

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Common, Footpaths and Open Spaces held on Thursday, 5th January 2012
at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Redbourn Parish Centre**

PRESENT: Councillors C O'Donovan, I Caldwell, T Hardy and R Stent

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs M Maynard (unwell)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs D Whiskin, Clerk to the Council, Chris Shaw, Asset Manager,
Highways Agency

115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillor I Caldwell Nickey Line

116 MATTERS TO REPORT: None

117 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED to approve and sign minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th January 2012

RESOLVED to take the Nickey Line as the next item of business

118 Nickey Line

The Chairman welcomed Chris Shaw, Highways Agency, who is responsible for the trunk road network in Hertfordshire. He was invited to the meeting to discuss the proposed replacement lighting in the M1 bridge over the Nickey Line. He explained that the Highways Agency are working under financial constraints in line with other government organisations.

He apologised for the delay in contacting the Parish Council regarding lighting to replace the vandalised lights in the Nickey Line bridge. He was not involved with the original design but understood that Natural England had stipulated that the lighting should accommodate the bat flight through the bridge. He acknowledged that the replacement lights must be vandal proof and recommended lighting from Simonsigns. The lights are low cost, are mounted on raised concrete plinths so that the light would fan out across the floor of the tunnel. The proposal is to remove the old lights and replaced them with the new system. The electricity supply goes through the middle of the tunnel so installation should not be a problem. The Highways Agency said they would maintain the system for twelve months but after that the District Council would be expected to maintain the lights. (The District Council has said that under the original agreement it was up to the Highways Agency to maintain the lights.) One member noted that the Highways Agency maintains the lights and pays for the electricity along the M1 and could not understand why the few lights in the Nickey Line bridge could not be included. A member suggested using photovoltaic lights and including CCTV in the scheme. Members expressed concern that the number of lights proposed would be insufficient to light the tunnel and suggested three lights on one side and two on the other side of the tunnel.

Mr Shaw agreed to:

- Ascertain the cost of electricity for lighting in the Nickey Line tunnel
- Ascertain whether the concrete plinths are smash proof
- Consider suggestion for CCTV
- Inform the Council where Simonsign lights are currently in use and whether they have been subject to vandalism

The scheme should be implemented late Spring.

The Highways Agency is considering reducing the lighting in the bridge on the A5 near junction 9 of the M1. There is a difference of opinion as to whether this can be done. The current lighting can only be turned down to a certain level as highways safety cannot be compromised. The lighting would still be very bright.

The Clerk to instruct the contractor to trim back the overgrown brambles between the Nicky Line car park and path in Harpenden Lane which are obstructing the sight lines.

A complaint has been received regarding the human faeces on the Nickey Line. Councillor Caldwell said that the residents of Ver Meadows are contravening a number of the tenancy conditions. The Clerk to send a copy of the conditions of tenancy to the manager of the gypsy section and ask why these are not being enforced.

119 Update on Action Report

All the action points have been carried out with the exception of the purchase of the cherry tree for West Common.

120 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: no members of the public were present.

121 FINANCE

121.1 Current position

A paper showing the current financial position was circulated and noted.

121.2 Budget for 2012/13

A member asked whether monies left in the Common's budget at the year end could be used to boost the budget for resurfacing the play areas. The Clerk said that normally surplus funds go into the general pot and a decision to use them for a specific purpose should be made by the Finance Committee.

The Commons Committee had been asked to consider including a budget for Christmas Lights in the High Street. The Clerk met a representative from Lamps and Tubes and walked the High Street with him. He said it would be possible to string lights along the buildings both sides of the High Street. On one side the electricity could be obtained from the existing lamp posts. On the other side it may be necessary to seek permission to tap into the supply at one of the public houses. Permission would have to be sought from all the residents/businesses in the High Street to place the lights on their buildings and Councillor O'Donovan said he would be prepared to do this. The quotation was promised in time for the Commons meeting but, despite several reminders, has not been received. The recent high winds meant that all employees were kept extremely busy securing lights and were unable to provide the quotation. The company has promised to provide it in time for the Finance meeting.

It was agreed that

- £5,000 should be included in the budget for works on the footpaths and kerbing the road adjacent to the Parish Centre (to protect the garden)
- £2,500 should be included for play equipment
- £2,500 should be included for safety surfacing
- £500 should be included for the bus shelter in Dunstable Road

RESOLVED to recommend the budget to the Finance committee

122 REDBOURN COMMON

The tree stumps have now been placed outside the Museum to prevent cars parking on the Common.

123 MILLENNIUM SITE

The sign for the Millennium site has been ordered.

124 PARISH PATHS

Nothing to report.

125 PLAY AREAS

125.1 Flamsteadbury Lane: Three panels have been vandalised in Flamsteadbury Lane Play Area. Members queried whether the Council should continue to repair the fencing and it was suggested that consideration should be given to closing the play area. Before doing so it would be necessary to consult the public and perhaps views could be sought through the newsletter.

Long Cutt: a quotation has been received to clean the gaps in the safety tiles with a pressure wash, then use wetpour to fill the gaps. The contractor said this should contain the problem for five years. It was agreed that this should be done pending the outcome of the consultations being carried out by the Play Area Working Party.

126 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

127 TREE WORKS

The recent high winds prevented the contractor from carrying out the reduction of the willows on The Moor. He hopes to complete this work next week.

128 CUMBERLAND GARDEN

The Chairman said that someone had offered to open and close Cumberland Garden Gate for £10 a day. Members said they would prefer to remain with the current procedure whereby volunteers do this on behalf of the village. The Clerk to email the volunteers thanking them for their valued efforts in carrying out this task over the past year.

129 DOG LITTER BINS

A schedule showing the usage of the various dog litter bins around the village was noted.

130 SEWER IN GREYHOUND MEADOW: serving Tennis Club and Scout Hut

Thames Water has said that their records do not show the sewer running through Greyhound Meadow and that they would guess that it would remain private up until it meets the drain from the hall (sic). They would not expect Crouch Hall Lane properties to drain into it as there is a sewer along Crouch Hall Lane. They suggest a local survey company could confirm this with tracing.cctv equipment.

131 MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Chairman gave his apologies for the next two meetings.

132 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 2nd February 2012

Chairman.....2nd February 2012

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL
Common Footpaths and Open Spaces – January 2012

ACTIONS		
Minute No	Action	By Whom
118	Ascertain cost of electricity for lights	Mr Shaw
	Ascertain whether concrete plinths are smash proof	Mr Shaw
	Consider CCTV, inform PC of location of lights	Mr Shaw
	Instruct contractor to trim back overgrown brambles	Clerk
	Send conditions of tenancy to manager	Clerk
121	Recommend budget proposals to Finance Committee	Clerk
125	Place order for works to tiles in Long Cutt Play Area	Clerk
128	Thank volunteers for opening Cumberland Garden	Clerk