



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 18th April 2023. Meeting commenced at 19:25

Present:

Cllr G Thompson (Chairman)
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, Cllr Siddiqui and Cllr A Fisher for being late. Acceptable reasons for absence were given.

It was:

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

2. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Meeting [LA/M92](#) held on Tuesday 21st February 2023.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes for the meeting, held on Tuesday 21st February 2022 (M92) 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 Football Development Office Alfie Tate started work on March 27th 2023. From the next Leisure and Amenities meeting (20th June 2023) he will be submitting reports on his progress. He could also be invited to the Annual Town Meeting on 2nd May 2023.

Cllr Fisher and Cllr Bhattacharya joined the meeting during the following item.

6.5 The Chair allowed for Agenda Item 6.5 to be moved forward on the agenda.

CAMBOURNE SPORTS FACILITIES

Signed

Date 20th June 2023

Simon Clasby, Manager at Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre was in attendance to deliver a verbal report.

Gym Memberships stands at around 750 people, which has increase by 12-15 members since the last report. Attrition has been main issue, which is an industry wide problem. There is believed to be high attrition due to changing work patterns and in Cambourne ageing equipment.

External hirers/clubs include trampolining, roller derby, weight watchers, taekwondo, volleyball, sense disability club.

There are 7 clubs with roughly 320 people attending per week. They are mainly term time clubs so run for 38 weeks, which means we have around 12,000 people a year.

A question was raised regarding the profit/loss of the Everyone Active Gym.

These figures are published on an annual basis, which is given to the Town Clerk. It is usually sent in summer.

Q: The gym was previously open until 10pm but now closes at 9am. Will this change back?

A: During covid, staffing was stripped back, and the opening times were looked at. It was found that the gym itself was not used that late, the main drive to have it open until 10pm was for the 3G/MUGA.

The gym closes at 9pm but it is open an hour earlier at 6am, which was suggested customer feedback and is working well.

Q: Social badminton sessions were very popular. Will this return?

A: It is something we can consider but space is the issue. It could return but may be slightly different layout e.g., half court. We still provide badminton sessions but not in the social badminton format.

Q: Are you looking to buy new equipment?

A: The equipment in the gym has aged. Around 3 years, we received some new to the gym equipment, but it was not brand-new equipment. We would be looking to invest in more, but it is costly.

Q: Do you still offer children's parties?

A: Yes, football and roller-skating parties are very popular. We also offer 'active ants' soft play and hybrid parties of bouncy castles and football.

Q: Are you still having issues with non-members asking to use the toilets?

A: It was an issue over Easter. The Town Clerk believes the issue was people attending sessions on the 3G/ sports pitches didn't know the changing room toilets are open to use. The Football clubs have been made aware and a key is to be cut for clubs to open the changing rooms.

The Sports centre will have sign that the changing rooms toilets are open, and the Town Clerk will confirm when the key is at the 3G. If issue continues after, let the Town Clerk know.

Q: Have residents in West Cambourne have been contacted?

A: Simon updated that welcome packs will be sent with 7 day passes to the gym.

Taylor Wimpey and Vistry will be setting up a West Cambourne website with dedicated links to sports centre, youth building etc.

A request was made to install a steam room/sauna to attract more members.

Simon can raise the suggestion; however, the utility cost would be a hard hurdle to clear. Saunas/ steam rooms also normally would come with a swimming pool.

Many new pools are not building saunas due to cost, cleanliness and due to not being as popular.

It was
RESOLVED to thank Simon Clasby and receive his report.

5. CAMBOURNE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Cambourne Youth Partnership submitted a report. (See attached)

Nigel Taylor, Chairman of Cambourne Youth Partnership Trustees, was in attendance to answer questions from Councillors.

Cllr Bhattacharya a Town Council representative for CYP asked when she will receive an invitation to join meetings.

Nigel explained there have not been many trustee meetings recently.

It was proposed to consider at the Annual Council Meeting if the position for Town Council CYP representatives is still needed.

Cllr Bhattacharya had proposed to CYP youth workers to run activities for the children in Summer 2022. Now in Spring 2023 and she has not heard from them.

Nigel Taylor was present at one meeting with Jonathan Buwert. Operationally it is best to discuss with Jonathan, but CYP do not usually have outside workers come in to run activities as it is more a place to allow the children to decide what they want to do, which is how the boxing and cooking developed.

Cllr Bhattacharya has previously received written complaints from parents, youth workers that the Town Council and Councillors are not listening to the CYP and were not interested in working together.

The Town Council has been working with the CYP, receiving regular reports and conversations from with the youth workers. Cllrs have also attended the youth clubs when in progress.

