

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Thursday 24th January 2017, 7:30pm,
Conference Room, Redbourn Parish Centre**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Mitchell (Chair), A Gardner (Vice Chair), S Kidd, V Mead and M Maynard

IN ATTENDANCE: Nish Khanna (Clerk), 1 x resident (Item 8.1)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs I Caldwell (Holiday) and P Schofield (Family)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr V Mead – Redbourn in Bloom, Redbourn Youth Club, Redbourn Museum

Cllr I Caldwell – Redbourn Online

Cllr M Maynard – Redbourn Museum

Cllr P Schofield – Redbourn Bowls Club, Redbourn Youth Club and Redbourn in Bloom

Cllr S Kidd – Redbourn Village Hall

It was agreed that Items 8.1 be brought forward on the agenda.

8.1 Grant application from RAP (Redbourn Against Poo)

A resident addressed Cllrs, explaining why the RAP Facebook group had been formed and their growing concern over the increasing amounts of uncollected dog mess around the village. The group currently had 117 members and consisted of a mix of non-dog walkers and dog walkers. The roads around Redbourn schools were reported as being a particular problem.

Cllrs received a grant request of £150 to fund the purchase of chalk spray that would be used to highlight dog mess to help pedestrians avoid it and aid SADC street cleaning teams when they were called out to clear it. It was also hoped this activity would raise awareness of the anti-social aspect of not clearing up dog mess. 12 members of the group had volunteered to use the spray and SADC and HCC have stated that they have no objection to the spray being used.

Cllr Mitchell said that dog fouling was a long-standing problem in the village and he was pleased that residents had taken this up, as they were more likely to effect changes in behavior through word of mouth. Cllr Gardner said that it was a good initiative and it was good to highlight instances to stop residents stepping in mess.

Cllr Mitchell invited RAP to provide an article for the next Redbourn newsletter. Cllr Mitchell invited a representative of RAP to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 8/5/2017 to say a few words and receive the cheque.

The Clerk was asked to find signs that could be applied to Redbourn bins, stating that dog mess could be placed in litter bins.

ACTION: Clerk

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved to recommend to Full Council that:

***Redbourn Against Poo (RAP) is awarded a grant of £150 towards
the purchase of chalk spray to highlight instances of dog fouling
in Redbourn under LGRA 1997 s31***

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 22nd November 2016 are signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

None

5. MATTERS TO REPORT

None

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

See above – Item 8.1

7. FINANCIAL POSITION

7.1 Current financial position against budget to date

The Clerk summarised the Income and Expenditure report dated 16th January 2017 for the accounts reconciled to the end of November 2016.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The Income and Expenditure report dated 16th January 2017 for accounts reconciled to the end of November 2016 be received.

The Clerk reported that the HSBC Money Manager Account was not of use (current balance £325.54) and recommended that the account was closed and the balance transferred to another Parish Council account.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The Redbourn Parish Council HSBC Business Money Manager account be closed and the contents moved to another Redbourn Parish Council HSBC account of the Clerk's choice.

The Clerk to close the HSBC Business Money Manager account and move the contents moved to another Redbourn Parish Council HSBC account.

ACTION: Clerk

7.2 Investments

The Clerk talked Cllrs through the statements for the Council's investment accounts and reported that the reserves were reinvested for 6 months in the HSBC Money Market on the 22nd December 2016 and would mature on the 22nd June 2017.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The investment account statements for the HSBC Money Market Call Account (to 11/1/17), Business Money Manager (to 21/11/16) and Money Market (to 22/6/17) accounts be received.

7.3 **CCLA - Churches, Charities and Local Authorities**

Cllr Kidd reported that he had met with CCLA, an organisation who manage investments for charities, religious organisations and the public sector, and summarised their services. Cllr reported that SADC invest with them and that their Deposit Fund was potentially safer than our current HSBC investments, as it was effectively invested with several banks rather than just one. It certainly appeared to be a good alternative to leaving large amounts in the Council's current account.

CCLA's Property Fund was a commercial fund managed by themselves. There is an effective 8.3% charge to enter the Property Fund which reflects the cost of dealing in the underlying assets, including stamp duty. Returns looked good, despite property price fluctuations.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The following CCLA investments be proposed to Full Council on 16th February 2017, contingent on a successful consultation with an Independent Financial Advisor:

- 1. A portion of the funds held in our HSBC current account to be invested in CCLA's Deposit Fund***
- 2. A portion of the Council's general reserves held on HSBC Money Market to be invested in CCLA's Property Fund***

The Clerk to add this proposal to the Full Council agenda for 16th February 2017.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Kidd offered to look into financial advisor costs.

ACTION: Cllr Kidd

8. GRANT APPLICATIONS

8.1 **Grant application from RAP (Redbourn Against Poo)**

See above after Item 2.

8.2 **Folk on the Common**

Cllrs considered a £1500 grant application in support of the 2017 Folk on the Common event. The grant will go towards PL insurance, first aid and sound engineer cover, acts, marquees and publicity.

Cllrs were supportive of the application, but felt that the event needed to become self-sustaining and not rely on the RPC grant each year. In addition, Cllrs had a reduced grant pot for 2017-18 and so felt unable to offer the requested amount.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved to recommend to Full Council that:

Folk on the Common is awarded a grant of £1000 towards PL insurance, first aid and sound engineer cover, acts, marquees and publicity, under LGA 1972 s145

8.3 **To review the process of when grants should be received and when/how to promote them**

Cllrs considered this and felt the noticeboards were the most effective way to reach residents.

Cllr Mitchell offered to create a flier for the Clerk to put in the village notice boards.
ACTION: Cllr Mitchell

9. MATTERS TO REPORT
None

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 28th March 2017.

The meeting closed at 8:54pm.

Chairman.....*Date*.....