



CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL
District of South Cambridgeshire

A meeting of this Council was held at the Hub Community Centre on Tuesday 1st August 2023.
Meeting commenced at 19:18

Present:

Cllr A Ahmed
Cllr S Bhattacharya
Cllr A Fisher
Cllr P Gavigan
Cllr R Jayaraman

Cllr P Mehta
Cllr F Panrucker
Cllr J Panrucker
Cllr G Thompson
Cllr H Touheed

In attendance: John Vickery - Town Clerk
Ellie Lydon – Committee Clerk

3 members of the public were in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Achall Cllr A Ramachandran Cllr D Jones, Cllr J O’Dwyer, Cllr M Hettiarachchi, Cllr R Poulton, Cllr A Siddiqui and Cllr J Patel. Acceptable reasons for absence were given.

It was:

RESOLVED to accept the apologies from Cllr S Achall, Cllr A Ramachandran, Cllr D Jones, Cllr J O’Dwyer, Cllr M Hettiarachchi, Cllr R Poulton, Cllr A Siddiqui and Cllr J Patel

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To approve as a correct record the minutes of CTC/M236 held on the 4th July 2023.

It was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 4th July 2023 be approved and signed.

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

Cllr Ahmed declared a pecuniary interest in Item 6 as a paid member of Camboourne Cricket Club.

Cllr P Mehta joined the meeting during the following item.

4. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

Signed

Date 5th September 2023
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5. POLICE MATTERS

Schedule of emails previously circulated to Councillors.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the previously circulated correspondence.

Cllr Bhattacharya joined the meeting during the following item.

6. CAMBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

To receive a proposal from Cambourne Cricket Club.

Henry Ashman, Club Chair of Cambourne Cricket Club and Michael Booth, Secretary were in attendance.

Cambourne Cricket Club is growing at an exponential rate, and we are successfully seeking funding from various sources to develop the club further.

Proposal 1 – Pergola

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has guaranteed £10,000 funding towards the pergola if permission is given by the Town Council. The estimated total cost for the project is £15,000.

The location has been measured and we have received quotes from local providers. We need the pergola as it is a league requirement for the 'Whiting Premier' which our 1st team are close to achieving. It will also protect players and spectators from harsh weather conditions, whilst also allowing for the bar to open later in the year and generate more income for the club.

It may need planning consent but as it is a council building it may not. The Town Clerk will consult with the local planning officer.

The Third Man Bar takings will fund the gap between the funding and extra costs needed.

The council would then own and insure the pergola if installed.

A question was raised as to whether the existing decking would need to be replaced before the pergola is installed as it has become worn.

There were no plans to replace the decking as the pergola is a light installation but happy to discuss with the council further works to be carried out if the proposal is supported.

The Cricket Club needs to give the ECB proven consent within the next few months and the project needs to be completed by April 2024.

A question was raised as to what materials would be used. This is to be confirmed but we were looking into low maintenance/ more sustainable materials such as recycled aluminium for the frame. Coverage to block UVs. We can send further information over before formal planning applications are sent.

It was proposed that the Town Council support the installation of the pergola providing all aspects of technical specification, design and installation are agreed with the Town Clerk in advance.

Proposal 2 – Permanent fixed nets

The ECB have said in principle they will provide another £10,000 towards the fixed nets if we continue to grow our Girl's Cricket section.

We currently rely on the school to use their nets and other external source, which costs the club thousands of pounds each year.

We have tried to identify different locations that would be suitable for the permanent fixed nets.

The fixed nets would be a lockable enclosed area, around 40m long.

LCP has a rolling net (same since 2005), but it is open at one end and the balls go towards the road or houses.

It would be another source of revenue for the cricket club and another place for the community to hire.

Site A- Land near Jeavons Wood School, still under the ownership of the developers.

Site B- Edge of sports field. Felt to be a more suitable location, also sheltered and possibility for an additional camera on the side of the pavilion to cover it. Location is key for the long net. Advantage of the edge of the football pitch is it is flat land.

3 lanes, parallel to the trees. We want it to fit in aesthetically.

Will it impact the football/park run? – Shouldn't do, but the Town Clerk will need to look at the site to check if there will be any impact.

It would be £35,000/£40,000 for the artificial pitch, which would reduce the ongoing maintenance for the Council.

The Town Clerk has had previous discussions with the Cricket Club regarding location and has made them aware the location A has been earmarked for environmental improvements (biodiversity, offset the Business Park development)

It was proposed to agree to the principal of working with Cambourne Cricket Club to find a suitable location for fixed nets and any formal proposal to come back to a Full Council or Leisure and Amenities Meeting for approval.

An additional request was made for a pedestrian crossing on Back Lane to protect players crossing to retrieve balls.

The Town Clerk explained it currently costs between £70,000 and £100,000 to install a crossing.

A question was raised as to whether the car park extension at Great Cambourne would be a suitable location? The area is not big enough and we don't want to lose car park space, food vendors also benefit from using the space. Also, it wouldn't be ideal to have young cricketers walking across an active car park.

