



CAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

A meeting of this Committee was held at The Hub Community Centre, Cambourne on Tuesday 17th November 2015

Present:

Cllr Mrs R Poulton (Chairman)

Cllr T Hudson

Cllr J Patel

Cllr Dr G Mehboob

In attendance:

John Vickery Parish Clerk

Liz Pinchen Deputy Parish Clerk

Jessica Lydon Apprentice Office Administrator

3 members of the Public were in attendance for the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Crocker and Cllr Dr S Smith

It was:

RESOLVED that the apologies for absence from Cllr S Crocker and Cllr Dr S Smith be approved.

2. MINUTES

It was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 22nd September 2015 (M63) were a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST OR REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION for items on the agenda.

Cllr J Patel declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 5 as he is Treasurer of the CYP.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chairman and the Parish Clerk attended a meeting regarding issues with youth in Cambourne. This will be discussed further under Item 5 Blue School.

5. BLUE SCHOOL

The Parish Clerk reported on the following:

Temporary Building

Signed

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The temporary building had been removed on 17th November 2015 and they will finish the reinstatement works by the end of the week.

Lease

The Parish Chairman and Vice Chairman approved the amendments to the lease; this has been returned to the County Council for them to prepare the final document for signing.

Deed of Variation

This has been sent to the County Council for comment.

Cambourne Church

The Church Council have approved the charging proposal and the Parish Clerk is working with Matthew Trick on an agreement for the use of the offices as it is not a usual booking. They are keen to move in as soon as they can.

Transfer of the Building

The Parish Clerk requested an update on progress, but this had not been received prior to the meeting.

Use of the Blue School

There have been additional requests to use the building on a regular basis and they will be programmed into the matrix for the areas of the building. Until we get confirmation when the lease will be completed we are not in a position to let the potential users know when we will be able to use the space.

Additional use of Blue School

The Parish Clerk and Cllr Mrs R Poulton attended the meeting on behalf of Cambourne Parish Council and were quite shocked to learn about the issues facing young people in Cambourne, in particular girls.

Of particular concern was the plight of a group of mainly teenage girls who are suffering from low self-esteem, issues in their home lives, stress, in need of support, live with domestic violence, family isolation and emotional stress.

In order to meet their needs it is proposed that a six week trial is set up to support this group.

There is a meeting set for Thursday 19th November 2015 to be attended by:

Amanda Sylvester - SCDC Youth and Community worker

Michelle Owen - SCDC Outreach worker

Linda Henderson - Children Centre Manager

Matthew Trick - Youth worker

Ruth Poulton – Parish Councillor

Fiona Drummond – Counsellor

The Committee is requested to agree to support this trial by providing a suitable space and financially up to £1,000. If an evaluation of the trial shows that this support is effective then an application for an SCDC grant of £3,000 to continue making provision to support these needy young girls will be made. This would be targeted money, not linked to the CYP grant.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received, that a recommendation would be made to the full Council on 1st December 2015 to spend up to £1,000 on a

Signed

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scheme to support teenage girls in Cambourne and that the Parish Clerk be delegated authority to make the necessary expenditure to fit out the Blue School up to £2,500 per item in consultation with the Committee Chairman.

6. CYP

The Parish Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with The Parish Chairman, the Chairman of Leisure and Amenities, Nigel Taylor, Matthew Trick and the Parish Clerk to discuss moving forward with the new youth building. It is agreed that the importance of the CYP will be taken forward into discussions regarding s106 money for West Cambourne.

A site drawing has been received for approval and draft transfer documents have been received. This will enable the land to be transferred to the Parish Council ahead of the construction of the new building.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received.

7. REPORT ON FACILITIES

7.1 BURIAL GROUND

The official announcement of the opening of the Burial Ground will be delayed now until the completion of the new Parish Offices which will provide a separate, private space for meeting with grieving relatives to discuss funeral arrangements and the purchase of burial plots. A notice board also needs to be purchased to display information at the Burial Ground.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received.

7.2 ALLOTMENTS

The list of allotments to be cleared has been finalised for both sites and will be cleared as soon as possible. When the plots are ready to be re-let they will be offered to residents on the waiting list.

