

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council meeting held on Thursday, 16th September 2021 at 7.30pm, held in the Conference Room, Parish Centre

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

IN ATTENDANCE: C Kenny (Clerk)

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs Maynard, S Kidd and O'Donovan
Apologies were noted and accepted by members.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
Nothing new

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

4 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
To receive the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 22nd July 2021
It was noted in item 4, 'illuminated' should read 'eliminated'

It proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 22nd July 2021 were approved as a true record

5 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
12.5 Cllr Caldwell apologised as he had not had the opportunity to progress this matter.
ACTION: Clerk to add to the agenda for the next meeting.

6 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Classics on the Common event was well attended and was a success. The Parish stall attracted a lot of interest due to the storm rocket game. The stall set up highlighted the need for the Parish Council to invest in some proper display/exhibition equipment. This item was discussed at M&C where it was agreed the Clerk would prepare a proposal.

7 MATTERS TO REPORT
Panhandle – Cllr Mitchell
Nickey Line Steps – Cllr O'Donovan
Public meeting – Cllr Caldwell

8 COUNTY REPORT

Cllr Brewster has been heavily involved in the essential works being carried out by Affinity Water and the subsequent road works affecting Redbourn, particularly the A5183 and the planned diversion. She chaired a scrutiny meeting this week which representatives from Affinity Water attended. Members of the meeting made it very clear that Affinity Water should have consulted a lot earlier. They took this feedback on board and will ensure that for Phase 2 they will give 4-6 weeks' notice. They were also asked to ensure that Parish Councils, Town Councils and District Councillors are informed. It was explained that the work was not done during school holidays as works around schools are prioritised during the holidays. During their planning process, HCC traffic management felt that this scheme caused the least disruption and was the safest as it allowed the footpath to remain open. It was not possible to have traffic lights as they are working in 200m lengths of road – this means that the distance between traffic lights is too long and would cause more congestion. Concerns were raised that drivers were ignoring the road closure signs. Steps will be taken to improve the signage and also CCTV is to be installed.

Cllr Smith suggested that there should be ongoing communications from Affinity Water to keep people informed of progressive.

9 DISTRICT REPORT

Cllr Mitchell reported that the Public Realm Committee had discussed the possibility of a skate board park in St Albans. A public petition had been received requesting for this - £300K needs to be raised.

Plans North – planning applications for Jolly Gardener and land at Nichols Farm had been called in.

10 COMMITTEES

10.1 Commons and Green Spaces

The minutes of Commons and Green Spaces committee were presented.

Cllr O'Donovan wanted it noted under item 8.4 that in the past, fencing requests from the Cricketers and the Museum had been refused.

Cllr Caldwell questioned why permission had been given to the Cricket Club to install a picket fence around the patio area during the cricket season. He did not agree that it encouraged inclusion of members and thought it would have the opposite effect, discouraging people from going to the club house.

It was proposed and seconded that:
RPC do not give permission for the Cricket Club to install a picket fence at any time

Voting : 3 for
5 against

This motion was not carried.

Cllr Mitchell proposed and seconded that:

RPC allow the Cricket Club to install the picket fence for a one year trial and gauge feedback after the cricket season.

Voting : 5 for

1 against

1 abstain

Motion carried.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that:

RPC allow the Cricket Club to install the picket fence for a one year trial and gauge feedback after the cricket season

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Cricket Club

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the Commons and Green Spaces committee meeting held on 2nd September 2021

10.2 Planning

The minutes were presented to Councillors

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the Planning committee meeting held on 14th August 2021 be approved

8.19pm – meeting suspended whilst papers were printed off

8.24pm – meeting reconvened

10.3 Management and Communications

The minutes were presented to Councillors.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the Management and Communications meeting held on 13th July 2021 be approved.

Cllr Smith requested to join the Management & Communications committee.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

Cllr Smith joins the Management and Communications committee

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that:

The Management and Communication committee changes its meeting time to 1.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month

ACTION: Clerk to amend the Terms of Reference for this committee.

10.4 Finance and Policy

Nothing to receive

11 BUSINESS ITEMS

To receive an update on development and local plan

Cllr Mitchell reported that the green belt review should be published in November but this will not include the site selection, which will be ready by June 2022. Cllr Mitchell had met with a developer in his capacity as a District Councillor with the aim to find out more information about their proposals. Vistry want to build 300 houses on land to the east of the motorway, where they propose to build 20 dwellings per hectare so half the density of the standard across the District. The developer is aiming to put in an outline planning application by the end of the year.

