



CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

A meeting of this Committee was held at The Hub Community Centre, Cambourne on Tuesday 21st February 2023. Meeting commenced at 19:25

Present:

Cllr G Thompson (Chairman)
Cllr S Achall
Cllr S Bhattacharya

Cllr A Fisher
Cllr J Patel
Cllr R Poulton

In attendance:

John Vickery-Town Clerk
Ellie Lydon – Committee Clerk

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J O'Dwyer, Cllr N Akhter and Cllr A Siddiqui. Acceptable reasons for absence were given.

It was:

RESOLVED to accept the apologies from Cllr J O'Dwyer, Cllr N Akhter and Cllr A Siddiqui.

Cllr Patel joined the meeting during the following item.

2. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Meeting [L/M91](#) held on Tuesday 22nd November (M91).

It was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes for the meeting, held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 (M91) were approved and signed.

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

Cllr Patel disclosed a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 as a treasurer and trustee of Cambourne Youth Partnership.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman made no announcements.

5. CAMBOURNE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Cambourne Youth Partnership submitted a report. (See attached)

Emma Whitbread was in attendance to answer questions from Councillors.

Cllr Bhattacharya is a Town Council representative for the Cambourne Youth Partnership (CYP).

Signed

Date 18th April 2023

When the CYP trustees hold a trustee meeting, the Town Council representatives should occasionally be asked to attend. Emma will discuss with Nigel Taylor.

Who are Living Sport (Football)?

They are a local charity set up with partners to improve health, happiness, and wellbeing across Cambridgeshire. On Friday night we hold football sessions and we have partnered with Living Sport to grow the football team and encourage youngsters to be more active.

There are limited spaces on 3G pitch, but the Chairman has spoken with Jonathan Buwert regarding having more use of the 3G pitches if they are available and if there enough volunteers to supervise.

What is the South Cambridgeshire Problem Solving Group?

It is run by Beth Watson and Linda Gallagher. Different groups such as schools, police, early health, and fire safety etc meet to discuss safety of young people and how the groups can support each other.

One concern recently raised was lack of lighting on young people's bikes. An initiative will be run early autumn to raise awareness and offer rechargeable lights.

This group is separate from the Community Safety Partnership that the Town Clerk and Community Development Officer attend.

What is the South Cambridgeshire Youth Forum?

Different groups networking, such as the Kite Trust, churches, connections bus project. There were recent conference type talks in Godmanchester, sharing what each group is doing and it is hoping to grow more in the future.

Have you had any behavioural issues at the youth centre?

The only incident we have had recently, is the kitchen bar breaking as it was sat on, but this is to be replaced by the builders as a defect.

Do you have record of incidents?

We make notes on our system of any incidents after each session, and we are in good communicate with the Town Clerk and Premises Officer.

How much time is the building in use?

As per the SLA agreement we are not allowed into the building until the set times agreed.

It varies each day, some days we are in until 5pm or days such as Friday it is as late as 11pm.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the report.

An update on Facilities in Cambourne since 22nd November 2022

6.1 BURIAL GROUND (Cambourne Cemetery)

There have been no internments since the last report.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report.

6.2 ALLOTMENTS

The waiting list continues to grow for both sites. There are a few overgrown vacant plots and the ground staff have been given a list of the plots that need strimming before

they can be relet as those contacted at the top of the waiting list are hesitant to take on such overgrown plots.

There are between 50-60 people, on each waiting list.

Inspections are due to begin within a few weeks and those with unmaintained plots will be contacted.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report.

6.3 PLAYGROUNDS, OPEN SPACES, SKATE PARK AND FOOTPATHS

Playgrounds

Lower Cambourne

The Town Clerk handed out examples of potential play equipment to be ordered. Tyres removed from the tyre swings in Lower Cambourne due to safety issues. It is currently just a timber frame.

We can either replace the tyre swings with a 5-set swing or the 'snake'.

Eco Park

The swing was removed as the bearings have gone and the structure rocks. Quotes were considered to fix the swing, but nobody would warranty its safety.