Numbers are improving as new young people join each month.

We've had more young leaders join; training has been significant. The wellbeing café has developed well and the work in schools has been developing- long process talking with school and the youth to work with. Alternative education routes have been encouraging and those relationships are building up.

Jonathan has been fundraising and had meetings with the Town Clerk and Premises Officer on what can be done in the building with the money raised.

An annual report will be sent to the Annual Town Meeting. The SLA discussions will continue to be had.

In the summer term we will advertise for Year 6 to attend the Year 7 youth club to help with the transition and allow the Year 6's to get to the know the youth workers and year above.

It was suggested for Jonathan Buwert to liaise with Phil Priestly on the young people who require additional assistance.

It was requested to ask for the monthly figures to be made into a graph format.

How is CYP maintaining the diversity of Cambourne including the workers and children attending? Policy on paper is one thing, but following and maintaining at every level is another. Nigel advised that Jonathan is best to discuss this with.

Nigel would like to be kept updated on the SLA, landscaping outside of the youth building, and the opening of the building, which the young people would like to be involved in with the planning.

It was
RESOLVED to receive the report.

6. REPORT ON FACILITIES

An update on Facilities in Cambourne since 21st February 2023

6.1 BURIAL GROUND (Cambourne Cemetery)

There has been one internment since the last report and another due mid-April.

We have had numerous enquiries regarding headstones, memorial benches and trees and ashes internments. The Town Clerk has also been continuing his research into acquiring a lychgate.

It was:
RESOLVED to receive the report.

6.2 ALLOTMENTS

The waiting list for both sites has stayed constant. A list of the overgrown vacant plots has been given to the ground staff for strimming before they can be relet. As those contacted at the top of the waiting list are hesitant to take on such overgrown plots. They are offered the plot free of charge if they clear the plot in the first year.

It was suggested to introduce a deposit that plot holders would leave when they take on the plot and will be given back when they have left the plot in a suitable condition or the deposit will be taken from them.

Cllr Bhattacharya informed the Councillors of a project at East Cambridgeshire District Council and South Cambs District Council are working on called Sprout it, Cook It, Eat It. This involves teaching children how food is grown and how to cook it. Cllr Bhattacharya offered to for the children to have a tour of the allotments. She also wishes to discuss using the Blue Space to cook and have a small planting patch.

It was:
RESOLVED to receive the report.

6.3 PLAYGROUNDS, OPEN SPACES, SKATE PARK AND FOOTPATHS Playgrounds

Progress continues at the Great Cambourne Play Park, The Town Clerk and Head Groundsman inspected the park to discuss the next steps for partially opening the play area:

- Subject to the drying out of the site topsoil will be imported to top up the levels (this had started prior to the weather detreating).
- Compacting and levelling the topsoil (approximately 1 week).
- Laying the grass mat safety surface and seeding with grass seed (approximately 1 – 2 weeks).
- Allow the grass seed to take and establish (approximately 2 – 3 weeks).
- Reinstalling seats, swings etc and removing the Safety fencing (approximately 1 week).

It is hoped to start this within 2 weeks weather permitting.

Cllr Bhattacharya informed Councillors of 'Scale Up' by Cambridgeshire Grow. The Council can apply for grant funding from £10,000 to £300,000. More information will be provided in summer.

The grant money can be used towards beautifying the spaces around Cambourne rather than paying for play equipment.

The Town Clerk has met with the Head Groundsman previously to discuss the grant. It could also be an opportunity to work with other community groups and Cambourne Youth Partnership on the land outside the soul building.

Cllr Patel proposed the Community Development Officer coordinates with the groups in Cambourne to apply for the grant. The application will be taken to a meeting before the application is submitted.

Open Spaces

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

Skate Park

The Skate Park continues to be well used.

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

Our free Easter crafts on Good Friday were very well received by the community and we had some non football families come up and enjoy our space. Walking football ran as planned and our Easter disco was very much enjoyed with a few budding karaoke singers in attendance! We noticed a few of the children attending were also not currently within our football community but we had some interest in our Wildcats sessions from these parents/carers.

Bingo is running on Sunday 16th April and we have Gin tasting on the 6th May. As this is coinciding with the King's coronation, we will be offering some coronation fun during the day whilst the football matches are being played.

We are looking forward to opening through the summer - thank you for agreeing to this. We have spoken to a few people about us opening and they are looking forward to joining us. We have raised enough now to purchase the remaining goals for the grass pitches. This will mean we can offer some entertainment for families during our summer opening by allowing children to play in the correct environment. Our next fundraising goal is to put some benches on the grass to offer some outdoor seating as we have been asked for this by our regular customers.

