



CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

A meeting of Cambourne Town was held at The Hub Community Centre, Cambourne on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 commencing at 19:15pm.

Present:

Cllr R Poulton (Acting Chairman)	Cllr J Panrucker
Cllr A Fisher	Cllr R Poulton
Cllr P Gavigan	Cllr A Siddiqui
Cllr R Jayaraman	Cllr G Thompson
Cllr F Panrucker	Cllr H Touheed

In attendance: John Vickery, Town Clerk
 Ellie Lydon, Committee Clerk

6 residents were in attendance for the meeting.

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Councillor Ruth Poulton on behalf of Councillor Joe O'Dwyer.

As the Vice-Chairman of Cambourne Town Council I would like to welcome and thank you for taking the time to attend your Annual Town Meeting this evening! As many of you are aware, Town and Parish Councils are required to hold meetings at this time of the year for the registered electors in their area, as part of their accountability to the local population. The Town Chairman is required to present a report to this meeting.

The regulations surrounding Annual Town meetings are such that, whilst anyone can attend, participation is limited to registered electors of the Town. So, please state your name and address if you have a question. Obviously, I am willing to exercise some prerogative and common sense.

If a single issue affects a large number, I will ask that the same questions are not raised more than once to ensure all present get a fair chance to raise different issues.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 3rd May 2022 ATM/M17 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

This is Cambourne Town Council's opportunity to inform you, the residents, about our work over the past year and to thank those people who have supported us. It has been a busy period for the Town Council which has continued to receive a lot of support from the Community.

I and the Committee Chairs will give a short summary of the reports with the full report being made available on the Councils web site after the meeting.

Councillors

Since the last report Cllr Krintas, Cllr McIntyre, Cllr Sharma, Cllr Simpson and Cllr Spanner left the Council and we welcomed Cllr Achall, Cllr Hettiarachchi,

Signed

Date 7th May 2024

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Cllr Jayaraman, Cllr Mehta, Cllr J Panrucker, Cllr Ramachandran, Cllr Siddiqui and Cllr Touheed to the Council.

All councillors have contributed to the team and aided the Town Council in the performance of its duties, and I thank all the Cllrs for their time, commitment, skills, experience and knowledge that they bring and give freely for the betterment of Cambourne.

In case you may not be aware, Cllrs are unpaid and volunteer their time and services.

The Town Council has continued to take the initiative and be creative, working closely with the County and District Councils on various projects in an effort to ensure the residents of Cambourne get the best possible service.

Cambourne

In the four villages making up Cambourne, there are 4520 houses occupied as of 31st March 2023, of which 113 are from West Cambourne.

The population of Cambourne currently sits at around 12,475 residents.

Action Plan

The Town Council has completed most of the actions in the adopted PARISH/TOWN PLAN Action Plan and is working to complete the remaining actions within its control. The other parts of the Action Plan are being pursued with the relevant authorities or relevant bodies. The Council is now considering if it is appropriate to revisit the Town Plan as the Cambourne Town Council approaches its 20th year.

Community Shop

The Town Council have continued to support the Hope Charity run by Cllr Mahesh Hettiarachchi in the development of the community shop and Warm Hub for residents to access affordable shopping items and offer additional support. The shop was originally open 1 day a week and has now expanded to 3 days a week. The Warm Hub is also held in the Hub Meeting Room twice a week.

Upgrading of the A428

The Town Council has been consulted on the proposals for the upgrading of the A428 between the Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet. Highways England submitted the Development Consent Order, which has been approved by the Secretary of State in August 2022. The start of construction has been delayed due to the Transport Action Network submitting a judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision. The High Court refused the judicial review, but Transport Action Network are asking for the decision to be reviewed at a High Court oral hearing.

East West Rail

We have continued to be consulted on the proposal and expressed our preference for a northern station at Cambourne. East West Rail are due to announce their preferred route in May 2023.

20mph Speed limit in Cambourne

The Town Council has been working with Cambridgeshire County Council on the implementation of a 20mph speed limit throughout Cambourne. Work has been progressing well and is due for completion by March 2024.

Cambourne High Street:

The Town Council continue to chase the developer for the implementation of a High St in Cambourne.

Cambourne Youth Building

The building was fitted out with furniture and open for the Cambourne Youth Partnership to use for youth clubs from Summer 2022. The old Soul Building was removed on Wednesday 23rd November 2022. The building has also held 2 successful 'Big Squiggle' events held by the Town Council.

Please attend our Town Council meetings to stay abreast of proposed developments.

Staff:

The annual report would not be complete without paying tribute to our hard-working Town Council staff who have all worked tirelessly, assisting with enquiries, complaints and the planning of free events for Cambourne residents. The Town Council said goodbye to Owen Baker, Sports Development Officer and welcomed Carla Gray as the new Finance and Premises Officer and Alfie Tate as the new Football Development Officer.

