

CASTLE CAMPS PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

FOR MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH MARCH 2026 AT 7.30PM IN CASTLE CAMPS VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Sue Herbert (Vice Chairman), Dan Hoddinott, Clive Germany, Chris Basham, Cindy Smith, Roy Harper, Lindi Kent & Terry Chapman.

In attendance: Melanie Laing (Parish Clerk) Henry Batchelor (County & District Councillor), John Batchelor (District Councillor) & 1 Parishioner

The meeting started at 7.32pm

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. Cllr Biggs Family bereavement. Apology accepted by all.

2. Approve minutes of meeting. Council meeting 15th Jan 26, proposed Cllr Herbert, seconded Cllr Chapman, Planning & Finance meeting 12th Feb 26, proposed Cllr Herbert, seconded Cllr Chapman. Minutes were agreed by all and signed

3. Declarations of interest. None

4. District and County Council items of interest.

In addition to monthly reports received

John Batchelor

Elections – will take place in May. This will be the last one for District Councils as the next one will be for the Unitary Council and District Councils will disappear.

New Development Corporation – is being formed to take control of all large development sites with talk of it having it's own planning team. At present discussions are taking place as to what powers the Corp. will have, what areas of responsibility it will cover and what intervention levels will be set. The current DC is in favour of a large corporation overseeing large sites but not to handle actual planning matters.

All development is currently on hold due to lack of sewage disposal, water and electricity supplies

Henry Batchelor

Forest City – There is a proposal by 2 entrepreneurs to build a Forest City for 400k+ houses between Newmarket and Haverhill on agricultural land covering 45k acres with 12k acres set aside for a new forest. At present no formal plans have been submitted.

Online Highways Meeting on Mon – Russell Kent and Andrew Casely will be attending.

5. Parishioners Question Time. Question raised about children using movable ramps on Rec – Cllrs agreed they can, Russell Kent - Footpaths – bushes have been cut back beside the Shrubbery, the footpath beside the “Lake” will be done later in the year and the ground will be levelled out at the field gate near the church.

Cllr Germany raised a point from District Cllrs Annual Report that the second highest spend was on loan interest. Cllr J Batchelor replied that Cambs County Council had to borrow £200mil to buy back council houses with a plan to pay off the loan over 30 years. Government since made a decision to lower rents which made the prospect of paying off the loan unachievable. Cllr Germany also raised a concern that certain council houses in Claydon Close have a lot of regeneration work carried out and others have nothing and struggle to get small things fixed.

6. Planning

6.1 Parish Council - none

6.2 District Council

Reference	Address	Proposal	Status
26/0127/TTCA	Old School House Castle Camps	1x T1 ash tree - to form a pollard to to leave the tree to around 9m in height	No objections 12/03/26

6.3 Planning queries and updates

The “Lake” - County Councils next step will be to get a legal injunction in place to revert the land back to original layout and have all imported spoil removed

Landscape View is using paddock area as garden. All agreed for Clerk to send report

7. Matters Arising – For information only

- 7.1 Road safety activity – Forms have been resubmitted to the 20mph scheme. – MVAS the new unit is now up and running, Data is in km/hr so needs changing. Old MVAS data is only downloadable by someone in Balsham. – Speedwatch FB post needed to gather new volunteers, put post on WhatsApp group to update interested members and put something in the Review. **ACTION Cllr Hoddinott** CS/DH
- 7.2 PC website change to .gov update. Chris Herbert will purchase domain name and create a basic website SH
- 7.3 Community memorial bench has been ordered. Cllr Hoddinott organising base. DH
- 7.4 Highways visit update – no progress is being made with faults being fixed. Cllr Batchelor advised to list all problems and send to Nigel Smith, Highways Maintenance Officer
- 7.5 Village maintenance checks – Cllrs Herbert + Hoddinott will complete the annual checks due on the Rec and send data to Cllr Chapman to complete the annual record TC
- 7.6 Oak tree pruning – Cllr Germany contacting RJG Tree Services for quote Clerk/CG

8. Matters for the council to discuss / vote on

- 8.1 Extending Village Hall Car Park. An exact plan and criteria needs drawing up to allow like for like quotes. Once a plan is set enquiries can be made to Planning to see if application needs submitting for permission **ACTION Cllrs Smith & Hoddinott**
- 8.2 Level up areas of VH driveway with gravel inc start of driveway **ACTION Cllrs Germany & Basham**
- 8.3 Rent space in storage container for PC paperwork. All agreed that paperwork storage can be purchased SH
- 8.4 Grass cutting services agree Country Garden & Landscapes for 2026. Proposed by Cllr Herbert, seconded Cllr Smith. All present agreed
- 8.5 Remembrance service planning letter. All agreed to use this as a basic plan LK

9. Public Rights of Way

RH

- 9.1 Update on path markings. Cllrs Herbert & Harper along with Russell Kent met with Oliver Ayto, Public Rights of Way Officer. Several of the paths were walked, some directional marker signs were put in place. The highways system is to be used for fault reporting. There is an idea for a footpath walking group to be set up, put something in Review along with link to Fault Reporting site
- 9.2 Fig Tree House footpath diversion. A post needs installing in the field with a directional marker showing the correct route is through the garden

10. Recreation Ground

- 10.1 Seating area update. **ACTION Cllr Smith** to get new quotes CS
- 10.2 Multisport weeding & cleaning – Cambridge Courts £900+Vat. Proposed by Cllr Herbert, seconded Cllr Hoddinott, all present agreed. **ACTION Clerk** to order clean. It was undecided about the weed treatment as past applications have caused the court to be slippery Clerk
- 10.3 MUGA lighting repair. Light units are over 20 years old. LED replacement units are needed, all 4 x lights need replacing **ACTION Cllr Hoddinott** to get prices for complete installation as well as just light units
- 10.4 Playground repair update **ACTION Clerk** to add that a second beam on the Activity Cube also needs replacing along with the log bridge and ramp on the second tower.

11. Finance

The Clerk

11.1 Receipts

Date	Payer	Item	Amount
19/02	M Ross	Thur football group MUGA use	400.00

11.2 Payments since last meeting

Date	Payee	Item	Amount
28/02	Unity	Service charge	6.00

11.3 Payments to be agreed

Payee	Item	Amount
M Laing	Clerk wages Feb & Mar	On request
M Laing	Clerk wages 2025	On request
CAPALC	Yearly affiliation and Data Protection Officer membership	413.82
Red Side Up	Printing of Feb 2026 Camps Review	230.00

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Herbert, seconded by Cllr Smith. All agreed

11.4 Account balances as of 28/02/26

Maintenance	£15,671
Online account	£15,601
Sinking Fund & Grants	£26,967
Saver account #2	£197

12.Clerks Items

13. Matters for next Agenda

LHI application - Cllrs to meet in the village and agree what to apply for

14. Date of Next Meeting: **Planning – 9 Apr / Full Council – 14 May**

Meeting finished at 9.36pm. Melanie Laing