



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 20th June 2023. Meeting commenced at 19:20

Present:

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

Cllr A Fisher
Cllr J Patel
Cllr R Poulton

In attendance: John Vickery-Town Clerk

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

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

It was:

RESOLVED to accept the apologies from Cllr J O'Dwyer and Cllr A 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/M93 held on Tuesday 18th April 2023.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Minutes for the meeting, held on Tuesday 18th April 2023 (M93) were approved and signed.

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

Cllr S Bhattacharya disclosed a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 as a trustee of CamCare UK.

Cllr Patel disclosed a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 as a treasurer and trustee of Cambourne Youth Partnership.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no announcements.

Cllr S Bhattacharya left the room at this point.

5. **CAMBOURNE ELECTRONIC ROBOTICS CLUB**

Sujit Bhattacharya gave a presentation on the background of Cambourne Electronic Robotics Club (CERC). The reason for the report was to show the need for a permanent dedicated space to hold their sessions.

A parent also spoke in support of the need for a permanent space.

Signed

Date 19th September 2023

Q. What size space would you need?

A. CERC would like a space the size of the hall at the Blue Space and use of additional rooms.

Q. How is CERC funded, what income does it receive and what is the outgoings?

A. CERC is combined with CamCare and it raised £40,000 in grants for the Community Mini Bus. It has received large grants for specific projects. Can't give information on the funds for the CERC classes.

Q. How does CERC pay for classes?

A. CERC uses funds it is paid in sponsorship but would like preferential rates.

Q. Has CERC considered obtaining its own building?

A. CERC has considered this and would be happy to explore this, but would need a temporary dedicated space.

Q. Could CERC share the space with other users?

A. CERC would not be able to share as the reason for a dedicated space is to leave the equipment out which would need the room to be locked when CERC is not using it.

It was noted that a number of other groups would need to be moved out to enable a space to be dedicated for CERC's use.

The Chairman thanked Sujit Bhattacharya for his presentation and CERC for the work they do.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the presentation and defer it to the Chairs Group to consider then make a recommendation to a Full Council meeting.

Cllr S Bhattacharya rejoined the meeting.

6. CAMBOURNE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Cambourne Youth Partnership submitted a report. (See attached)

Emma Whitbread was in attendance for the meeting and presented the report and answered some questions of clarification.

Cllr S Bhattacharya asked if the CYP could give diversity figures showing religion and ethnicity.

CYP will check if it can provide the data requested.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report.

7. REPORT ON FACILITIES

An update on Facilities in Cambourne since 18th April 2023

7.1 BURIAL GROUND (Cambourne Cemetery)

There have been no internments since the last report.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received.

Cllr A Fisher joined the meeting during the following item at 20.37.

7.2 ALLOTMENTS

Please find attached the email received under public questions at the Full Council Meeting on the 6th June 2023, which was deferred for consideration at this meeting.

I'm a plot-holder at the Crow Hill site and I've been granted 3 minutes to address you. Thankyou for that.

I have concerns that I believe are shared by many others at both our site and the other. Yet I am not pretending I have any right to speak for other plot-holders. I don't.

But of course if there really are serious issues, and quite a row has developed, you will realise that it is indeed prudent for all available councillors to speak directly with all available plot-holders. That way the councillors, and I understand that you must be risk-averse, don't allow a situation to develop – or events to occur – which you don't want to happen, or cannot afford to happen, in their name.

So that meeting should be non-selective, with everybody invited except me, John Vickery and council employees. It should be as soon as is practicable. And it should be onsite so that councillors can see for themselves the problems that have accrued over the last two decades. Problems that threaten to overwhelm allotments where perhaps 1 in 3 plots are vacant because nobody in a long waiting-list will touch them.

Some of those problems are certainly health-and-safety issues. But there are others. Doubtless they will have been the bane of John Vickery's life. And Ellie's. So such a meeting could well be a blessing for them too. Because if they are already under-resourced as the town grows, and this town is almost unique since it is being cited far and wide for the vast amount of greenery that poses problems we recognise, then it is better to have a lot of wise heads involved.

Of course it may be useful to have a meeting at each of the 2 sites.