Two new designs have come forward:
'Small dino swing' or a 'giant 360 nest'.

The nest swing is more accessible and can hold multiple people at once.

Great Cambourne

Different options of tower designs were shown to Councillors.
The towers designs are open rather than enclosed.

Will we get any security lights or CCTV?

No, there are streetlights to light the surrounding area and security lights will encourage people to be out too late and become a nuisance to residents.

We will also not get CCTV as it is only effective if it is constantly monitored. We have discovered with premises CCTV that most have hoodies up, or are masked, or some will plainly smile at the cameras.

CCTV can be afforded but we would then not be able to afford the equipment to put in the park.

If the towers are open, there will not be many places where kids can sit and hide.

A fuller report on the options will to come to a future meeting.

Once quotations have been received, we will do a display and consultation at different play areas to get the children's input.

Since the drier weather, works have continued to remove the surfacing at the Great Cambourne Park. The drier weather needs to continue to enable lorries of topsoil to drive on to the grass to move the project along further. Quotes for grass safe mats will be gathered to go under the existing play equipment.

The Town Clerk, Head Groundsman and team leader for open spaces have had further meetings with playground providers and quotes have been received. One more quote is to be received after which a consultation can take place with potential users and grant applications can be submitted. Examples of equipment that will fit in the play area will be available to view at the meeting.

Quotes have also been received to return some of the wet pour at the Eco Park to grass and to replace the swing.

Boards have been replaced at the Lower Cambourne Park and more are to be replaced in the future when needed.

How many table tennis tables do we have?

None, we have applied for three tables with grant funding, but they were turned down. We do have space for table tennis. They cost are £2,500 for each table plus installation costs.

Cllr Bhattacharya proposed to do a shared application.

This year it was felt to be more important to apply for grant funding to replace play equipment rather than table tennis.

Open Spaces

Seasonal work is being carried out by the grounds team including hedge and shrub trimming.

The Grounds Team are looking to start grass cutting within the next week.

Three memorial benches have been purchased by residents of Cambourne. One is to be sited at the northern end of Sirius Lake, location agreed with the family and two to be sited around the Great Cambourne Cricket Outfield, location to be confirmed with the families involved.

Skate Park

The Skate Park continues to be well used and the youth pod has been erected. The flood lights have been repaired and are now switching on with light sensors and off at 10pm (the programmed times)

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report.

6.4 PREMISES

The premises continue to be well used by regular and private hirers.

The Sports Pavilion:

The Dugout Progress report

The Dugout continues to be very popular with the football community over weekends with feedback from opposition teams very good. We have a regular group of parent/carers pop in on a Friday who are very pleased to have a child friendly safe environment for them to enjoy and catch up with each other. Our walking football community also use the Dugout as a social after their sessions on a Friday morning. On Sunday mornings, the Park Run runners and volunteers have benefitted from The Dugout being open.

Monthly events continue to be popular with Bingo at the end of this month already almost being sold out. We are offering free crafts over Easter and a paid for Easter Hunt with Gin tasting coming up in May.

We have now paid back all the startup costs and have started raising funds for the Football Club, which are being reinvested to enhance facilities. An example of this is that we are able to set aside money for additional roll-on goals, saving the Council from having to pay for new goals.

The Football Club can see an opportunity to offer a pop-up bar over the summer, supporting our community group fundraising efforts and also offering the residents of Cambourne another space in which to spend time with their family and encouraging

children to use the sports facilities correctly. A proposal is being submitted for consideration at the Town Council Meeting on the 7th March 2023.

Do they have enough volunteers?

There are a core group of volunteers, and they are working on appointing additional volunteers to carry on and support it. The club are working hard to spread the base to make it sustainable. The 2 volunteers currently running it are very dedicated.

The Hub

The Town Clerk and Premises Office met with a contractor to discuss/ seek advice on a programme of works for carrying out the first floor extension with regard to how much of the building would need closing, period of closure and the duration of the whole contract.

