

MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Thursday 4th June 2026.

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

Apologies: Cllr Griffiths,

59/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/ DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None

60/26 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2026 were signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Wootton, seconded by Cllr Sibley, all agreed.

Matters arising: Issues with the Hearing loop in the village hall have been resolved.

61/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident taking a lead on The Good Neighbours group discussed if the Cllrs would consider adding a questionnaire to the next edition of the newsletter? Cllrs all agreed.

There is an area of grass on Priory Rd that is not being cut, and a fallen tree needs removing, Clerk has a quote and will make arrangements to have it removed.

There is a Silver Ash tree on Priory Rd that requires attention, the resident will forward photos to Cllr Booton who will report on fix my street.

62/26 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Liddiard and Cllr Brown provided the following update:

CBC entered the budget £17million down but have recently found £4million underspend.

The planning application for 400 houses at the Golf club at Stondon, has been rejected by the DMC, it is anticipated that this will go to appeal.

Cllr Booton expressed concerns that Highways did not object to the recent application from a developer for Greenway, Cllr Liddiard will follow this up. Cllr Booton also expressed concerns that in the original application for 66 houses on Greenway the application included a chicane on Greenway, but recent documents do not show the chicane. Cllr Liddiard will follow this up.

Cllr Liddiard contacted waste services regarding an additional dog bin for Campton, there has been no response so far.

Cllr Booton expressed concerns that there is no reservoir on the plans for Universal Studios, they are anticipating 8.5-10.5 million visitors each year, and he is concerned as to what effect this will have on the water supply? Cllr Liddiard recommended he contact Alastair Strathern who will raise it in Parliament.

63/26 FINANCES:

Payments: June 2026
Talk Talk £33.27
D Granger £1,123.56
P Booton, hose for village trees £49.26

Payments proposed by Cllr Turton, seconded by Cllr Sibley, all agreed.
Bank balances:

Business account: £24,003.30
Community account: £18,138.30

There is an area of grass on Priory Rd that is not being cut, and a fallen tree needs removing, Clerk has a quote for £126.00+ vat. Cllrs requested that this piece of grass be added to the grass cutting schedule. Clerk will add the fallen tree to Fix my street for CBC to remove.

Due to a delay in the Rialtas closedown at Shefford Town Council the finalised figures for the JBB are not available. The CACS internal audit is complete but cannot be signed off and agreed until the JBB shares are added. Clerk proposed arranging a meeting of full council to agree the audit on Wednesday 24th June at 5.15pm, whereby the audit can be officially signed ready to be submitted to the external auditor.

64/26 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

As Cllr Booton is stepping down from his position in April 2027, clerk would like to look at a handover process over the next few months to ensure continuity. Cllr Turton agreed to assist with payroll, Cllr wootton will be the contact for the football club and the Recreation ground. Cllr Sibley will assist with the budget and finance document.

65/26 PLANNING APPLICATION:

CB/26/01538/ADV Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands. Advertisement: Display of one non-illuminated progressive pride flag on existing flagpole. No objections.

CB/26/01134/FULL 31 Gravenhurst Rd, single storey side and rear extension and rooflight with a detached single garage. Cllrs will view this application and agree comments via email.

The Planning application for the 260 homes East of Greenway has been rejected by Central Bedfordshire Council. The developer has 12 weeks to appeal from the issuing of the rejection letter. There were three main points in the rejection letter: loss of Character and the size of the development being the main ones. There seem to be three options for the developer:

1. To walk away
2. To discuss with CBC a modified plan, less houses.
3. To appeal.

There is a new appeals procedure which limits the amount of input that can be made from now on by Councillors both CBC and the Parish Council.

66/26 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

No update, next meeting 9th June 2026 in person at Shefford House.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

No update.

P3 GROUP:

Cllr Wootton has started work on cutting back. There are areas near the underpass that have not been cut, Clerk will speak to David Granger.

67/26 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:**RECREATION GROUND:**

Following a side roof panel coming off of the Pavillion Cllr Booton wrote to the football club stating that at this meeting Cllrs would be discussing if the Parish Council would continue to support the use of the pitch in the coming season as no action has been made by the football club to address any of the issues we have raised two years ago. So far there has been no reply to the email. Cllrs agreed that they would not give permission for games to be played on the ground until works commenced on the Pavillion.

HEALTHY LIVING FIELD:

A new hose pipe has been purchased which stretches to the far corner of the field and connects to the water pipe in the left-hand corner of the field. This will aid in the watering of the trees in warm weather. The wildflowers have started to appear. The benches have now been secured to the slabs. My thanks to a resident for doing this. The first meeting of the management group was on 2nd June, the volunteers will assist in the maintenance of the area, Signs will be fitted to the gate asking visitors to not walk in the central, wildflower area. The volunteers requested an additional hose at a cost of £50, proposed by Cllr Booton, seconded by Cllr Wootton, all agreed, Cllr Booton will make the purchase.

68/26 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

Crime update, 1 x sexual, 1 x residential in May 2026.

Town and Parish Forum:

1. There was an update on the New Local Plan. Parish and Town Councils were urged to get residents to respond to the Scoping Consultation exercise which in many ways was a repeat of something residents have previously done. But due to changes in the New Local Plan Framework Central Beds felt they needed to do it again.
2. CBC still proposed to announce sites for development on 1st July. An explanation was given regarding the Tempsford site, the number of houses being built would come off the next Local Plan not this and the number would be divided between Cambridgeshire, Central Beds and Huntingdon. There was another site ready to go which would be for 4000 homes at Great Barford but there seems to be a bit of a hold up on this. There was no real explanation. The Leader also expressed concern at the loss of local democratic accountability. It appeared that more power was being proposed for fewer people. Leaders of County and Unity Authorities were being push to one side.

3. The Local Authority are introducing a new scheme for Parish Councils to make bids for small pots of money for projects. We were due to receive some more information in due course.
4. There is a new fund which is there to support families in need. They can make payments in 48 hours to help people. The support varies from new washing machines, to food, clothes for children. Cllr Booton was concerned was that the pot is set and it is already being well used. What happens if by the tenth month all of it is spent. What happens then. I asked this question but didn't really get an answer. A Councillor expressed concern about fraud and how it was being managed if decision were being made so quickly (she had worked in the Fraud Department for 30 years).

A resident of Shefford has contacted the OC regarding an Art festival to be held in September, he would like to advertise this community event in newsletter. All Cllrs agreed.

69/26 AOB:

Cllr Turton has a Chicksands fete and festival to advertise on the website.

The poppies target has been met; the group are now joining them together.

70/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 29th June 2025