It was:

RESOLVED that that the report be received.

7.3 PLAYGROUNDS, OPEN SPACES AND FOOTPATHS

Upper Cambourne LEAP

The water has now been turned off for the winter; it will be turned back on in the spring once any danger of frost has passed.

LAP at Watermead Crescent

Correspondence had been received from a resident regarding the fencing around the LAP at Watermead Crescent. The Parish Clerk will respond to the resident.

Greenhaze Lane

Damage to some of the bollards has been incurred as a result of a combination of vandalism and rotting of the timber. The Parish Clerk will be contacting the County Council to resolve.

It was:

Signed

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RESOLVED that the report be received.

7.4 THE HUB

One of the doors to the Meeting room has now been widened to allow easier access for wheelchairs and larger buggies. For budgeting purposes estimates are being received for external redecoration and refurbishing the toilets. A quotation has been obtained from Coulsons for redecorating the internal doors.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received that the Chairman, Cllr Hudson and the Parish Clerk be delegated authority to agree the cost of the redecoration.

7.5 CAMBOURNE SPORTS FACILITIES

Shane Railley was in attendance and presented a report to the Committee (Report attached)

Shane also reported that he had issued the Christmas opening hours. The Parish Clerk reported that he had approved the Christmas opening hours for the Sports Centre. The Centre will be closed on, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, it will also be closed on Sunday 27th December 2015 to allow maintenance work to be carried out. The Centre will be open as usual on Monday 28th December 2015

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received and that the request to fund the installation cost of the sports hall lighting be considered at the Council meeting on 1st December 2015.

Sports Pavilion

The Parish Clerk reported that concerns have been raised by hirers of the Sports Pavilion that it is extremely dark on the entrance side of the building at night and that they feel unsafe entering and exiting the building. It is requested that a suitable light be placed in this area.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received and that the Parish Clerk be delegated authority to install a suitable light on to the side of the Sports Pavilion.

7.6 BOWLS CLUB

The Green has had its winter maintenance and has been put to bed for the winter.

It was:

RESOLVED that report be received.

7.7 SPORT IN CAMBOURNE

There was no report from Sport in Cambourne. A meeting will be scheduled in the new year.

7.8 TRAILER PARK

Over the last month there have been more requests for trailer park storage.

Signed

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Many of the spaces have been let and the trailer park is almost at capacity.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received.

8. POLICE CADETS

There was no update as Hannah Watson had been on leave.

9. PARKING IN CAMBOURNE

Mr Paul Tither was in attendance for this item.

Mr Tither presented his report on parking to the Committee. In summary:

The report had been produced as a result of a survey carried out via Cambourne Information Facebook page to which 82% of the 42 respondents had expressed discontent with parking in Cambourne.

Concerns were raised regarding various areas in Cambourne and the lack of parking space provided at residential properties. Concerns were also raised regarding the flouting of the Highway Code and blocking of access for emergency vehicles. Mr Tither proposed a low cost option would be to use the grass verges but to maintain the aesthetics by using reinforcement such as grasscrete or grass reinforcement mesh. This is used in areas such as on the Business Park.

Concern was raised that the grass verges are a safety feature that separate pedestrians and vehicles. The verges also enhance the appearance of Cambourne. Chief Inspector James Sutherland had requested, when he had attended a recent Council meeting, that any information regarding problem parking areas be sent to him. The Council have recently voted against the purchase of additional PCSO time to tackle parking issues as this should be part of the service that provided by the Police, already paid for through the Council Tax. It was noted that in some areas the presence of parked cars on the road will lower speed and therefore increase safety.

The Parish Clerk reported that the verges in Cambourne belong to either the developers or to the County Council and therefore the Parish Council has no authority to make alterations to the verges. There are also various services under the verges which would considerably increase the cost of any such installation. The County Council would be unlikely to adopt any verges where such changes have been made.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tither for his attendance.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received and that the Parish Clerk would take Mr Tither's report to the next Pre Application Forum meeting for consideration.

10. SOUTH CAMBS COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Chairman reported that nominations are now open for the South Cambs Community Awards.

It was:

RESOLVED that the teenagers that worked on the Skatepark Project be nominated in the Outstanding Youth Initiative category.

