

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Leisure & Amenities 22nd February 2022

An update on Facilities in Cambourne since 23rd November 2021.

7.1 BURIAL GROUND (Cambourne Cemetery)

There has been one interment.

The Town Council has been asked if there was a Muslim section in the burial ground. See attached report.

It is:

RECOMMENDED that the report be received, and the actions of the Town Clerk be confirmed.

7.2 ALLOTMENTS

The allotments continue to be well used. Monthly inspections will resume in March.

It is:

RECOMMENDED that the report be received.

7.3 PLAYGROUNDS, OPEN SPACES, SKATE PARK AND FOOTPATHS

Playgrounds

Work has started on researching the appropriate replacement equipment and grants that are available to support the replacement equipment and changing the safety surfaces.

The wet pour is still being pulled up at Great Cambourne Play area and is repaired straight away.

Open Spaces.

The transfer documents for the next tranches of Taylor Wimpey and McA open spaces have been received ready for signing and are being reviewed.

Skate Park

The skate park installation of the ramps by Fearless Ramps and floodlights by A H Electrical has been completed and is being well used. The floodlights enable the ramps to be used safely until 10pm when they are programmed to switch off. The youth shelter will be installed shortly.

The grant claim forms have been submitted.

The opening ceremony is planned to be held on the 6th April 2022 (Easter Holidays).

It had been noticed that a company had advertised to hold some Skateboard lessons on the skate park. The company was approached to seek information on their intentions. The Council had then received a request from the company for holding more lessons on a regular basis. Due to the Council's duty of care we requested the normal documentation to ensure the safety of the young people. There was then a number of posts saying we were stopping the company from carrying out lessons at Cambourne's skatepark, we therefore published the following response to clarify the situation:

In response to this statement Lets Go Skate (LGS) has published, we wish to clarify some points that have been taken out of context.

We must emphasise that the Council never refused LGS permission to teach lessons at the skatepark. LGS was approached after we were made aware lessons were being advertised at the skatepark and permission had not been requested to run these lessons. We asked Jason to send his Risk Assessment and Public Liability Insurance in order to go ahead with the lessons on Sunday 23rd January. We also requested he send any dates through if he wants to teach in Cambourne in the near future.

Jason approached us on Monday (31.01.22) informing us that he had lots of interest for another beginner lesson in Cambourne and wants to return. The Council requested the dates Jason had in mind for these lessons so we can run it by a Councillor, as well as checking that Jason had a DBS and first aid qualification as the Council has a duty of care to its residents. Particularly the young and vulnerable, and to ensure businesses using our facilities have these when working with children and in an activity where risk of injury is greater.

Jason did not supply specific dates and informed us that other Council's allow him to use their facilities as he pleases once he has supplied necessary paperwork. As with any activity that happens in the Town Council's land/building/facility, we simply wish to be notified when the lessons take place. We also requested that lessons do not take place during peak times as we know how well used the skatepark is in the evenings and the weekend, to which we suggested the morning be a preferred time.

Regarding a fee, it was suggested that councillors may consider this at the next Council meeting. With most of our facilities that are used: community buildings, sports facilities, land for trading, all businesses and clubs pay a reasonable fee.

The Council wants to support lessons in skateboarding so that young people can use the new skatepark safely and enhance their skills, whilst ensuring this can be accessible for all. The Council planned to provide free lessons as part of the skatepark refurbishment opening ceremony which will take place in the Spring. Jason was invited to attend if he was interested and available once a date had been set.

We reiterate that during these email exchanges, we have not said that LGS cannot use the skatepark for lessons. We simply asked for dates and documents as we would for any business wanting to use a Council facility. All documents required have been received, and the Council will discuss LGS use of the skatepark at the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting on Tuesday 22nd February.

The Committee should consider if it is appropriate to allow a company to run lessons on the skate park. The company would charge participants for attendance at the lessons.

If the Council allows a company to run lessons on the skate park, should the Council request:

1. Payment for use of the park?
2. Request the appropriate documentation to ensure the safety of the skate park users?
3. Agreeing the times and days the park is available for paid lessons to ensure the park is available at peak times for free access for users?

