

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Church on Thursday 2nd April 2026.

Present: Cllr Booton, Cllr Wootton, Cllr Longson, Cllr Ash, Cllr Griffiths, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Liddiard.

Apologies: Central Bedfordshire Councillor Tony Brown, Cllr Sibley

34/26 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2026 were signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Wootton, seconded by Cllr Sibley.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th March 2026 were signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Wootton, seconded by Cllr Ash.

Matters arising:

Good Neighbour volunteers have met and will be arranging a follow up meeting.

A meeting has taken place with the football club, short- and long-term commitments were discussed, the football club have said they will respond to the suggestions. The club are currently short of players and therefore have not been using the Campton pitch. The club are looking into the Insurance.

The village hall committee are arranging works to the area alongside the hall, land which is owned by the PC. The PC have asked for all works to conform to Health and safety requirements. Cllrs also agreed that signage will be required to highlight that the PC will not take responsibility for theft or damage to property in the area.

35/26 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None

36/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

37/26 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Liddiard provided the following update:

Council Tax has been agreed at a 5% increase from CBC. CBC now need to focus on the Statutory services. Adult Social Care, Children's Services and waste amount to 80% of the budget, leaving 20% for all other services. The Highways budget is 50% lower than it was last financial year. Works are scheduled for the Bridge from Mill Lane and Cllr Liddiard is pushing for resurfacing of the road too. Bedford Rd is Shefford, which is collapsing has also been scheduled for works.

Glass can now be recycled and will be collected along with domestic waste. There was recently a fire at the waste recycling plant which caused disruption to collections, CBC will be discussing back up plan for if this was to occur again.

Cllr Liddiard has spoken with planning regarding the Outline application for Greenway. He will await further updates before looking to call the application into the DMC.

Cllrs are concerned that the photographs in this application show a different layout to the application for 66 houses. Cllr Liddiard confirmed that if the developer wishes to change the plans for the application that has been granted permission, then they would need to submit a new application. The original application for 66 houses plus the outline application would mean a development of over 300 houses, this would mean that there would need to be more than one point of entry and the traffic could not wrap around the estate, it would need to have junctions.

Cllr Booton asked if with the plans to go ahead with the new Town in Central Bedfordshire combined with further development near Newport Pagnell, will this be taken into account in relation to the housing allocation for CBC? Cllr Liddiard is unsure at the moment, although he did advise that there would now be a delay with the Local Plan.

Some bins on Greenway have not been collected, Cllr Liddiard will follow this up.

38/26 FINANCES:

Payments: April 2026
Talk Talk £33.27
D Granger £813.12
A Muskett £104.40
Newsletter printing £164.13

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

Bank balances:

Business account: £24,003.30
Community account: £6,283.74

Clerk asked Cllrs if they would like to continue with Zoom subscription? Clerk will explore Teams as an alternative.

39/26 PLANNING APPLICATION:

40/26 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

A meeting was held on 24th March 2026, key points:

Both CQ and TM would like to have the data inputting addressed for the JBB, it is something that has been ongoing for years and progress is very slow. Both have met with a consultant who would be able to assist in uploading all of the burials onto the Rialtas system, he has experience with IT and data inputting and is available from the start of April to work. He is looking for alternative employment so is happy to work whilst available. His rate of pay is £18.61, and his pay would be taken from the Cemetery account. He will start the inputting and then give some indication as to how long it will take. TM suggested that burial records before 1960 are kept on a spreadsheet that can be accessed if required for information but from 1960 onwards all burials would be uploaded to the Rialtas system. Proposed by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Booton, all Cllrs agreed.

All full update of the accounts will be available at the next meeting when the finance inputting for Shefford TC is completed.

Countrywide have now taken over the maintenance contract for the Cemetery in Shefford, David Granger is still contracted to maintain the Burial ground in Campton.

TM and CQ will arrange topple testing at the cemetery.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

No update.

P3 GROUP:

Cllr Wootton confirmed that he has cleared the area around the underpass, a local farmer took the cuttings to burn. Cllr Booton thanked him for his work.

41/26 REVIEW OF POLICIES:

The following policies were reviewed by Cllrs:

- Standing orders and Code of conduct
- Risk assessment.
- Councillor co-option
- Complaints procedure
- Equality and diversity
- Financial regulations
- Death of a National figure
- Privacy notice
- Habitual/vexatious complaint
- Social media
- Freedom of information
- Emergency plan
- Assets list.

Proposed reaffirming of the policies Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Ash, all agreed.

42/26 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

FUTURE PLANNING THE PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr Booton intends to step down from the role of Chair and Cllr from April 2027. Clerk discussed the quantity of time that Cllr Booton spends on PC work and asked Cllrs to consider the best way of managing this going forward.

DOG BINS IN THE PARISH:

Cllr Wootton suggested that the PC request an additional Dog waste bin for in Campton from CBC. Clerk advised that she had requested one a few months ago to be situated along Ampthill Rd in Shefford to stop dog walkers using the cemetery bin and CBC responded that there were insufficient funds available for additional bins. Clerk will ask CBC.

HEALTHY LIVING FIELD:

The benches have been installed. We have been contacted by the Odell family who have asked if they could put a small plaque on one of the benches in memory of Sir Stan. They are also donating a sum of money to plant daffodils next autumn. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr Wootton, all

agreed. The Parish Council has also received its first grant to help with maintenance of the area £828. We will receive a similar amount for the next three years.

TO DISCUSS AND ADOPT THE DATA COMPLIANCE DOCUMENT:

Clerk had prepared and emailed out a draft copy of a Data Compliance document for Cllrs to consider. Cllr Wootton proposed adoption of the document, seconded by Cllr Griffiths, all agreed.

43/26 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Crime update, 1x Trafficking of drugs, 1x theft, 1 x Assault with injury, 1x Malicious Communication
- Priority setting meeting.
- Town and Parish Forum cancelled, will be re arranged for May 2026.

44/26 AOB:

The Solicitors have emailed to confirm that without the Original Deeds, on registering the land at the Recreation ground there is a risk. Cllrs confirmed there is no alternative and agreed with proceeding with the registration of the land.

The group of volunteers creating the poppies have now made 5098, 6000 in total are needed. It is lovely to see the volunteers working together.

The Village borders are being worked on by the working party, Cllr Booton, thanked them or their help.

Clerk is unable to make the July meeting, it was agreed to reschedule it to 30th June, Clerk will contact the church to see if the Cllrs could use it?

45/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 7th May 2026