John Vickery, who is both our Town Clerk and our Responsible Financial Officer, has led his team to ensure that the decisions of the Council are put into effect.

A special "thanks" must be given to Warren Bourne and his team, who kept the flowers blooming, the pitches in excellent condition and the green spaces maintained.

To **keep** up to date on what's **happening**, visit our **website** –

<https://www.cambournetowncouncil.gov.uk/>

and **Facebook page** –

<https://www.facebook.com/cambournetowncouncil/>

3 Finance and Policy Committee

This meeting is also chaired by the Town Chairman.

The Committee looks after the following –

- Estimates and budgets of expenditure
- Audit matters
- Staff
- Grants
- Lettings & Charges
- Land matters
- Office & Council Accommodation
- Payment of Invoices
- Council Policy

The membership is:

Chairman and Vice Chairman of CTC

Chairmen of the Planning and L&A Committee

3 further councillors to make a total of 7 members.

Matters of finance and policy are discussed and the budget is closely monitored.

Motions are taken to full council for discussion and voting.
The Town Clerk will outline the financial side of the committees work in his report

Cllr R Poulton handed over to the Committee Chairmen for their reports.

Greg Thompson

Chairman - Leisure & Amenities Committee

cllr.thompson@cambourneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Leisure & Amenities Committee Report 2022-23

Premises

We have started to see our venues return to normal usage following the pandemic. The majority of regular hirers have returned along with new groups and enquiries for private hire have increased. Since September 2022, the Sports Pavilion has been used by Cambourne Town Football Club as a social club called the 'Dug Out' on Friday evenings and on the weekend. It has been well attended by players and family members of the football club as well as residents. They have also held events such as Bingo, Disco and Quiz Night's to raise money for the club.

Various repairs were carried out on all the premises, including replacing the floor in the Blue School toilets and Classroom 1. A smashed door at the Sports Pavilion was replaced and at the same time all the windows that were not opening were repaired.

Sports Facilities

The Grounds Team have done a great job maintaining the Sports Pitches and have been well used by multiple sports groups including Cambourne Town FC. The next Cambourne Football Tournament is due to be held in September 2023.

Cambourne Junior Park continues to use the outskirts of the football pitches. The event runs every Sunday and has been well attended.

Playgrounds

Due to repeated surface damage at the Great Cambourne Park, the wet pour was removed along with the some of the larger play equipment, which were approaching the end of their practical life. The Council have been obtaining quotations and designs for replacement play equipment. The remainder of the park is expected to be open by summer, but this will not include the new equipment.

- 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).

Quotes have also been obtained to replace equipment in the Eco Park and Roman Park.

• RoSPA Inspection

The annual RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) inspection was carried out in April 2023. The ground staff have reviewed the reports and are carrying out the necessary repairs.

Allotments

The allotments at Brace Dein and Crow Hill continue to be well used. There are currently 3 vacant plots at Crow Hill and 8 at Brace Dein. The vacant plots at Crow Hill have been strimmed by the grounds team and those at the top of the waiting list have been allocated plots. Once the Tenancy Agreements for Crow Hill have been returned, the same will be done for Brace Dein. As a result of Covid-19 there had been an influx of residents who would like an allotment plot and there are now 62 people on the waiting list for Brace Dein and 57 for Crow Hill, which is a minimum 2 year wait. Some of these are residents who wanted to be on both waiting lists.

Burial Ground

There have been 2 burials and one interment of cremated remains since May 2022. The southern boundary was moved to increase the size of the burial ground.

Trailer Park

There is currently one plot available and two people on the waiting list. The resident at the top of the waiting list has been contacted and is completing the Trailer Park Contract.

Community Action

Over the period the Town Council also enabled more residents to be involved in their community, i.e The Community Action Day, Repair Café and Mens Shed.

Fun Fair

Larry Gray booked for the Fun Fair to be held on the 13th-16th July 2022 on the Great Cambourne Green. The Fun Fair is due to return to Cambourne on the 13th -16th July 2023.

Circus

The Circus did not visit Cambourne in 2022 but they are due to return on Thursday 31st August 2023 until Sunday 3rd September 2023.

Cllr Patrick Gavigan**Chairman – Planning Committee****Draft Planning Report 2022 and 2023**

The Planning Committee had another busy year, considering the continued economic climate; we have considered a total of 89 applications, some of which were considered on more than one occasion.

- 40 Householders covering extensions, conservatories, garage conversions, loft conversions, and others.
- 19 Discharge of Conditions were received.
- The Committee has also received a total of 7 Non-material amendments, and 10 applications for Lawful Development Certificates, 2 Tree Preservation Order application, 2 for Advertisement Consent, 2 for Prior Notification, 6 for Reserved Matters and 1 Outline Application.

