

## REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Commons & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Conference Room, Redbourn Parish Centre

**PRESENT:** Cllrs C O'Donovan (Chair), D Mitchell, M Maynard, D Bigham and I Caldwell

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Nish Khanna (Clerk), 3 x residents (Items 8.3, 8.4 and 10.1)

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs V Mead (Domestic Emergency) and T Finnigan (Vice Chair - Health)

#### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Caldwell – Nickey Line, U3A

Cllr Bigham – Care Group and Village Hall

Cllr Maynard – Redbourn in Bloom and the Museum

Cllr Mead – The Museum, Redbourn in Bloom

#### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**It was agreed that Items 8.3, 8.4 and 10.1 be brought forward on the agenda.**

##### 8.3 To receive a request for a 'valuation bus' to be based in the village once a month

Cllrs received a request from an auction house to have their valuation bus sited in Redbourn for 1 hour between 3-4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from February 2017.

The bus is the size of a 53-seat bus and residents would be able to have items valued for a contribution to Grove House Hospice. The auction house currently provides this service in St Albans and Harpenden. The owner lives locally and the auction house is in Northamptonshire. The auction has full Public Liability insurance for their premises and this extends to the valuation bus.

Cllrs were supportive of this and considered several possible locations, including the Common car parks, but only one location seemed able to accommodate a vehicle of that size and would allow parking for visitors. Cllrs felt that the stretch of Dunstable Road near the entrance to Redbourn Leisure Centre would be worth trying.

Cllrs also recommended contacting the Redbourn Leisure Centre to see if their car park was available/suitable.

##### 8.4 To hear a resident's concerns over dog fouling around the village

A resident addressed Cllrs on the perceived increase in dog fouling around the village, especially on the roads around the junior school. The resident represented the residents group RAP – Redbourn Against Poo, who had come together in a Facebook group to try and tackle this problem.

The resident reported that the incidents appeared to have dropped since the Facebook page had started to raise awareness of the issue in Redbourn, but it was still of concern. The resident recognised that there were some dog owners who were physically unable to pick up after their dog. The resident requested more bins around the Common, but was asked to suggest areas where the litter was a regular issue, to help justify the expense of new bins or where existing bins could be relocated to.

##### **Action: Resident**

The resident also highlighted that some bins did not appear to be emptied regularly and were often overflowing. The Clerk said that this had been an issue recently, particularly in Cumberland Garden, but appeared to have been resolved after reporting this to SADC.

The Clerk clarified that residents could call SADC's 'a cleaner district' team to request they come and clean areas where dog fouling was an issue.

Cllr Mitchell thanked Claire for attending and said that it was honourable that residents had come together to move this difficult problem forward, especially as the penalties were particularly difficult to police/enforce. Cllr Mitchell said that RPC would be happy to consider any grant applications that RAP submitted to progress any initiatives to tackle this issue.

#### **10.1 To receive a request to have a semi-permanent fitting for the Xmas tree**

A representative from the Christmas Market asked Cllrs to consider allowing them to insert a permanent socket in the ground in Cumberland Garden to hold the Xmas tree each year. The socket would be capped off when not in use and would be flush with the ground to not impact on the grass mowing. The fixing and fitting is being donated by a local garden centre.

Cllrs were supportive of this and saw no reason for this not to proceed and for it to be in the same location as the tree position in 2016.

Cllrs thanked the representative for another great Christmas market and for all the hard work that resulted in it being such a well organised event.

#### **4. MATTERS FOR REPORT**

- 4.1 Bridle path in Redbourn
- 4.2 BT cabinet on the Common at The Park

#### **5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 5.1 It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 are adopted as a true record of the meeting.***

#### **6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

None

#### **7. FINANCE**

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that there were no accounts to receive as he had been working on the 2017-18 budget.

#### **8. REDBOURN COMMON**

##### **8.1 Licence for The Cricketers**

The Clerk reported that the map to support the licence was still being finalised by SADC.

##### **8.2 Common repairs**

The Clerk reported that general repairs were ongoing.

##### **8.3 To receive a request for a 'valuation bus' to be based in the village once a month**

See under Public Participation.

##### **8.4 To hear a resident's concerns over dog fouling around the village**

See under Public Participation.

##### **8.5 To receive a request from a resident for more litter bins**

Cllr O'Donovan reported that he had already responded to the resident to let them know that this issue was under review.

**8.6 Common Car Park Working Party**

Cllr O'Donovan reported that he was arranging to meet another contractor shortly to get a quote for extending the Common car park adjacent the Parish Centre. He would also be seeking quotes for the kerbing in front of Cumberland House, as well as repairs to the path at the High Street end of Cumberland Garden and the entrance to the Common car park at North Common/Lybury Lane.

**9. NICKEY LINE**

None

**10. CUMBERLAND GARDEN**

**10.1 To receive a request to have a semi-permanent fitting for the Xmas tree**

See under Public Participation.

**11. PLAY AREAS**

**11.1 East Common Play Area**

None

**11.2 Long Cutt Play Area**

None

**11.3 Flamsteadbury Lane Play Area**

None.

The Clerk reported that the play area annual surveys were due and SADC had arranged them at a cost £2920.77. Cllrs asked the Clerk to clarify the figure as it seemed high.

**Action: Clerk**

**12. TREES**

None

**13. COMMONS OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Clerk reported that a monthly meeting was being scheduled to bring the list up to date and allocate tasks to progress.

**14. MATTERS FOR REPORT**

**14.1 Bridle path in Redbourn**

Cllr O'Donovan reported that he had received a request from a resident to reinstate the bridle path that runs across the Common. The Clerk was asked to add this to the next agenda.

**Action: Clerk**

**14.2 BT cabinet on the Common at The Park**

The Clerk reported that it had been agreed at last Full Council that a request from BT to site a new high speed broadband cabinet on the edge of the Common at The Park (opposite the Parish Centre) had been approved. Cllrs O'Donovan and/or Bigham to agree exact location with contractors a few days before installation.

**15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, 7.30pm, Parish Centre.

The meeting closed at 20:34pm.

*Chair*..... *Date* .....