That's it. I don't think you can afford to not know the problems. There is definitely a great deal of willingness on the part of plot-holders to work with the council though, with all due respect, many of the former are old and infirm if not terminally ill. So what some of them are able to safely do to help solve the problems - and I am thinking of clipping 5 or 6-metre hedges and taking the clippings away in their own cars for example - is very limited. Yet I am sure that with the personalities removed from the equation, as I suggested, in their absence the plot-holders and councillors can all have a pleasant and constructive conversation from which everyone will benefit.

I should add that John Vickery and I have spoken during the last week, that conversation was positive and constructive on both our parts, the skip has arrived and I understand that the shredding is about to occur, and I am now very hopeful that we can work together.

We have also had a request for the following by another plot holder at Crow Hill.

Please accept this as my formal request for an allotment committee for Crow Hill, I think it would be of benefit to the allotment holders.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received and the Chairs Group be delegated to look at the feasibility of an Allotment Committee.

7.3 PLAYGROUNDS, OPEN SPACES, SKATE PARK AND FOOTPATHS

Playgrounds

Signed

Date 19th September 2023

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:

- 375 rubber mats have been ordered to give a coverage of 560sqm and these should be arriving shortly.
 - One more load of soil will be delivered on Friday 23rd June 2023 to be levelled the following week.
 - Rubber Mats will be laid after the soil has been levelled.
 - Grass seed has been ordered.
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- 10 tonnes of play sand to top up the sand area in the wet and dry play for Upper Cambourne Water Play area has been ordered.
 - There are issues with the tower at the Lower Cambourne Play Park, boards need replacing due to wear and tear. Temporary repairs are to be carried out and if the replacement board can be funded as part of the grant application being submitted for Great Cambourne Play area.

Open Spaces

- The grass cutting and strimming has been caught up.
- Ongoing watering of hedge plants that were planted over the winter.
- The ground staff will shortly be going around Cambourne spraying the kerbs.

Skate Park

The Skate Park continues to be well used.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received.

7.4 PREMISES & FACILITIES

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

The Sports Pavilion:

The Dugout

Progress report

As the season comes to an end, we continue to open for the community offering some weekend opening on Saturdays and our usual Sunday mornings for junior park run and our wildcats and soccer school. We are looking forward to opening through the summer and have some exciting, themed events planned and look forward to the incoming season to start.

An electrician has been appointed to carry out EIC inspections on all the rented building to meet the relevant legislation as a commercial landlord. This will need to be repeated every 3 years.

The Hub

- The planters outside the Cricket Pavilions and Bowls Pavilion have been planted with new plants and flower baskets have been installed around the Hub.

Following the meeting held with Town Clerk, Finance & Premises Officer will be meeting with Stuart Bremner, of Bremner Associates to discuss a programme for moving first floor works forward. Further prices are being sort for the Changing Place proposal to assess what funds are available and can be considered at a future meeting.

Cricket Pavilions

The Town Council staff are working with the Cricket Club to ensure effective communications are taking place and to make the most effective use of the buildings at all times.

The Caretaker has begun to paint the internal and external doors of the LCP after carrying out minor repairs to the doors as the old paint was deteriorating and reflecting badly on the building.

Blue Space

There has been no major issues within the building but a programme of works will be produced for upgrading the building to reflect the funding becoming available from West Cambourne towards the Blue Space.

Sports Pavilion

Briar Security upgraded the CCTV at the Sports Pavilion.

Soul Building

Following a defect inspection with the Contractor, Stuart Bremner (the project Quantity Surveyor), Town Clerk and Finance & Premises Officer, the list that was drawn up has been completed and signed off. A making good of defects certificate has now been completed and therefore the retention has been released and therefore the contractual works are now complete on the Youth Building.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received.

Sports Facilities

- The 3G will be remarked within the next few weeks.
- Football pitch renovations have started.

The MUGA has been inspected by Wayne Sexton of Surfacing Standard Limited (SSL). This inspection was in two parts. The first part was in relation to the grant application with the football foundation to upgrade the current sand filled artificial surface to a 3G (rubber crumb) artificial turf pitch. This report has now been received by the Town Clerk and Jay Clarke on behalf of the football club to enable this to progress. The report will be circulated once the process has begun.