Proposal 3 – Booking System (trial)

The Club and Council have encountered issues with communication in recent months regarding bookings in the pavilions.

Hardwick Council uses a system called Skedda that allows for external users to see what times are available to book. The Cricket Club would also be able to upload fixtures at short notice.

It would make it easier for both the Council and Cricket Club to see what is available and alleviate the complexity of the bookings.

The Cricket Club propose to trial Skedda with the Upper Cambourne Pavilion and pitch.

It would hopefully avoid further confusions of bookings, which can be easily resolved. There are different settings, so members of public wouldn't have access to book but can view what is booked in.

Michael is happy to give up time to build a basic bookings system with the pavilions and trial for a season.

A question was raised as to what the cost of the system is. The Cricket Club need to talk to various providers and don't have the exact figures on costs, but it could be broadened out and be used by multiple sports facilities.

Also, important to note if the system can carry out the same functions as our current booking system such as invoicing and receipting.

The Council could also look into making the current Edge booking system public but would need to look into minimising who can use it.

It was proposed to defer this item to the next Leisure and Amenities Meeting. In the meantime, the Council will contact Hardwick Council to ask about costings and ease of use.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the update.

7. INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

To receive a report from Phil Priestley.

Phil Priestley sent his apologies but will be in attendance at the Full Council Meeting on the 5th September 2023.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the report.

8. CLERKS UPDATE

To receive an update from the Town Clerk. (Copy attached)

Item 6- Bus link meeting. It will be publicised shortly, and they will be removing the required trees.

They will be laying the hedges along the sides of the access road, ready for the road to be constructed. Scheduled to be completed by this time next year.

Item 4 –Target hardening ATM's. How would this be funded? Government funding.

Item 13- Play Equipment. Good ideas from the work experience students, and quotations are to be received.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the update.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Mark Howell was in attendance to answer questions from councillors.

Signed

Date 5th September 2023
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Cllr Mark Howell apologised for not being in attendance at recent meetings as he been unwell and taking time off in the evenings. He has still attended all County Council meetings.

20mph scheme

Cllr Howell has been involved in a policy change that all future developments in Cambridgeshire will have 20mph speed limits.

Cambourne Town Council are still in favour of 20mph speed limits.

Pavement Parking

2017 elections, Cllr Howell wanted to tackle pavement parking. However, he has not been too involved in it.

If people cannot park on the pavements, it causes congestion and problems on the road. There is legislation coming through that parking on pavements will be looked at seriously and civil parking officers' employment.

Cllr Howell welcomes the Councillors opinions.

A point was raised that every house in Cambourne has its provision of parking that the house was designed for. Many have parking spaces behind their houses but don't use them as its more convenient to park by the front door.

There has been a large number of complaints regarding school lane parking. Cllr Howell has been in correspondence with the Housing Association regarding the matter.

A point was raised that if no parking on pavements is enforced in some areas the road would be too narrow for cars to pass. It would solve some issues but in some cases, parking on the pavement is better.

Enforcement on illegal actions would be welcomed but we don't have traffic wardens, lack of pcso's, or pay and display car parks.

It would be sensible to start warning residents that this enforcement may come to Cambourne.

There have been no further updates on the Cambridge congestion charge review.

Cllr Howell updated that Chris Chapman has been selected as the Conservative candidate for the new seat of South Cambridgeshire and will be running against Anthony Browne.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the report.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

To receive a report from the District Councillors for Cambourne.

10.1 Cllr Drew and Cllr Leeming

Cllr Drew and Cllr Leeming produced a report, previously circulated to councillors and gave their apologies.

If Councillors have any questions regarding their report, please contact Cllr Drew and Cllr Leeming directly.

It was
RESOLVED to receive the report.

10.2 Cllr Bhattacharya

Cllr Bhattacharya produced a report and was in attendance.

Cllr Bhattacharya referred to Item 3. Volunteering opportunities to support Asylum Seekers at Bar Hill Hotel of Cllr Drew and Cllr Leeming's report and updated that the Cambourne Community Bus is being used to support the scheme.

Pharmacy

Cllr Bhattacharya has been in discussion with the manager of the pharmacy, who would like to come and give report to the Council.

The handover from Lloyds Pharmacy to the new company will be the 10th August 2023.

A question was raised as to what the answer was to Cllr Bhattacharya's question to the District Council Full Council July Meeting "Could the Leader of the District Council please provide an update on the progress of the Cambourne High Street project?"

There has been one meeting 6 months prior but no update and no action plan. Supplementary question- 'What is your action plan is and how soon?' They will have another meeting within 6 months, no clear picture.

The Town Clerk has had a discussion with Duncan Mason, High Street developer who was going to prepare a report for Full Council Meeting in September.

Cllr Bhattacharya also asked for Councillors to let her know if they have any questions they would like her to take to the District Council.

It was
RESOLVED to receive the report.

11. FINANCE

11.1 To receive the schedule of payments attached.

Councillors asked the Town Clerk questions regarding payments.

It was:
RESOLVED to receive the schedule of payments.

11.2 To receive the report of the current financial position.

It was:
RESOLVED to receive the current financial position.