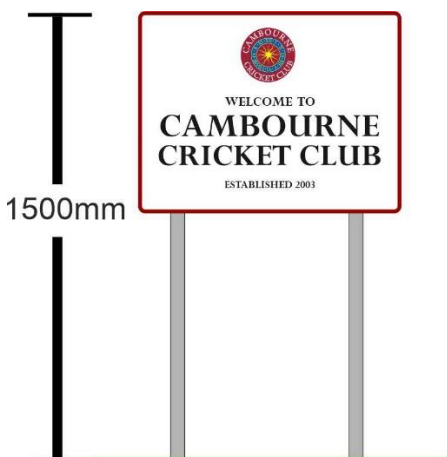
A further report will be given once the information has been received.

There was a spate of incidents with youngsters entering the building and hanging around in the entrance corridor. On most occasions they were well behaved, but on few occasions, they were banging on doors and causing concern for hirers. The hirers have been reminded about the security arrangements and have started locking the maglocks to ensure only authorised people can enter the building.

The incidents have been reported to the police and we are awaiting a follow up to share the CCTV footage.

Great Cambourne Cricket Pavilion

With the new Cricket season approaching the cricket club will be reopening The Third Man from the 7th April 2023. The Cricket Club have made a request to place some signs in the car park so that opposing teams are aware of the pavilion and cricket ground location. The proposed signs for both pavilions signs are 915mm x700mm diabond panels, similar to that used on the football pitches. Cricket Club to fund.



The premises are gradually being redecorated as we are using our own staff rather than outside hire to reduce the costs and the works are to be carried out when the buildings are not in use.

The Cricket Club have agreed to redecorate where they have caused wear and tear of the building.

There will be an alteration with the Third Man line at the bottom for the Great Cambourne Pavilion sign. The Council will agree the positioning of the sign.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report and support the installation of the signs subject to confirmation of the location of the sign after agreement with the Town Clerk and Chairman.

6.5 CAMBOURNE SPORTS FACILITIES

Report received from Simon Clasby, Manager at Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre.

1. Everyone Active at Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre now has a membership of 738 in Jan 22. This number is from 689 members in Mar-22. Attrition continues to be high across the industry and we are no exception to this. For example, our attrition was at 3.6% in Jan 2020 and rose to 7.4% in Jan 2022.
2. We have introduced a colleague engagement initiative called 'Bright Ideas' – the initiative encourages team members to propose energy saving ideas for the site. The best or most successful idea brings a reward to the colleague. This initiative is one of the many actions we are taking to reduce our energy consumption due to the high prices which poses a threat to the success of the business.
3. In collaboration with the above, we have also introduced a 'Colleague of the Year' award – this operates alongside our long running 'Colleague of the Month' award. Colleague Phil Deaves was Cambourne FSC's nominee for 2022.
4. We are pleased to report that Cambourne FSC has raised nearly £1,000 for Dementia UK since Apr-22.
5. The management has previously asked about the Council's interest in the Sport England financial assistance for a utility consumption assessment (SE cover letter attached). Deadline is 28th Feb 2023 at 17:00, so time is short I'm afraid.
6. The management here kindly ask for an update on the 3G safe unit for the key to the toilet facility access.
7. As ever, Everyone Active thanks Cambourne Town Council and the L and A Committee for their continued support and advice.

Regards,

Simon Clasby | General Manager
Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre

Item 6- The key box has arrived, and we are waiting for new keys to be cut. Keys will then be given to the coaches to allow parents to accompany their child to use the toilets at the Sports Pavilion changing rooms.

The keys should be cut and ready within a weeks' time and Simon Clasby will be updated once the key box is installed and ready to use.

A similar arrangement is being made with the netball club.

A suggestion was made to ask to clarify the number of members/non-members in the next report. It was also suggested to ask Simon Clasby to attend the next L&A Meeting in April.

Managing the impact of higher energy costs on community leisure provision – A guide for local authorities

We understand that many leisure operators are concerned about rising energy costs. To help, we've developed a guidance note which is particularly relevant for local

Signed

Date 18th April 2023

authorities who have outsourced the management of their facilities to external operators. The advice may also help local authorities that manage their leisure facilities in-house and leisure operators.

