

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Commons and Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd March 2022 at 7.30pm, in the Conference Room at Redbourn Parish Centre.

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

In Attendance: C Kenny (Clerk)
Representatives from Active in Redbourn and Verulam Cycling Club
Representative from Friends of High Street

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Caldwell – Friends of Nickey Line (CM)
Cllr Bigham – Community Care Group (CM), Village Hall (M)
Cllr Mead – The Museum, District Councillor, Active in Redbourn (M) Redbourn in Bloom (M)
Cllr Mitchell – District Councillor, Community Group (M)
Cllr Finnigan – Classics on the Common (CM), Friends of High Street (CM)
Cllr Vegro – Active in Redbourn (CM)
Cllr Mitchell – District Councillor, Community Care Group (M)

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Item 8.2 – To receive an update from Active in Redbourn and Verulam CC proposals regarding progress of Fete du Velo event

Cllrs received an update on activities taking place in the organisation of the Fete du Velo. They will start advertising the event shortly and will leaflet drop those properties that will be most affected by the event, advising them in advance of the road closure. Permission was sought for the use of a drone to film the event. Cllrs agreed to this providing the supplier has the relevant insurance, licence and risk assessments in place.

Assurances were given that the Common and surrounding area will be left clear and tidy.

ACTION: Clerk to ask SADC and JHP that the relevant bins are emptied the Friday before the event.

Friends of the High Street

Representatives from FOTH addressed the meeting, giving an update on their recent activities. Their focus this year is to building up the website and social media presence along with promoting businesses and events in the village.

The Village Market has recommenced and continues to be popular. This has generated some funds which they plan to use on cycle rack and recycling bins.

It is planned to hold 2 events in Cumberland Garden this year, both of which will be music evenings, at the end of June and end of July.

ACTION: FOTHS to complete use of land application form.

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The other matter they are investigating is a Heritage Trail which will entail improving the current signage around the village, with a view to connecting the different areas of Redbourn in a more meaningful way.

4 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cricket Club
Scout Easter Egg Trial
Erosion of Common
Tree at Village Hall

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2022 are adopted as a true record of the meeting

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

8.1 Information board. The Clerk explained that AiR understanding was that they would have one half of the new information board however, if this is the case the proposed A1 board will not be big enough for the words and the maps we have previously agreed. Cllrs understanding was that AiR details would be incorporated in the new board so should progress based on this.

ACTION: Clerk to explain to AiR

ACTION: Add 'This way to the High Street' to the artwork

7 FINANCE

7.1 To receive the finance report on Commons expenditure

Due to changes being made to the regulations in the classification of who can use red and white diesel, JHP no longer qualify to use red diesel. This will have an impact on the cost of running the grounds maintenance contract – based on current prices, (red diesel 72p and white diesel £1.56) there will be an increase of approximately £1,150 to fuel costs associated with the grass maintenance. The contractor recognises that it is a fixed priced contract but feels this is too much of a cost for the business to absorb to be viable and asked if Cllrs would consider an increase of £700.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

RPC accept an additional cost for fuel consumption as a result to the changes in regulations of £1,000 with a view to renewing after a year.

The Clerk presented the income and expenditure report.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The Commons Income and Expenditure reported dated 2nd March 2022 for the month of February 2022 be received

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8 REDBOURN COMMON

8.1 To receive an update on Common repairs

The Grounds Maintenance contractor has had to fill a number of large holes that have appeared around the base of some trees in the Avenue which it is thought, has been caused by wild animals.

The Cricket Club are refurbishing the toilets and changing rooms and are using a skip which is positioned on the Common. This will be moved by end of March.

ACTION: Clerk to find out date for opening the overflow car park.

The overflow carpark access routes will be rotated in an attempt to mitigate damage and wear and tear.

**8.2 To consider Active in Redbourn and Verulam CC proposals for Fete du Velo event
Item moved fwd**

8.3 To consider a use of land request from organisers of Classics on the Common

The organisers of Classics on the Common have requested use of the Common on 3rd September 2022 with line marking taking place on 2nd September.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

RPC granted permission for the organisers of Classics on the Common to have use of the Common on 3rd September 2022 as per the terms of the Use of Land application

8.4 To consider a use of land request from organisers of Folk on the Common

The organiser of Folk on the Common has requested use of the Common on 11th September 2022.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

RPC grant permission for the organiser of Folk on the Common to have use of the Common on 11th September as per the terms of the the Use of Land application.

ACTION: Clerk to check if Cricket Club are planning on holding dinner/dance event to ensure it is not the same date.

8.5 To consider the ‘chat bench’ initiative in Cumberland Garden

Cllr Caldwell explained the idea to designate a bench as a ‘chat bench’, the idea being that it encourages people to chat. The ‘Happy to Chat’ benches feature a simple sign which reads ‘Sit here if you don’t mind someone stopping to say hello’ and are designed to help combat loneliness and encourage community interaction. By sitting on the bench, people will know that you’re open to a friendly talk.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that:

A bench in Cumberland Garden will be designated a ‘Chat Bench’

ACTION: Clerk to arrange for signage to be placed on a bench. Cllr O’Donovan offered his family bench for the purposes of the chat bench.

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ACTION: Add article in Newsletter explaining the initiative.

9 CUMBERLAND GARDEN

To receive an update on the progress regarding partnership with RiB

The Clerk confirmed that the Facilities Officer and Chair of RiB have spoken at length and discussed planting schemes. They are preparing a list of plants and costs which they anticipate to be £200.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

RPC allocate £200 for plants to be planted in Cumberland Garden.

Cllrs discussed an appropriate memorial for Cllr Maynard in recognition of her work on the Council. It was felt that planting some clematis in Cumberland Garden to grow over the pergola would be a fitting memorial. A plaque could then be sited on the pergola.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange

Cllr O'Donovan reported that the lights in Cumberland Garden come on too early and that the Street light nearest the High Street was not working.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange for the timers to be adjusted and arrange for supplier to fix the light

10 MATTERS TO REPORT

Cricket Club – The Cricket Club have expressed an interest in installing solar panels on the back panel of the roof, facing West Common however, before seeking planning permissions, etc wanted to know if the Parish Council would support the application. In principle, Cllrs supported this.

Scout Easter Egg Trial – under delegated powers, Cllr O'Donovan and Finnigan agreed to allow the Scouts to run an easter egg trial over the Easter weekend. It will be in the same format as previous years.

Village Hall – it was reported that the cherry tree situated by the notice board in front of the Village Hall, has roots that are raising the blocked pavement and could be a trip hazard.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Herts Highways of the trip hazard

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the District Councillor elections being held on 6th May, the next meeting date is Thursday, 28th April 2022 at 7.30pm, in the Conference Room at Redbourn Parish Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm

Chair Date