development in Campton, a petition has been refused by CBC, they state that it cannot be accepted as there is already a planning application being considered, this is incorrect, Cllr Booton and Ward Cllrs will follow it up.
- No further update on the Local Plan, updates expected May/June 2026.
- There has been a change in Portfolio holders at CBC, including a new Portfolio holder for Town and Parish Councils, Cllr Goodchild. Some Deputies have been appointed and some changes made to Children's services.
- Cllr Liddiard warned that the housing market is slow in some areas and developers, having been granted permission are coming back to Local Authorities with Viability reports, indicating that the developments are not viable and therefore requesting a reduction is

social housing and S106 contributions. Any changes to a planning application requires further consultation.

- Cllr Wootton commented that soil and debris is being dumped on the developer's land in Campton and Topsoil is being taken away. Cllr Liddiard will look into this.

05/26 FINANCES:

Payments: January 2026

C Bain payroll £58.00

D Granger £64.00

Talk Talk £33.27

Lawsons £188.59

JTS Fencing £4550.00 (works to newly acquired land)

JTS Fencing £1000 (works to newly acquired land)

BATPC Affiliation fees £334.00

D Taylor, poppies wool donation £40

Roadware £227.94 (works to newly acquired land)

Eyelid £100.00

A Muskett £104.40

N Power £332.58

Community account £6,426.15

Business account £23,942.69

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

06/26 PLANNING APPLICATION

Temporary closure of bridge, footpath CA3

CB/25/02949/FULL

Location: Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Construction of concrete surfacing and surface water drainage works to the farm roadway. No objection.

07/26 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

No update.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

No update

P3 GROUP:

No update

08/26 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

NEW AREA NEXT TO THE RECREATION GROUND:

All invoices have now been received, and CBC have been invoices so can release the funding. The bases for the benches will be installed soon, weather permitting.

Phase two: will comprise of levelling parts of the centre of the field and sowing wildflowers, hopefully funding can be obtained.

Phase three: will be to look at the possibility of creating a harder pathway for better access.

A formal opening will be agreed for Spring 2027.

Comments were made whether there should be further instructions on the signs? it would have meant the writing was too small.

RECREATION GROUND:

Ongoing issue with moles. A member of the public has asked to metal detect; Cllrs have agreed that this is not permitted due to the damage to the surface.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW.

Response agreed:

Following a review of the Community Governance for Campton and Chicksands Parish the Parish Council wish to make the following comments:

- 1 Number of Councillors the Parish Council feel that the present number of Councillors is appropriate for the size of the Parish so should remain at its present number.
2. Parish Boundaries Following a review of the Parish Boundaries the Parish Council feel (believe) that a slight adjustment might be appropriate and reflect the reality of the area. The area in question is to the south of Campton village. The present boundary follows the River His, which in many ways seems logical. However, it does not reflect the nature of the area. As the area just over the river His covering the airfield up to Woodhall Farm have closer links to Campton which is just over the River than to Meppershall which is at top of the ridge.

The Parish Council have explored two possible options:

Option 1 (Map 2) This follows the water course off the present boundary and at the end of the Grass runway to the main road and then follows Campton Road up to the roadway to Woodhall Farm and then again picks up the water course.

Option 2 (Map 3) Which as in option 1 picks up the water course at the end of the runway but then picks up the 45 metre contour line. The area identified is at the bottom of the escarpment in the valley and has a closer geographical link to Campton and Chicksands Parish rather than Meppershall which is at the top of the escarpment.

Following discussions the Parish Council feel that Option 1 is a better option as there are clear boundaries. It does however mean that Woodhall Farm, who have had a long connection to the Village, would remain outside of this Parish. The Parish Council would therefore request that this slight amendment be made to the Parish Boundary.

CBC LEISURE STRATEGY:

There are two aspects to the strategy, reviewing what is already in place and submitting new ideas for consideration. Cllr agreed they would like to submit improvements to the Recreation ground.

09/26 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Crime update
- CBC Environmental forum
- CBC Recycling updates
- CBC leisure strategy reminder
- Rural bulletin

123/25 AOB:

Cllr Wootton proposed a £10 donation to the church for use of the energy for the meeting, seconded by Cllr Sibley, all agreed. Cllr Ash declared an Interest.

Works to the church wall will be completed on Monday, Cllr Wootton will visit the contractor at 3pm or before to agree the works.

Cllr Booton confirmed that the new land is registered to the PC.

124/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

January