11. KEEP FIT AT THE HUB

Cllr Hudson reported that the Thursday afternoon Gentle Keep Fit class at The Hub is down to 5 members. He is concerned that there is not enough advertising of the class and that all GP referrals are being sent to the Sports Centre. Shane Railley reported that the lady that runs the Thursday class does not hold all the necessary qualifications for the referral scheme. The Sports Centre is compliant with the Exercise Referral Scheme and offers two sessions a week that are different to the class offered at The Hub.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received and that a new poster would be created and that the class would be advertised on the Facebook page and in the Cambourne Crier.

12. NEW PARISH COUNCIL BUILDINGS

12.1 The Hub extension

The Parish Clerk reported that the building work on the Hub Extension is progressing well. The knock through on the upper level has been started and the roof is being worked on. Once the roof is complete the internal works can commence. The build is currently 1-2 weeks ahead of schedule. Coulsons have also carried out some minor repairs in the Parish buildings.

12.2 Cricket Pavilion

The Parish Clerk reported that the project is progressing well and all the materials have arrived from Estonia. It is anticipated that the structure will be watertight by the evening of Thursday 19th November 2015, weather permitting, and the project is ahead of schedule.

11.3 Tennis courts and 3g Pitch

The Parish Clerk reported that the application for additional funding is now with the Football Foundation. A decision is expected in January. Trial holes will need to be dug in the run off areas and services checked.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 16th February 2016

Cambourne Fitness & Sports Centre

- Average month on month footfall has seen a decline with circa 500 less visits per month
- More localised competition across all areas of the business have had an effect on participation and revenue so now have to work harder to stand still

Signed

Date 16th February 2016

- Due to slow down in the rate of new homes being built and home sales/buys in generally slowing down new sales are harder to come but natural cancellations still on budget which result in a negative effect on the business
- Membership base now stagnant 1,250 showing no signs of growth so working hard to maintain
- Group exercise participation has dropped on average by 4% (with seasonal variances)
- Staff turnover high due to training and development regime now meaning long serving colleagues are moving on to expand career but having difficulty in recruiting the positions. Now working with recruitment agents which levy 10-15% of starting salary on finders fees we can see cost in excess of £1,500 per post recruited
- Recent push to 20+ local educational bodies to recruitment leisure apprentices but 0 response rate
- Children's activities and party sales continue to remain strong and viable
- Recently supported Children in Need raising funds and as a group supporting Anthony Nolan raise £1000 from the site to the 81,000 for the group

To grow more for a greater return we need

- Cambourne community to grow at a more rapid rate (to include planning application for developments, over-night accommodation facilities to bring visitors to the area.
- Facility expansion to include swimming pool / dedicated under 5's zone / dedicated party areas / group indoor cycling studio

Other items for consideration

- Anti-social behaviour at the rear of the building needs to be addressed, litter left. Exchanges of goods occurring, noise and large gathers occurring, CCTV cameras being tampered with
- CCTV system internal needs to be upgraded as currently operate two systems analogue and HD need one system to cover more areas
- Front car park lights 1 lamp out
- Disabled bay need 'lollipop' signs at the end of each bay to identify bays in during snow fall or limited visibility days
- MUGA nets replacing
- Excessive amount of rubbish on the MUGA from non-hirers gaining access to MUGA due to no security / checking system
- Parking at the weekends by football teams is dangerous and accident waiting to happen
- Due to double yellow lines on back lane cars using front car park to store personal and commercial vehicle (2 vans and 3 learn to drive cars plus a few domestic vehicles) reducing capacity for customers
- Pavilion cleaning between matches needs to be addressed
- Erect clip frames on the changing room doors so we can clearly identify which team to use which changing room due to now being male and female teams
- Request for funds was presented for £1,600 from the Council for the installation cost of £10,000 worth of new energy efficient sports hall lighting (current light not energy efficient due to be replaced would have cost circa £2,500 which included new lamp, labour and scaffold hire). A business proposal was put forward by SR to everyone active to change the lighting with an EA investment with a return of investment of 3.5 years and reduce the sites carbon footprint and result in anticipated zero electricity cost during peak sunlight hours.

Signed

Date 16th February 2016