- 89 Decision Notices were received.

The Planning Committee also looked into various enforcement issues, some of which are still ongoing.

West Cambourne:

The planning consent for the development of West of Cambourne granted in 2017 along with the completed s106 agreement has now been implemented. The first phase infrastructure work has been completed. The first two phases of housing has commenced by Taylor Wimpey and Bovis Homes with the third phase due to start this year. There are 113 dwellings occupied.

Bourn Airfield:

The Planning department at South Cambs District Council approved the outline planning consent March 2021 subject to resolving the s106 agreement, which is nearing completion.

4. **THE FINANCIAL SITUATION: THE FINANCIAL SITUATION 2022 to 2023**

John Vickery, Cambourne Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

To start with it is necessary to explain that the Town Council has no money of its own, only that which it receives from the taxpayers of Cambourne, hiring of facilities, agency work and s106 monies.

Town and Parish Council receives no grant from central government or from the South Cambs District Council (SCDC). The Town Council's money comes purely from the RESIDENTS of Cambourne.

Businesses, which pay a nationally determined Uniform Business Rate, which the Town Council does not get a share.

The Town Council raised a precept of £582,895.00 to cover the cost of running the Council and the facilities in Cambourne. In this we allowed for an income of £1,343,895.00. We actually had an income of £1,478,954.00, s106 monies, hire of facilities in addition to the precept.

The Town Council spent £1,367,681.00 on Cambourne; this included, the completion of the new Cambourne Soul, finishing the refurbishment of the skatepark, planned replacement of Maintenance equipment, re-paying the loan to equip the Sports and Leisure Centre, running and maintaining The Hub, Blue Space, 4 pavilions, 3g, tennis courts, MUGA and open spaces and play areas to retain them as valuable assets for the community. The Town Council continues to contribute to the repairs and renewals fund.

The Town Council also provided grant funding over the last year for the following:

£100 Cambourne Community Car Scheme,
£600 Cambourne Library Summer Reading Challenge, and
£100 MAGPAS Air Ambulance.

The Town Council also supported the Fete, Light Up Cambourne, Cambourne Fireworks, Cambourne 10k and fun run, football tournament and £30,000 for Cambourne Youth Partnership.

In January the Town Council set its precept for the financial year 2023-2024. There have been other pressures on the budget over the year due to increased inflation on fuel prices etc.

The budget was prepared based on a 3% increase in the band D rate in line with 2022/2023 agreed but, the Town Council would not have the required Risk Management funds for 2024/25 and future years meaning we would fail our Audit process.

To enable the Town Council to carry out the projects it is committed to and meet the risk management threshold for the next 3 years a 10% increase in the Band D rate is required.

To enable this to work we will have to use our allocated reserves for the 3G and rebuild this over the next three years. The balance is below the Risk Management figure, but by timing the major projects to towards the end of the financial year we will be able to manage the risk. The 10% increase also makes an allowance for West Cambourne growth which is coming on stream, the numbers of band D will be adjusted as required in future years.

If the Town Council was to receive additional income it had not budgeted for in 2023/24 this can be revisited to see if the increase in future years can be reduced to a lower rate. The speed of delivery of the new houses will also have an impact on the band D rate and future precepts.

Cambourne Parish Council agreed to raise the Council Tax Average band D property rate by 10.0% to £161.45 for next year a £14.65. (£1.22/month) increase.

The 2023-2024 Precept is £665,388.00.

Finally, Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have to confirm that all the Council's accounts will again be subject to scrutiny by the Government appointed external auditors, and that all the Council's activities have been subject to the mandatory Internal Audit process.

5. TO RECEIVE COMMUNITY REPORTS:

to receive reports from community groups in Cambourne.

Reports have been received from:

- Air Cadets
- Cambourne Bowls Club
- Cambourne Crier
- Cambourne Car Scheme
- Cambourne Community Website
- Cambourne Crescent
- Cambourne Electronic Robotics Club
- Cambourne Fishing Club
- Cambourne Tennis Club
- CamCare UK
- Cambourne Youth Partnership
- Community Development Officer
- Men's Shed
- Repair Café
- The Wildlife Trust
- U3A

These are displayed on the wall and will be appended to the minutes.

6. QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Councillor Ruth Poulton opened the meeting for the residents to ask questions.
No questions were raised by residents attending the meeting.

7. CONCLUSION:

Councillor Ruth Poulton

I would like to thank all of you for coming out tonight to attend the Town Meeting
I hope you have found it informative. Thank you to the Councillors for coming
tonight.

Meeting Closed 19:33