

Minutes of Commons and Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 1st September 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, I Caldwell, D Smith, V Mead, D Mitchell

In Attendance: C Kenny (Clerk)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Caldwell – Friends of Nickey Line (CM)
Cllr Bigham – Community Care Group (CM), Village Hall (M)
Cllr Mead – The Museum (T), 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

None present

4 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Memorial tree – Clerk
Flamsteadbury play area lease - Clerk
Use of Land for Conkerthon - Clerk
Cllr Withers joining Commons Committee - Clerk
Podge Fox – Cllr O'Donovan

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2022 are adopted as a true record of the meeting

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Cumberland Garden – FO has met with the resident who wants to set up a Friends of Cumberland Garden to discuss how to progress the initiative. She has recruited 2 other Volunteers who are gardeners and keen to help. The next step is to produce a plan of what they want to achieve and how this will happen. They will also identify what costs will be involved with a view to bringing back to this Committee in November.

Information Board – Cllrs approved the artwork but recognised need to add a QR code and to remove 'Heritage trail'.

Self-closing gate – the contractor was able to repair the gate at East Common Play area without the need to purchasing a new one.

7 FINANCE

7.1 To receive the finance report on Commons expenditure

4786 – includes cost of the new plants in Cumberland Garden along with additional fuel costs from the grounds maintenance contractor.

4767 – Includes £650 extra watering costs.

4811 – We have paid a deposit for the work on the missing fallen names. We are just awaiting confirmation as to when the work will begin. This is an unbudgeted cost.

ACTION: Purchase water butt for Cumberland Garden

7.2 To receive costings for festive lighting 2022

The festive lighting supplier has notified us of costings for this year's festive lighting display. There is an increase due to the changes in the requirements for the column testing following introduction of the GN22 guidelines as specified by HCC and Ringways. The process is now more involved and requires calculations from a structural engineer to ensure the columns can take the specific loading. This has meant significant increase in costs for the testing.

ACTION: Clerk to review last year's costs to compare the structural testing of columns to ensure this is indeed the reason for the increase. Inform Councillors. If the quotation is a reflection of the increase in costs for structural testing, Cllrs will accept the increase.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***The Commons Income and Expenditure reported dated 25th August 2022
for the month of August 2022 be received***

8 REDBOURN COMMON

8.1 To receive an update on Common repairs

There has been damaged to the surfacing at Long Cutt play area along with damage to fencing at Flamsteadbury play area. There was also sticky substance poured over the slide at East Common play area. JHP have taken the necessary action to resolve the issues.

8.2 To consider purchase of an additional dog bin

Complaints had been received regarding the overflowing bin located at the footpath, junction with Blackhorse Lane. It doesn't cope with the amount of general waste and dog debris.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***RPC to purchase and install additional dog bin in Panhandle to help accommodate
the amount of waste. Currently nothing in Panhandle for residents to use***

8.3 To consider and approve request for use of Cumberland Garden for Christmas market

Organisers of the Christmas Market have requested use of Cumberland Garden for the event on 27th November 2022.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***RPC grant permission to use Cumberland Garden for the Christmas Market
event on 27th November 2022***

8.4 **To consider Cricket Club's ideas for 200th anniversary celebrations.**

The Cricket Club will be celebrating their 200th anniversary next year and whilst it is still in the early stages of planning, the initial thoughts are to hold a festival of cricket over a week with marquee on the Common.

In principle the Parish Council were agreeable to the ideas but want to ensure the festival doesn't clash with Classics on the Common.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Cricket Club of discussions

8.5 **To receive an update on CMS report as a result of FO feedback**

Clerk circulated an email sent to CMS giving feedback on the report produced by them, expressing the Council's disappointment at the limitations of the report. CMS have taken on board our comments, explaining that they would expect there to be amendments/revisions made as part of the plan process from our feedback. Amendments and additions will be made. We await to receive the updated report.

9 **REDBOURN IN BLOOM**

To receive an update on the future plans of Redbourn in Bloom

Representative was unable to attend due to work commitments.

10 **LEASES**

To receive an update on the progress of leases for RTC and RAA

The issues raised by the Tennis Club and Allotment Association have been addressed by our Solicitor.

As the lease makes RAA responsible for the maintenance of the boundary, Clerk and Chair of RAA completed a survey of the boundaries and found that 2 trees need removing as they are dead. Clerk advised that RPC should pay for the removal of the trees and then, moving forward, RAA will have to fund any further repairs/maintenance along the boundary.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

RPC to instruct tree surgeon to remove the dead trees, at cost to RPC.

11 **MATTERS TO REPORT**

Memorial Tree – Majestics have inspected Tony Swendell's memorial tree and concluded that it has died due to drought strain, despite the family and JHP watering it; it required more water than it was given.

ACTION: Clerk to source a replacement tree and liaise with Swendell Family.

Flamsteadbury Play area lease – HCC have agreed to RPC counter offer of £260 as the annual fee for this play area.

ACTION: Cllr Mitchell to sign Head of Terms accordingly.

Conkerthon – Active in Redbourn have requested use of the Common to hold their Conkerthon event however, the Clerk did not receive the request in time to add to this agenda. Commons Committee will recommend to Full Council to recommend the request.

ACTION: Clerk to add as agenda item for Full Council

Cllr Withers – Cllr Withers has expressed an interest in joining Commons Committee. Commons Committee will recommend to Full Council.

Podge Fox – Cllr O’Donovan informed meeting of the sad passing of Podge Fox who had been very involved in the Village, particularly as Parish Councillor and integral in setting up Redbourn Care Group. Cllr expressed their condolences to the family.

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date is Thursday, 3rd November 2022 at 7.30pm, in the Conference Room at Redbourn Parish Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm

Chair *Date*