

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council meeting held on Thursday 20th April 2017 at 7.30 pm, Conference Room, Parish Centre

PRESENT: Cllrs. D Mitchell (Chair), S Kidd, T Finnigan, D Bigham, I Caldwell, M Maynard and P Schofield

IN ATTENDANCE: N Khanna (Clerk) and 1 x Resident

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs C O'Donovan (V Chair - Holiday), R Gray (Family), V Mead (Health), A Gardner (Health) and I Hickmott (Holiday)

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Maynard declared an interest in Item 3, as she lives on Redbourn High Street

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident addressed Cllrs regarding the difficulty High Street residents faced in parking near their homes. The resident stated that parking for High Street residents was already very difficult with limited parking spaces on the High Street and the parking restrictions in force. The resident stated that recent developments had made things worse and proposals to develop local green belt would bring even more cars to the High Street.

The resident asked Cllrs to consider:

- New parking areas at the north (near the fire station) and south (Millennium Site access) ends of the High Street
- Restricted access for larger, delivery lorries
- Making the High Street one way (north to south)
- Resident's parking permit scheme

The resident had previously presented the Council with a petition of 30+ names, all supporting a High Street resident's parking permit scheme. The Clerk reported that SADC had stated resident's parking schemes usually took a 3-year process and required at least 60% of the area affected to be in favour of a scheme, to even get to the consultation phase.

Cllrs then discussed the suggestions of parking areas north and south of the High Street.

Cllr Maynard expressed agreement with the resident and that parking areas at the top and bottom of the High Street were the way forward. As the village grows, High Street parking will get worse.

Cllr Mitchell said that parking had been recognised as an issue previously and had been raised within Redbourn's Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Mitchell invited the resident to attend the next meeting and the Clerk was asked to communicate the details.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Finnigan reported that she had been speaking to SADC and that they were open to considering using the Millennium Site as an area for parking.

Cllr Bigham suggested that the land on the corner of Lamb Lane and Crouch Hall Lane should be considered for additional parking. Cllr Bigham also said that plenty of parking was available further up the High Street and on to Dunstable Road. The resident pointed out that most of the residents that had signed the petition were over 65 and so walking may be an issue.

Cllrs then discussed the restriction of large delivery vehicles to early and late time slots.

Cllr Caldwell supported this as it would ease congestion in the High Street. Cllr Finnigan offered to explore this further with SADC and report back.

Action: Cllr Finnigan

Cllrs then discussed the suggestion to make the High Street one way.

Cllr Caldwell was concerned that making the High Street one way would significantly increase traffic speeds. Cllr Caldwell felt 2-way traffic in our narrow High Street naturally impeded traffic speed, making it safer.

Cllr Finnigan felt a one-way system would send more traffic around the rest of the village which would bring other problems. Cllr Finnigan felt double yellow lines along one side of the High Street might be worth considering.

Cllr Schofield felt a one-way system would bring new issues, such as sending traffic to other narrow roads, such as Crouch Hall Lane. Cllr Schofield also felt the bypass would be a very long detour from the south to the north of the High Street. Cllr Mitchell shared similar concerns.

Cllr Bigham asked the resident which option they preferred and they responded the car parks north and south of the High Street.

Cllrs then discussed the suggestion of High Street Resident's parking permits.

Cllr Schofield stated that she was certain there were 100+ properties, not including businesses, in the High Street. Based on this, the resident's petition did not meet SADC's criteria of at least 60% of the residents affected being in favour.

Cllr Mitchell pointed out that there was not enough parking in the High Street to accommodate cars for all High Street residents through a permit scheme and we needed ensure short term parking was available to support High Street businesses.

Cllr Bigham stated that the bypass had been built to alleviate congestion in the High Street.

Cllr Maynard felt that the solution could be a combination of additional car parking north and south of the High Street and resident's parking permits. Cllr Maynard offered to help the resident identify more of the High Street residents for the petition.

The Clerk stated that the Deputy Clerk would contact the resident on Monday 24/4/2017 to help with the next steps with SADC regarding a parking permit scheme request.

Action: Clerk

The resident made a final comment, requesting that something is done soon before someone gets hurt.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2017 were approved as a true record.

5. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

6. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

7.1 Herts Show

8. COUNTY REPORT

None

9. DISTRICT REPORT

None

10. BUSINESS ITEMS

10.1 SADC draft Strategic Local Plan and Detailed Local Plan

Cllr Mitchell said that he had attended the recent Crown Estate monthly meeting and the main focus had been the delivery of a 'country park' as part of their development proposals for Redbourn greenbelt, East of Hemel. It seems the park would be built around large drainage ponds. It also appeared that the Crown Estate's latest proposals showed large housing development covering more Redbourn green belt than SADC's SLP.

The Crown Estate are holding a public consultation on their master plan at Redbourn Village Hall on 26th May 2017.

SADC are continuing with their Detailed Local Plan (DLP) and the Regulation 18 consultation responses were discussed at the SADC Planning Policy Committee (PPC) meeting held on 18th April 2017. Further discussion is planned at the next PPC meeting. Cllr Mitchell stated that it had become apparent the relationship between the DLP and Neighbourhood Plans was unclear and needed clarification.

Cllr Mitchell stated that SADC's Transport Plan needed to consider the whole district and not just within the boundaries of the proposed development.

SADC's High Court hearing regarding the Strategic Local Plan (SLP) is scheduled for June 2017.