11.3 To receive the bank reconciliation for the 1st July 2023.

Independent check has taken place.

It was:

RESOVLED to receive the bank reconciliation for the 1st July 2023.

12. FAITH BUILDINGS

To receive a report from the Town Clerk.

All the information has been collated on a spreadsheet for the Town Clerk to review.

Census still not broken down to parish level as of last Friday.

The data provided by the faith groups is being collated to form a report for a future meeting. The data along with the 2021 census information can then be used to inform decisions by the council on future buildings. It can also help the Town Council and District Council when considering future developments. Employment land in new developments could be earmarked for faith buildings if the findings present a need.

It can be taken as far as the District Council for future s106 requirements.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the update.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Town Clerk to report on any correspondence needing to be brought to the Council's attention.

13.1 Cambourne Resident- Benches

The benches are next to the Great Cambourne play area and there are issues with people congregating, allegedly exchanging drugs/making noise.

It was proposed to look into the issue and take back to the next Leisure & Amenities meeting to consider.

The benches are used during daytime too by residents normally.

The Town Clerk will research the location of benches in Cambourne and advise the resident they should contact the police.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the correspondence.

13.2 Cambourne Resident- Eco Park Gate

Proposed latch on the Eco Park gate.

There are no latches not on the gate for reason, such as people using prams etc.

A question was raised as to whether there could be temporary latches installed. This would impact other park users.

It was proposed for the Town Clerk to visit the Eco Park with the Head Groundsman and report back to the next L&A meeting on what's possible. It was also suggested to ask the resident if they are available to meet and discuss. Good to talk to the resident about all those things not just that the council said no.

The gate needs to be accessible for all to use.
Could it be suggested to the resident to take something with them to make the gate look closed to their child.
Even with latch they could open it.
Playgrounds subject to inspection by ROSPA. Ask the Head Groundsman to contact them to ask what their take it on it.

If a practical solution is found, bring it to the next meeting.

It was:
RESOLVED to receive the correspondence.

13.3 Hedgehog Highway Project

Send on to the wildlife trust.

It was:
RESOLVED to receive the correspondence.

13.4 Cambridgeshire Matters

It was:
RESOLVED to receive the correspondence.

Schedule of correspondence circulated by the Town Clerk to Councillors since the last meeting by email.

It was:
RESOLVED to receive the previously circulated correspondence.

14. LAND TRANSFERS

To receive a report from the Town Clerk (Copy attached).

Item 6- The Town Clerk has received the transfer documents and will be checking them.

It was:
RESOLVED that the report be received.

15. TRAFFIC MATTERS & ROAD SAFETY

Councillors received the previously circulated correspondence.

15.1 Zebra Crossings

Can proceed with one or the other crossings but not both.
One crossing at entrance to Jeavons lane and other is by Jeavons school.

When previously discussed, the preferred option was the Jeavons Lane crossing. The only issue is part of the road and verge is not adopted, which means the County Council cannot proceed as they cannot undertake maintenance on unadopted land. The Town Council could take over the verge maintenance until the road is adopted. However, the construction/installation should have a year's defect/warranty, so maintenance should be covered by this. An option is being investigated to see if part the part of Jeavons Lane unadopted can be adopted. (Currently, Jeavons Lane is tied in with the adoption of the High Street. The developers have suggested entering an agreement to transfer part only).

Safer to pay for a crossing person at certain times, rather than £100,000 for a crossing on Eastgate, which would be infrequently used out of school times.

The County Council has the funding for one crossing, and we do not have the funding for a second.

As the Town Council have local knowledge, they County Council are willing to listen. Installation is subject to meeting numerous safety audits.

A concern was raised as to how safe the crossing is near to a bend. The County Council have carried out stage 1 safety audit.

It may cause more traffic as cars back up on Jeavons Lane/High Street.

The funding they had for the project, doesn't cover the crossing but another project elsewhere is allowing them to cover the cost of the crossing. Other funding (s106 for West Cambourne) to be used for cycleways or other improvements that are clearly defined proposals in the s106 for West Cambourne.

It was proposed to proceed with the preferred option of the installation of zebra crossing on Jeavons Lane subject to satisfactory safety audit and looking into crossing /crossing person outside of Jeavons Wood School.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the correspondence and proceed with the preferred option of the installation of zebra crossing on Jeavons Lane subject to satisfactory safety audit and looking into crossing /crossing person outside of Jeavons Wood School.

Schedule of correspondence circulated by the Town Clerk to Councillors since the last meeting by email.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the previously circulated correspondence.

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS

To receive minutes of meeting of the following Committees and consider any recommendations contained therein:

16.1 PLANNING held on 4th July 2023 PLN/M359 and PLN/M360 held on the 18th July 2023.

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the committee reports.

Signed

Date 5th September 2023
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17. 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.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded.

18. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

To receive an update from the Town Clerk.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the reports.

19. STAFFING

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update.

It was

RESOLVED to receive the report and delegate to the Town Clerk and Chairs Group authority to take the necessary actions.

20. 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.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Press and Public be re-admitted.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5th September 2023

The meeting closed at 21:30