

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Commons and Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 4th March 2021 at 7.30pm held remotely as per The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Present: Cllrs C O'Donovan (chair) T Finnigan (V Chair), D Bigham, D Fenton, I Caldwell, D Mitchell, S Vegro

In Attendance: C Kenny (Clerk)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M Maynard (health)

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Caldwell – Nickey Line (M), U3A (M), Active in Redbourn (M)

Cllr Bigham – Care Group (CM), Village Hall (M)

Cllr Maynard – Redbourn in Bloom (CM) and the Museum (T)

Cllr Mead – Redbourn in Bloom (CM), District Councillor, Active in Redbourn (M)

Cllr Mitchell – District Councillor, Redbourn Care Group (M)

Cllr Vegro – Active in Redbourn (CM)

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Item 8.2 To consider a request from the Cricketers PH regarding extension for the pods to remain in situ

The landlord of the Cricketers Pub addressed Cllrs with a request to extend the period of time they are allowed to have the 3 pods installed outside of the Pub on the Common. Since they have been installed, lockdown 3 was implemented so has meant the pods have not been used. The Pub have made an investment and they would like to recoup this cost. Cllrs asked how this would affect the tables and chairs that are normally set out. The Landlord explained that he normally has 13 sets of table and chairs but there will only be 7 or 8 alongside the pods. Social distancing protocols will have to be adhered to.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

RPC allow the pods to be installed until April 2022

Item 9.2 To consider a request from a resident for alterations to their current easement

Residents explained their reasons behind their request to alter the easement to Ashton House The Common at this point is in constant need of repairs due to delivery lorries/trucks turning around as the width of the easement is too narrow. By widening this area, it will minimise the damage.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***RPC grant permission for the owner of Ashton House to widen the section near to the house as per the drawings presented to the meeting.
Granite sets will be installed to contain the gravel***

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

ACTION: Property owner to send plan with dimensions to the Clerk to store with current easement papers.

4 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Memorial Bench – Clerk
Classics on Common – Cllr Finnigan
Request for Gazebo on the Common - Clerk

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2021 are adopted as a true record of the meeting

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Item 9 – The Clerk reported that the drawing dimensions of the easement have been agreed with the owner of Cover Point. The signed documents will be filed with the original easement.
Item 13 – It has not been feasible to meet the criteria of the grant as the tree had to be planted in March which was not possible. Therefore, it was decided that rather than replace the tree in front of Beesnest Cottage, it would be better for the Brownies to fund raise for a replacement tree in Cumberland Gardens. It will be a more convenient place for the Brownies to maintain along with being cheaper.

7 FINANCE

7.1 To receive the finance report on Commons expenditure

The Clerk presented the finance reports.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The Commons Income and Expenditure reported dated 26th February 2021 for the month of January 2021 be received.

ACTION: Present analysis of maintenance contract costings at the next meeting.

8 REDBOURN COMMON

8.1 To receive an updated on Common repairs

The Grounds Maintenance contractor has started re-seeding on the Commons, Cumberland Garden and the play areas. He will also be pressure washing the bins, benches and play equipment.

There is a lot of remedial work required around the edges of the Common. Some will be completed by the utility company who are currently working along Lybury Lane and Flamsteadbury Lane.

8.2 To consider a request from the Cricketers PH regarding the extension for the pods to remain in situ

Item moved fwd

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

8.3 To agree to opening the overflow car park for the Cricket season

The cricket season begins at the end of April or as and when Government guidelines allow, and the Cricket Club has requested that the overflow car park be opened.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The overflow car park be opened at the start of the cricket season. Instruct the contractor to open up the alternative section to last year in order to preserve the grass

8.4 To discuss the possibility of holding a Firework display

Cllr O'Donovan asked if Cllrs were supportive of holding a firework display this year. It is hoped that by November, the restrictions will have been relaxed sufficiently to allow the display to go ahead.

Cllrs were supportive of holding a firework display. Cllr O'Donovan is concerned that there will not be enough volunteers to successfully hold a display. It was suggested that Active in Redbourn be approached to ask if they could help.

8.5 To consider a request from the Fun fair to have use of the Common

The Fun fair have asked for use of the Common in May now that they are able under the new Government guidelines.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

RPC grant permission for the fun fair to have use of the Common between 10th May – 17th May 2021.

9 EASEMENTS

**9.1 To consider a request from a resident for alternations to their easement
Item moved fwd**

9.2 To receive update on easement policy

The pot holes on the West Common easement have been repaired with tarmac which is the wrong material.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the residents stating the wrong material has been used to repair the potholes and that the Council will repair in this instance but moving forward, any repairs will be at their expense.

ACTION: Clerk to check easements in place for West Common properties

10 CUMBERLAND GARDENS

10.1 To receive an updated on the repairs in Cumberland Garden

There has been a delay to the repairs in Cumberland Garden as the insurance held by the Maintenance Contractor does not cover him for digging beyond 1 metre. It cannot be extended as it requires a construction policy as opposed to a horticultural policy. The FO is finding it difficult to appoint a contractor that can complete the work as all appear to be very busy.

The Karate Club had requested permission to have use of Cumberland Garden to hold outdoor training sessions again as per the government roadmap. Cllrs agreed to give

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

permission assuming they were run in the same format with the same measures in place as in the previous lockdown.

11 PLAY AREAS

The Clerk reported that the zip wire had now been reinstated, with a new rubber protection over the chain. The Deputy Clerk has started to research replacement equipment and costs that will be appropriate to replace the current mound. This area is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain.

ACTION: Add item to next agenda

Cllrs discussed the signage relating to the zip wire.

ACTION: Display a sign stating 'one person only at any one time'

12 RIVER VER

River improvement project along the River Ver

Cllrs considered the correspondence from Affinity Water regarding the potential river improvement project. They are inviting the Parish Council to help them develop options for a River improved project along a 2m stretch of the River Ver between Redbournbury Mill and Redbourn Road (new Bow Bridge), which has been identified as an area for potential Improvement.

ACTION: Clerk to send a letter stating flow of water is important and that we take advise from Countryside Rights of Way so suggest Affinity contact this organisation as well.

13 WATERING CONTRACT

To approve the quotation for the summer watering contract

Cllrs considered the quotation.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The quotation from Paula Jane Garden Design for the summer watering contract at a cost of £3,900 be accepted

14 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

To review outstanding action list

The Clerk asked for clarification as to the size of the posts required for those being installed around the easement at Cumberland House.

The Clerk stated that an extra litter bin was needed along the Common, Cumberland House end. This is since the removal of the dog bin as well as an increase in walkers/users of the Common. Cllrs agreed that this should be installed and to consult with the Contractor in terms of location.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange for new litter bin to be installed

15 MATTERS TO REPORT

Memorial Bench – the Clerk had received an application for a memorial bench that but that it had not been put on the agenda. Cllrs agreed that this could go onto the next Full Council agenda.

Classics on Common – Cllr Finnigan asked if Cllrs if, in principle, they were supportive of this event being run in September. All were supportive.

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Request for gazebo on Common – a resident has requested that a small gazebo be erected on North Common for a day whilst his daughter did a sponsored walk and danceathon. All were happy with this arrangement.

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting date is Thursday, 6th May 2021 at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.44pm

Chair *Date*