It identifies some actions that can be taken to help mitigate the impact and risk of rising costs. The hints and tips contained within the guidance note are drawn from discussions with multiple leisure operators and local authorities across England. The guidance note is available on the Sport England web site and can be accessed by using the following link:

<https://www.sportengland.org/energyguidance>

In the guidance several areas have been identified for local authorities to consider which includes information on the energy market, how to manage finances and reviewing your current contract position.

Sport England Support

Sport England can provide financial support to local authorities of up to £5,000 to assess their utilities position locally through the deployment of some consultancy services. If the consultancy costs exceed £5,000 any shortfall will be payable by the local authority.

This consultancy support should be used to help the local authority assess the risks and issues be they contractual, or to do with financial stability and therefore inform decision making locally. The focus will be on helping to ensure services can be retained and protected and that both parties are able to meet the challenges in coming months. The output of the consultancy support will be a report summarising the local authorities position and a report will need to be produced within 3 months of your acceptance of the funding offer.

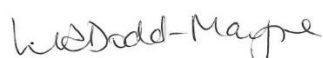
The consultant procured should be one of those on Lot A of the Sport England Active Environments Framework which would allow most local authorities to use the direct award process for work under £10,000. Any local authorities not signed up to the framework can do so by completing the access agreement which can be obtained at the same time as the expression of interest.

If you'd like to express an interest in this offer send an e-mail to activeenvironmentsframework@sportengland.org in the first instance and include:

- Local Authority Name
- Name, address, email and telephone number of the key contact, number of contracts

You may also wish to raise concerns and issues with your regional [Local Government Association Principal Adviser](#).

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Dodd-Mayne
Executive Director, Place

The Council do not think the assessment is worthwhile.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report and invite Simon Clasby to the next L&A meeting.

Signed

Date 18th April 2023

6.6 TRAILER PARK

The Trailer Park currently has no vacant plots and 2 people on the waiting list.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report and thank the Committee Clerk for keeping the Trailer Park full.

7. CAMBOURNE MENS SHED INITIATIVE

To receive a report from the L&A Chairman

A lot of progress has been made over the past few months. A committee has been established and adopted a constitution.

A grant application has been submitted to South Cambs District Council for up to £2,000 in funding.

A community bank account has been identified and the treasurer will open the account, with 3 other members providing ID to become signatories.

On Thursday a Men's Shed ambassador for Essex will be coming along to talk to members.

The Chair thanked Cllr Panrucker and Cllr Hettiarachchi for their help in setting up the Men's Shed.

Background information was given to a Councillor was not at the previous who was not a part of meeting when previously discussed.

Questions were raised regarding initiatives for Women's Mental Health.

An independent group came to the Council for the Men's Shed, and if a group came forward for a group for women the Council would support it. It was suggested to discuss the idea at the next Community Safety Partnership in April.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Dog Fouling

There are two dogs' bins by the gravel paths further down New Hall Lane. 60 dog bins around Cambourne.

It was felt that signs would not be appropriate or effective in this instance as the perpetrator seems to not be picking up the dog fouling due to laziness not due to unawareness.

The District Council is the correct body to report to as it is an environmental health issues, but the evidence they need requires for the perpetrator to be filmed and at their home address.

The Council regularly write in the Crier asking residents to dispose of dog fouling appropriately, which we will continue to do.

An idea was raised to buy dog bins that dispense bags; however, these are very costly.

The Council previously had initiative with Cromwell Vets, and we can see if they are willing to run it again.

It was

Signed

Date 18th April 2023

RESOLVED to respond to the resident that the Town Council will not install new bins or signage but will re-run the segment in the Cambourne Crier and contact Cromwell Vets about working together on dog fouling.

9. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Exclusion of the press and the public.

MOVE: that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting.

10. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

To receive an update from the Town Clerk.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the reports and proceed with the necessary actions.

11. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Re-admittance of the press and the public.

MOVE: that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 18th April 2023

The meeting closed at 20:47