As a result of discussions with the current sports clubs in Cambourne, there was a feeling that the sport in Cambourne group or similar should be reformed to assist in liaising between the council and clubs, similar to the way it used to operate.

The second part of the inspections carried out was in relation to the tennis/netball courts condition and to receive recs as to how it should be resurfaced. The report is on its way, but the preliminary findings stated the court could be resprayed, but this would be a temporary plaster, which would be a waste of money. The recommendation was for the court to be resurfaced with a new wearing course to be put on top of the existing surface following perforation of the existing surface.

The Town Clerk will be arranging a meeting with representatives of the netball club, tennis club and football club to work together on obtaining grants to enable both projects to be done simultaneously as this reduces the cost of the works significantly.

An email was received from Cambourne Netball Club- please see below.

We would like to understand the proposed plan for resurfacing the netball/tennis courts on the MUGA – we have been asking for this to be considered for approx. the last 5 years as the courts have deteriorated as their shelf life is approx 10 years and they

have been in place longer than that. In summer, whilst not ideal are playable but often become dangerous in winter months when the weather is damp and cold and the line markings are worn.

We appreciate the parish Council is investigating funding but this has been ongoing now for approx. 18 months – 2 years – the netball club have offered support with fundraising, grant applications, financial support but we are still no further forward. We have 143 women and girls playing the sport we love every week and no alternatives in Cambourne to train as the school courts don't have floodlights.

Our season runs from September to march which we have made the parish council aware so the summer time is ideal for work to be carried out but we still don't have any sight of anything being done which leaves us with the prospect of another winter of potential difficult decisions of whether we can train safely

The tennis club also use the courts and have similar frustrations about the court quality.

It would be really helpful if there were also a better consultation process for the sports club to have a say about the facilities in Cambourne – the netball club don't even get notified if the MUGA is closed and we don't have our own access to appropriate toilet facilities since the gym started charging us we have girls as young as 8 training with us

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received and work with the Football, Netball and Tennis Club on grants to enable the work to be carried out..

7.5 CAMBOURNE SPORTS FACILITIES

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

1. Everyone Active at Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre has a membership base of 777 in May '22. 55 members left us over May but we sold 79 new memberships (highest May performance since 2014). Net growth of 24 members.
2. Enis's Barbers hope to open this weekend (17th/18th June). Negotiations with Barclays Bank are slow but they are still interested. No terms have been discussed yet.
3. A successful charity event was held last weekend raising money for MND - total raised is tbc.
4. The management here kindly ask for an update on the 3G safe unit for the key to access the toilet facilities.
5. Briars Security installed the CCTV and it is operating well.
6. As ever, Everyone Active thanks Cambourne Town Council and the L and A Committee for their continued support and advice.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received.

7.6 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 is completing the Trailer Park contract for the vacant plot.

It was:

RESOLVED that the report be received.

8. FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the report.

9. FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Cllr S Bhattacharya email requesting the forming of a Festival Committee to take on the festivals in Cambourne and an email From Cllr J O'Dwyer was considered. There was concern over the amount of additional work this would entail.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the request and following a discussion between Cllr S Bhattacharya, Cllr J O'Dwyer and the Town Clerk this would be taken to a Council meeting

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Cambridge Track and Field Academy

Summer Sprint Training on Cambourne Village Green.

There was a discussion on the charges for the activity and how it would be promoted.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the correspondence and agree to the principal subject to the applicant meeting with the Town Clerk to discuss the outdoor space use form.

10.2 Kingsgate Community Church

Community Event Request.

It was suggested that Great Cambourne Green was the most suitable.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the correspondence and agree to the principal subject to the applicant meeting with the Town Clerk and filling in the outdoor space use form.

10.3 Taylor Wimpey

Buckley's Bees

It was

RESOLVED to receive the correspondence and delegate it to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in consultation with the Town Clerk to look into the request and report to a future meeting.

11. 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.

12. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

There was no update from the Town Clerk.

13. 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.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 19th September 2023

The meeting closed at 21:25