11.2 Neighbourhood Plan

To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The working party is meeting on 20th September to finalise the draft NHP. The design codes document has been finalised and will add weight to the planning process if developers begin to submit planning applications.

SADC have said that they do not have the resources or manpower to complete the strategic environment assessment, even though they are the competent authority. It is likely that Troy Planning will have to do this work as they have the expertise and knowledge. A quote has been requested and, if we instruct them to proceed, the Clerk confirmed there is still money in the NHP budget.

11.3 Parish Conference

To receive feedback from the Parish Conference

Cllrs Mitchell, Mead, Bigham and officers attended the conference.

It was an informative meeting including the following subjects:

- Children's Services at HCC – we have a contact that will be followed up on.
- Code of conduct – a presentation was given on the Code of Conduct, concentrating on Registration of interests.
- Refuse collection – SADC are struggling to get drivers
- Parking – there is an email address where you can advise parking enforcement of illegal parking: illegalparking@stalbans.gov.uk or hotline number: 01727 845283
- Community Governance Review -the principle councils have to review governance arrangements for Parish Councils. This covers areas such as the reviewing the number of councillors, altering boundaries and creating or splitting Parish Councils.

- Events – Covid Events Enforcement Officer addressed the meeting giving guidance on what to think about when running an event.

11.4 Polling districts and polling places

To receive details of the polling districts and polling places review by SADC

SADC are reviewing the polling district and polling places. Redbourn ward boundary will change to include Childwickbury and will be losing Bedmond, Ragged Hall Lane and Pimlico. There will now be two district ward councillors as opposed to 3.

There will be a change to one of the polling station locations; the Methodist Church replaces the school as a location.

The possibility of merging Nicholls Ward and Beaumont ward was discussed.

It was proposed, seconded that:

RPC request that Nicholls Ward and Beaumont Ward are merged to make one ward in Redbourn

Voting: 2 for

5 against

1 abstained

This motion was not passed

ACTION: if Cllrs have any further thoughts, advise the Clerk. If there are no further comments, we will not respond.

11.5 Leisure Centre

To receive an update on the Leisure Centre

JET have pulled out of the project because as the venture is in St Albans, the LTA would not give their support – they want a presence in Dacorum. Talks are ongoing with a paddle tennis company which would be open to all.

The building works to enlarge the gym have finished and the Centre will reopen on 20th September.

11.6 Covid Vaccination

To consider offering a venue to HCT for a vaccination centre

A request had been received from NHS Community Herts Trust to have use of our venue to facilitate a pop up vaccination centre.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

RPC offer the Swendell Hall to NHS Community Herts Trust for the purposes of running a pop up vaccination centre

12 FINANCE

12.1 Finance Report

To receive the latest Income and Expenditure Report

The Clerk presented the latest income and expenditure report.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The Income and Expenditure report dated 10th September 2021 reflecting accounts to the 31st August 2021 be received

12.2 Invoices for payment

To receive the latest report on payments made

The Clerk presented Cllrs with the list of payments (Current account – Cash Book 1) for August 2021.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The List of Payments (Current account – Cash Book 1) reports dated 10th September 2021 showing payments for August 2021 be received

12.3 Receipts

To receive the latest report on payments received

The Clerk presented Cllrs with the list of receipts (Current account – Cash Book 1) for June 2021

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The List of Receipts (Current account – Cash Book 1) reports dated 10th September 2021 showing receipts for August 2021 be received

13. MATTERS TO REPORT

Nickey Line Steps – Cllr O'Donovan reported that the steps from the High Street to the Nickey Line are in poor repair and are a trip hazard.

ACTION: Clerk to inform SADC

Panhandle – Cllr Mitchell contacted SADC regarding the maintenance of this site. They have responded stating that Panhandle is part of Long cutt Meadows which will be part of the lease for Long Cutt Play area. Under the lease, RPC is responsible for the maintenance of this area.

ACTION: Clerk to refer to the lease

ACTION: Add to Commons Agenda

Fireworks – Cllr O'Donovan passed on his thanks to the Deputy Clerk for her hard work and efforts on organising this year's fireworks.

Public meeting – Cllr Caldwell called for a public meeting regarding the road closure on A5183. There is a lot of public interest and he felt that by inviting Affinity Water and HCC, people could voice their concerns. This matter was discussed and wondered what it would achieve as not sure it will change or improve the current situation.

Memorial Bench – Cllr Bigham had been contacted by the family of Paul Fox to express their thanks for the supply and installation of the memorial bench in time for the first anniversary of his death.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 21st October 2021, 7.30pm, Conference Room, Parish Centre

The meeting closed at 9.33pm

Chair *Dated*