The Hub

Following the meeting held with Town Clerk, Finance & Premises Officer and contractors to discuss/ seek advice on a programme of works for carrying out the first-floor extension to the Hub, the Town Clerk has since received a response saying they could not provide the guidance requested.

A meeting is being arranged with Stuart Bremner of Bremner Associates to discuss the proposal.

Further information is being sort on the Changing Place proposal considered at the Full Council meeting. Will forward the information to Cllr Thompson.

Great Cambourne Cricket Pavilion

Signed

Date 20th June 2023

Cambourne Cricket Club reopened The Third Man Bar on the 7th April 2023 and had a great turnout. They will be open every Friday until mid-September with proceeds from the bar directly funding their projects including getting kids into cricket through their academy, which caters for all ages.

The external door closest to the away changing room has been repaired after it was damaged in the wind.

Wicket works have started, roller in next week. Ask to do a practice pitch in the corner. Don't have to be cricket club member to use the cricket grounds but booked through cricket club and TC to not clash with the CC training.

Blue Space

Classroom 1 had new flooring fitted.

The external door (after it was damaged in the wind) and banister outside Classroom 2 (after the banister had come loose) were fixed.

A cupboard has been built in the cloakroom between Classroom 1 and 2 for Charity Hope CC to store their items as they were previously using a changing room in the Lower Cricket Pavilion. Which is now required as the Cricket season approaches.

Soul Building

Following a defect inspection with the Contractor, Stuart Bremner (the project Quantity Surveyor), Town Clerk and Finance & Premises Officer, a list has been drawn up of issues raised, including the work top in the kitchen which was not securely fixed.

Lindum Group have started to carry out the defects listed.

MUGA

There has been progress with the grant application to renovate the sand filled MUGA into a 3G. Three quotes have been submitted to the Football Foundation for small grant applications. Also looking into prices for the Netball Courts to be upgraded.

The Town Clerk raised to Councillors that he has been looking into purchasing replacement armrests for the chairs in the meeting room at the Hub. Replacements can be purchase for £20 an armrest, and the caretaker will be asked to steam clean the chains to keep them at a useable standard.

The caretaker will be asked to count the number of armrests that need replacing.

The total amount will come to roughly £400 under repairs and renewals.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report and approve the expenditure to replace the armrests.

6.6 TRAILER PARK

The Trailer Park currently has 1 vacant plot and 2 people on the waiting list. The person at the top of the waiting list has been contacted regarding the vacant plot.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report.

7. CAMBOURNE MENS SHED INITIATIVE

To receive a report from the L&A Chairman

The Men's Shed made a grant application to 'Cultivate Cambridgeshire' for £2,000, which was approved.

They are in the process of setting up a bank account. The treasurer will now open the account as the necessary checks have been carried out.

An ambassador from Mens Shed Essex gave a talk a few weeks ago and he will be back tomorrow for another talk. Cllr Panrucker will attend and other representatives from Men's Shed in Cambridgeshire to talk and grow the Men's Shed.

We have been in discussions with Madingley Shed about sharing the premises (Madingley Hall). They have kindly offered to share on a Wednesday and to use the equipment in it.

Men's Shed meetings will take place in the Hub meeting room shortly, whilst the search for a more permanent premise in Cambourne or immediate surrounding area continues. We are keen to get the meetings started with prospective members. The Wildlife Trust have also been in contact to see if members were interested in building owl boxes.

Cllr Bhattacharya offered to teach healthy cooking at a Men's Shed meeting. Cllr Thompson can put the offer to the Men's Shed members.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Dog Fouling

An email was received from a resident, requesting a dog bin be placed on New Hall Lane. There is not one directly in location specified but there is one further down the road near the gravel paths.

Cambourne has over 60 dog bins and if a bin has a domed top and not an open top you can use that for dog bags, which effectively gives 120 bins they can use.

The next closest dog bin is by the sports pitches.

There is a small amount of money left from the developers funding and it costs around £300 for a dog bin, £10 to install. It currently takes the ground staff around half a day to collect the bins.

The Head Groundsman has a map of all the bins in Cambourne. Councillors requested to view this map in order to review the location of the bins.

It was proposed to add the item to the next L&A meeting with the map and respond to the resident that a review is being carried out on the location of dog bins in Cambourne and if another is needed in the area. A decision will be made at the next L&A meeting.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the report respond to the resident that a review is being carried out on the location of dog bins in Cambourne.

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

Signed

Date 20th June 2023

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 – 20th June 2023**
The meeting closed at 21:10