Footpaths (Lower Cambourne)

The Town Clerk has been passing on the reports from residents about the condition of the footpath on School Lane and bridleway where the rising main had been installed. The footpath on School Lane has been repaired and the verge is due to be topped up with topsoil.

Regarding the bridleway the following response has been received from the Contractor.

Hi John,

We did show the Wildlife Trust (Mark Ricketts) our works at early stages and they were content with the works, materials. See attached in progress photographs showing compaction, membranes used and thickness of material, which was better spec than what we went through.

Unless the footway is surfaced with asphalt or an aggregate like granite or plainings are used, then the footway will attract mud in the winter months, as do a lot of the tertiary footways. Using bikes on other footways in the area will have a similar problem.

Our scope and requirement was only to reinstate the existing footway to the previous state rather than build a new upgraded footway. Unfortunately that is the problem of seeing machinery working, that then there is expectation of having an improved or upgraded footway which is not the case here (although we are always happy to look at works to upgrade or improve footways).

Kind Regards,



Further correspondence has taken place and they will look to roll it again once it has had a chance to dry out.

The issue of upgrading the bridleway to tarmac and with streetlights was considered at the planning stage, but due to ecology considerations it was not included in the proposals.

It is:

RECOMMENDED that the report be received.

7.4 PREMISES

The premises continue to be well used by regular and private hirers. Some of the regular hirers still have to return following Covid-19.

Security Upgrade

The upgrade of the security system to the Blue Space, Hub and Town Council offices is virtually complete and is now cloud based so it can be monitored from any location. It is also simpler to set the alarms in the Blue Space. We have also established an up-to-date data base of all fob holders. The system is a lot simpler to manage and takes a lot less time as we do not have to visit different buildings to download the event logs and amend the old fobs. The new system

proved its worth on Thursday Night when a hirer could not access the Hub as their fob was not allowing them access to the building. The Town Clerk was able to remotely access and reprogram the system to allow the fob access.

Blue School

The Boiler has been replaced as it failed at Christmas and was not economical to repair.

The Hub, Community Centre

Katherine Southwood, Reopening High Streets Safely Project Lead, Business Development Team approached the Town Council regarding the potential of holding regular market in Cambourne, there is some potential funding to kick start a regular market in Cambourne. The Town Clerk and Community Development officer is working with the SCDC team on the possibility of holding a regular market in Cambourne. They are researching local markets and vendors to provide information on how this could work. Initially we are looking to hold this in the Hub Community Centre car park as there is space, toilets and it is an accessible location. The market could be relocated in the future if a suitable space close by became available. This is in very early stages and further information will be reported as it progresses to future meetings.

It would be helpful if the Committee gave an in-principal approval to holding a regular market.

It is:

RECOMMENDED that the report be received.

7.5 CAMBOURNE SPORTS FACILITIES

The Town Clerk has received the annual report from Everyone Active regarding the last financial year. This is being reviewed by the Committee Chairman and Town Clerk.

It is:

RECOMMENDED that the report be received.

7.6 TRAILER PARK

The Trailer Park currently has 1 vacant plot and there are 0 people on the waiting list.

It is:

RECOMMENDED that the report be received.

7.1 Cambourne Cemetery – Designated area for Muslim burials

In January we were approached by residents that enquired about purchasing plots in the cemetery, and if there was a designated area for Muslim burials. As part of our research, we contacted St Neots, St Ives and Huntingdon Town Council to find out if they had designated areas and all 3 Councils do have a designated area. We also took advice from Cambourne Crescent and the main guidance for a Muslim burial is: The grave should be perpendicular to Mecca, with the deceased's body positioned so their right side faces the Islamic holy city. This means the layout of graves is slightly angled. The cemetery is currently laid out with graves facing East. The graves will be laid out facing North-Northeast in the area of land shown on the map known as section D.

All the local towns do not allow burials on a Sunday and Cambourne should follow the same times.

It is:

RECOMMENDED that the Council confirms the Town Clerks action that Section D of Cambourne Cemetery be the designated as an area for Muslim burials.

