

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Thursday 7th May 2026.

Present: Cllr Booton, Cllr Wootton, Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Sibley, Cllr Turton, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Liddiard.

Apologies:

46/26 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY COUNCILLORS AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

All Councillors accepted Office for the following year. No Declarations of interest were made.

47/26 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR:

Cllr Turton proposed Cllr Booton remain as Chair, seconded by Cllr Griffiths, all agreed, Cllr Booton accepted the position.

Cllr Booton proposed Cllr Turton as Vice-Chair, Cllr Wootton seconded, all agreed, Cllr Turton accepted the position.

48/26 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2026 were signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Booton.

Matters arising:

Cllr Liddiard reported the bins having not been emptied as discussed at the last meeting.

Clerk requested an additional dog bin for Campton from CBC, but it was declined, as was the request for Shefford, Cllr Liddiard will follow this up, Clerk will send him the details.

49/26 APOLOGIES/DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION:

None

50/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident asked if the Hearing loop in the village hall could be reinstated? Cllr Wootton will discuss this with the Village Hall Committee.

A resident provided an update on the Good Neighbour scheme. There are 12 volunteers, all from Campton. Expression of Interest forms have been sent out and a meeting with BRCC is to be arranged. The Volunteers have also met with the Shefford and Barton groups to discuss the running of the groups. Cllr Booton thanked the volunteers.

51/26 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Liddiard provided the following update:

CBC are running a Scoping exercise/Consultation for the Local Plan, its running from 6/5/26-3/6/26, Cllr Liddiard asked if Clerk could advertise it in the newsletter and on website/social media?

Cllr Liddiard has shared a link to the Flood assessment for the area; there is a surface water tab showing areas at risk. Cllr Booton expressed concerns that not all areas were included, he had

submitted photos from Campton as evidence of flooding. Cllr Liddiard is happy to support any queries the PC may wish to make with The Environmental Agency.

The Call for sites is ongoing, out of the 626 sites initially identified, 174 sites have been discounted, there is no update to which sites this includes. The Consultation for sites will commence July 2026, Draft document is expected Autumn 2026 with final Consultation planned for late 2027, the target for submitting the plan to Inspectors and is 2028.

Government Policies surrounding planning keep changing, which makes things difficult. The Government are currently considering planning applications being decided by the Planning Officer or Inspector rather than being heard by the Development Management Committee, this is a consideration for people in terms of Democratic rights.

The developer has been digging holes on the Greenway site, this is permitted and cannot be enforced by CBC as they have not started development works, it is purely digging.

Planning policy should prevent a large development on the side of a small village, and this will be a consideration even though the 5yr Housing target is yet to be met.

A welcome garden has been created at Campton Academy and is being enjoyed by both staff and pupils. There are 29 pupils that have been allocated places for September 2026.

Cllr Booton asked in reference to the application for 260 homes, what impact this will have on the Clifton sewerage works? The developer has proposed that 4 tanks will be installed at the sewerage works but heavy rain may mean the system can't cope. Anglian water has already written to CBC on several occasions to confirm that the system is full and running over capacity. Cllr Liddiard confirmed that the additional tanks is the developer's proposal but has not been agreed by CBC.

52/26 FINANCES:

Payments: May 2026

Talk Talk £33.27

D Granger £1,333.88

T Medley Defib battery £264.00

Manure village flowerbeds £60.00

Flowers village beds £83.42

N Power £304.96

Rural services partnership subscription £66.16

Gallagher Insurance £1694.07

Credit CBC Precept £18,550.00

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

Bank balances:

Business account: £24,003.30

Community account: £22,003.30

Clerk has explored Teams as an alternative to Zoom.

The defibrillator battery has been replaced as a warning signal came on showing low/poor battery. The defibrillator itself requires an update to be installed so has been sent off for works and a temporary replacement is currently in place.

The Internal audit of the Campton accounts has now taken place, once the Shefford close down has taken place the JBB quantities can be added and the audit agreed for the external auditor. The dates for Exercise of Public rights were agreed as running from 8th June 2026- 17th July 2026.

S101 Local Government Act 1972 permits the Councillors to delegate the power of decision making to two members of the Council, usually the Clerk/responsible Finance Officer and one other. Cllr Sibley proposed that Clerk and Cllr Booton have delegated powers, seconded by Cllr Wootton, all agreed.

53/26 PLANNING APPLICATION:

CB/26/00951/LB 2 Priory Road, Campton, Shefford, Listed Building: Erection of pergola and retaining wall to rear and side garden.

CB/26/00950/FULL 2 Priory Road, Campton, Shefford, Erection of pergola and retaining wall to rear and side garden.

Cllrs considered the above applications and had no concerns for either.

54/26 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

No update

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

No update.

P3 GROUP:

No update

55/26 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

RECREATION GROUND:

Cllr visited the Recreation ground a few times recently and reported that it was busy, lots of children using the play equipment and families having picnics on the warmer evenings.

HEALTHY LIVING FIELD:

The benches are due to be cemented in soon, Cllr Turton offered to help Cllr Booton. It's nice to see residents using the area.

56/26 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

- Crime update, 1x interfering with a vehicle, 1 x Criminal damage, 1 x public fear or distress, 1 x Assault without injury, 1 x Possession of an article with a blade, 1 x Assault without injury.
- The school have asked for use of the Recreation ground on 23rd June for Sports Day and 4th July for the summer fair, Cllrs were happy for the school to use the ground.
- Scoping session 7th May 2026
- Town and Parish Forum 13th May 2026.

57/26 AOB:

The There is no further update from the Football club, Cllr Booton will chase them.

Grass cutting- Cllr Wootton suggested maybe the contractor could strim over the molehills rather than those areas be left uncut. Cllrs agreed, Clerk will contact the contractor.

Cllr Turton has been looking at a defibrillator for Chicksands, the issue will be the supply of electricity, Cllrs asked if there was a solar power option? Clerk and Cllr Turton will look into this further.

Works alongside the village hall are due to commence soon.

Cllr Booton and Cllrs thanked the volunteers for knitting the poppies, the goal has now been reached.

Cllr Booton and Cllrs thanked the volunteers for maintain the flower beds.

58/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 4th June 2026