10.2 To receive a use of Common request to hold a party on the Common

Cllrs received a request from a resident to hold a child's birthday party on Redbourn Common in June 2017. It would be held at the northern end of the Common and include to gazebos.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

A child's birthday party could be held at the northern end of the Common with 2 x gazebos, in June 2017.

10.3 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Cllr Mitchell reminded Cllrs that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was being held on 15th May 2017 and that we would be voting for the Chairs of each Committee.

Cllr Mitchell asked the Clerk to add a review of Cllrs expenses to the agenda for this meeting.

Action: Clerk

10.4 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that he had met with the Deputy Clerk to begin planning for both annual meetings.

Cllr Mitchell reported that, to date, only one nomination had been received for the Community Champion. Cllrs discussed the nominee and were all agreed that they were a worthy contender. Cllr Mitchell stated that if any further nominations were received before the deadline, he would organise a panel to decide the winner.

10.5 To consider whether Redbourn should enter the Village of the Year 2017 contest

The Clerk reported that he had received information inviting Redbourn to enter the Village of the Year 2017 competition for a television reality program.

Cllrs discussed this and felt it was a good idea.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The Clerk should arrange for Redbourn to be entered into the Village of the Year 2017 reality television contest.

11. FINANCE

11.1 Finance Report

The Clerk talked Cllrs through the Income and Expenditure Report dated 21st February 2017 based on reconciled accounts to 28th February 2017.

It was proposed by Chair and resolved that

Income and Expenditure Report dated 21st February 2017 be noted

11.2 Invoices for Payment

The Clerk talked Cllrs through the payments made from October 2016 to 28th February 2017.

It was proposed by Chair and resolved that

The payment reports for October 2016, November 2016, December 2016, January 2017 and February 2017 be noted.

11.3 Receipts

The Clerk talked Cllrs through the receipts taken from October 2016 to 28th February 2017.

It was proposed by Chair and resolved that

The receipts reports for October 2016, November 2016, December 2016, January 2017 and February 2017 be noted.

12 COMMITTEES

12.1 Commons Committee

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that:

The minutes of the Commons Committee meeting held on 6th April 2017 are adopted by the meeting.

12.2 Planning Committee

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4th April 2017 are adopted by the meeting, subject to the change previously notified.

12.3 Management and Communications Committee

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that:

The minutes of the Management and Communications Committee meeting held on 14th March 2017 are adopted by the meeting.

12.4 Finance and Policy Committee

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 28th April 2017 are adopted by the meeting.

13 WORKING PARTIES

13.1 Green Belt Defence Working Party (RAGE)

None

13.2 Neighbourhood Plan Working Party

None.

13.3 Common car park Working Party

This was covered at 3. Public Participation. Cllr Mitchell summarised a report by Cllr Finnigan following the March 2017 of the working party – Appendix 1 below.

14 MATTERS TO REPORT

14.1 Herts Show – Cllr Mitchell reminded Cllrs that we still had some slots to fill on the rota to man the RPC stall at the 2017 Herts Show and urged Cllrs to help, if they were free and had not already done so.

14.2 Overflow car park on the Common – The Clerk reported that the overflow Common car park adjacent the cricket ground was being opened on 22nd April 2017 for the cricket season.

15 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 8th May 2017, 7.30pm – Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 15th May 2017, 7.30pm – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Thursday 18^h May 2017, 7.30pm – Full Council

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

Chair *Date*

APPENDIX 1

Notes from Car Park Working Party Meeting – March 2017

Discussion - South Common Car Park

- Three quotes ranged from £21,000 - £27,000 for extending the existing South Common car park and surface with either stone or grasscrete blocks.
- The current Common's budget/reserves for 2017/18, doesn't have this sum of money for a project of this size to take place immediately. We would need to build up a reserve, possibly 2-4 year plan.
- At present the cars parking on the South Common Road are a calming measure, slowing traffic down along this stretch, from Hemel Hempstead Road and Lybury lane and vice versa from Fish Street.
- Teresa enquired with SADC on the piece of land that backs onto The Park, between the residential properties in South Common. This piece of land could potentially provide parking for South Common residents. The land is owned by St Albans District Council and a resident in South Common, has a Licence to cultivate this land.
- At present the working party would not want to see further erosion of the Common, a lot of work and money required for little gain.
- **Conclusion** - to continue to monitor the parking situation in and around the South Common and The Common area, especially after the implementation of double yellow lines along the South Common stretch and shortly to be introduced across the road on The Common between Fish Street and Monks Close. Review these new measures, if residents raise this as an ongoing concern, such as congestion, sightlines, parking issues.

General Car Parking Issues

- We are experiencing high volume of cars parking in the High Street and the surrounding roads, including the Common, this is evident in the week.
- At the weekends we tend to see lower volumes of cars, parking on these roads.
- We appear then to have a high volume of workers taking up spaces in these roads in the week.
- Residents and Councillors are frequently talking about parking issues in and around the High Street. There is a now a need to investigate potential solutions along with possible locations for future parking.
- There is a need for improved parking facilities to encourage businesses/shoppers to come and set up and visit here.
- Wheathampstead have a large car park sitting just off the main High Street, this generates business for them and you can clearly see this with their vibrant High Street.

Next Steps for the Car Park Working Party.....

- The North Common car park opposite the Beesnest, has been eroded, needs resurfacing and improvements to the entrance. Colin obtaining quotes to be considered by the working party.