MEETING OF CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Campton Village Hall on Monday 29th June 2026.

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

71/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/ DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Griffiths, No DOI.

72/26 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2026 were signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Wootton, seconded by Cllr Sibley, all agreed.

Matters arising:

73/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident attended to discuss the Good Neighbour Scheme, it was agreed to bring the agenda item forward.

The resident making arrangements for the Good Neighbours group asked the Cllrs to consider:

Would the PC be willing to pay for the group's insurance, for DBS checking and for the group's phone (its provision and running costs) Total estimated costs would be £350, proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr Turton, all Cllrs agreed.

Could the PC provide a small start up fund, to reimburse drivers for example, in the early days? Clerk highlighted that the group would need to decide on whether they like to handle money? The simplest rote is to not have a bank account and therefore a treasurer is not required. Any costs for expenses are agreed with the client in advance and the money is paid directly to the driver, with a receipt given to both parties, the money would not pass to the group. This however would mean that there would not be a requirement for a set up fund as there would be no bank account or handling of money. If the group would like to handle money and have a start up fund a bank account will be required. The group will discuss this further.

Cllr Sibley may be able to provide a phone for the group, free of charge.

Cllr Booton thanked the volunteers and Clerk for getting this far.

74/26 UPDATE BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Brown updated that:

The £4million in unused Highways budget has now been relocated to reserves.

The Consultation for the local Plan Call for sites was commening 1st July, it will now bw 6th July and will run until 17th August.

Friends of The Earth have surveyed all Councils in England based on criteria supplied by the Environment agency. The findings for the Shefford Ward are:

- 38% of the homes are poorly insulated, 1438 houses do not meet the requirements. 21st worst Ward out of 31 Wards.

- The Ward just met the Tree canopy cover requirements, by 0.5%
- Currently have 129 homes that are at high risk of flooding, this could increase to 223
- Air poluution the Ward was 29th worst out of 31 Wards

The land at the top of Ivel Rd, will be created into a Community area, the landowvner will offer an are for a Scout premises.

Cllr Booton that Officers at CBC are not always responding to emails, even to show receipt of emails. Highways changed their opinion regarding the development on Greenway but did not justify the change of view and Cllr Booton has been seeking an update.

75/26 FINANCES:

Internal auditor's report- The Internal audit of the PC has been carried out, with the following recommendations:

Adding the up to date Financial Regulations to the website

Add the up to date risk assessment to the website

Add the Data policy to the website

The documents have now all been uploaded to the website.

Clerk presented the AGAR in preparation for the External auditor. S1 The Annual Governance Statement and S2 The Annual Accounting Statement. Both were agreed and signed by both Cllr Paul Booton, as Chair and Clerk. Clerk will now submit this to the external auditor. Proposed by Cllr Wootton, seconded by Cllr Ash.

The dates for the Exercise of public rights were agreed as 1st July – 11th August, Clerk will advertise these and the

Payments: July 2026
Talk Talk £33.27
D Granger £1,9333.32
Information Commissioner's office £52.00
Audit fees 24/25 £280 and 25/26 £280

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

Business account: £24,071.69
Community account: £16,162.76

76/26 PLANNING APPLICATION:

Clerk has been contacted by the Biggleswade Chronicle regarding the development on Greenway, Cllrs agreed that Cllr Booton would speak to them.

Cllr Wootton asked if the outstanding issues for the devlopemnt of 66 houses has now all been met, Cllr Booton confirmed that all outstanding issues have been addressed but he would double check.

The developer of the 260 houses has 7 weeks to appleal CBC's decision to refuse the application.

77/26 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

JOINT BURIAL BOARD:

The JBB held their last meeting 9th June 2026 in person at Shefford House.

Cllr Silver was voted to take the role of Chair for the JBB Committee, all agreed.

Allessandra Marabese is now working for the TC as a Finance officer and is in the process of completing the accounts for the last financial year, going forward quarterly reviews will be available to ensure the JBB is on budget.

Inputting of historical documents continues.

Due to confidentiality issues within the cemetery, items were discussed but recorded within the minutes with limited information.

Two situations have arisen within the cemetery. TM explained the first situation; an action plan was agreed. TM has been in contact with the family members involved and an appropriate resolution has been met. TM will make the arrangements for the internment.

The second issue was a request for reservation of a plot, the Rules and Regulations state that the JBB no longer reserve plots but TM felt this case warranted discussion by the JBB Cllrs, all Cllrs agreed that it would not be appropriate to allow reservation of the plot, additional ashes maybe interred to a full grave if required.

A request for a plaque to be placed on the grass in front of a memorial has been received, this is to accommodate additional inscriptions, the JBB Rules and regulations do not permit this and therefore it was agreed that it could not agree this request.

TM recommended going forward that all plots within the cemetery should be marked prior to funerals/internments. She has approached Neville's for a recommendation for plot markers and pens which they have provided. TM will make the purchase.

TM and CQ outlined the next area for use for internments and the positioning of plaques, all Cllrs agreed.

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.

CQ will obtain quotes for extending the pathway alongside the full burial plots as burials have now taken place beyond the path.

Next meeting-Tuesday 8th September 2026, 11am via Zoom.

Cllr Booton thanked Clerk for all of her work on this.

CAMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:

The Charity have re-employed a solicitor for Registration of the land, The PC agreed previously to loan the Charity £1000 to cover the costs, the money will be repaid once the land is sold.

P3 GROUP:

Cllr Wootton has been carrying out work in the Parish. There are some trees down in Campton Plantation, Cllr Wootton will see if he can move them or will report to CBC.

78/26 PROJECTS/ONGOING ISSUES:

RECREATION GROUND/ FOOTBALL CLUB:

The football club have responded to the letter that was sent to them, Cllr Booton thanked Cllr Sibley for his help with this. They have confirmed that they will start on the repairs from 22nd June and they do want to use the pitch from September. Some work has been done, one piece is satisfactory the other is not as it is a trip hazard. They have been informed of our concern with regards to this. There are still several issues still to be addressed. The email made no reference to insurance and this is being followed up and must be resolved before any matches are played .

HEALTHY LIVING FIELD:

The wild flower section is blooming and it is worth seeing. It has been very challenging keeping all the small trees watered during these very warm periods but most are still hanging in.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP:

Discussed under 73/26

WELCOME PACKS:

Cllrs agreed that they would like to continue with welcome packs, Clerk will contact the resident who takes a lead on this. It was also uggested that they be extended to Chicksands.

GRASS CUTTING:

It was agreed to mintor the grass cutting and to request a break from cutting over the summer if necessary.

CALL FOR SITES:

Cllr Booton updated Cllrs that On the 6TH July Central Bedfordshire will identify the possible sites for development. If there are sites in the Parish (and there are eight possible sites including one for a solar panel site) the Parish Council will need to respond and only have 29 days in which to do so. Depending on the outcome of allocations we may need to hold an emergency meeting to formulate a response. Cllrs felt that residents would need an opportunity to discuss this with Cllrs if sites were identified in the Parish. Cllr Booton was happy to start a draft response.

79/26 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

Local Plan:

Online consultation on local transport on the 7th July.

Town and Parish update

80/26 AOB:

Clerk will email Cllrs to confirm holiday dates.

Lamp on Priory Rd looks as though it has been hit and is leaning, Cllr Turton and Cllr Booton will look and update Clerk.

Cllr Booton questioned the sensors on the lamps which do not seem to last very long, clerk will ask the contractor for advice.

81/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 3rd September 2026