

## REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Full Council meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7.30 pm, Conference Room, Parish Centre

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. D Mitchell (Chair), C O'Donovan (Vice Chair), I Hickmott, A Gardner, S Kidd, T Finnigan, I Caldwell, P Schofield and D Bigham

**IN ATTENDANCE:** C Kenny (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs M Maynard (health), A Gardner (work commitment) and V Mead (health)

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**  
None

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
Resident observed the meeting

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

*The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were approved as a true record*

5. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
None

6. **CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
None

7. **MATTERS TO REPORT**  
Citizens Advice Bureau

8. **COUNTY REPORT**  
Cllr Brewster reported to the Clerk that she has been active in trying to find out what action could be taken to resolve the lack of buses running at the school finish time. Children are struggling to find transport into Redbourn since the bus company cut the bus service pupils from St George's use. She has been talking both with District, County and Bim Afolami, our MP.

Cllr Brewster also asked Councillors to recommend any worthy organisations/projects to receive money from her locality budget. Cllrs briefly discussed this and suggested an additional SID on Hemel Hempstead Road. This will be discussed further at the next Highway Meeting.

**ACTION:** Cllr to email the Clerk any ideas for recipients of the locality budget.

9. **DISTRICT REPORT**  
Nothing to report

10. **BUSINESS ITEMS**  
10.1 **SADC's Local Plan**

Cllr Mitchell attended the recent PPC meeting and reported that SADC are moving forward and working towards the submission of the Local Plan in March. There is a lot of work to do particularly as they are short staffed. Cllr Mitchell thought that SADC would submit even if the document wasn't finished.

**10.2 Inter Parish Bus Forum – to receive a proposal from the Inter Parish Bus Forum regarding Subsidising a rural Sunday bus service**

Information had been provided by Cllr Reid of Sandridge Parish Council relating to the background and proposals for the three Parish Councils involved to contribute £2K each, along with Cllr Salih Gaygusuz, Portfolio Holder for Business and Community at SADC, contribution of £6K from his locality budget, to enable the 657-bus service to continue for a year whilst an alternative solution can be found.

Both Wheathampstead and Sandridge have already agreed to commit to £2K each. Following discussions, questions were raised as to this being the right service to fund. Equally, it was felt that the amount of money being requested, was not too prohibitive. Cllr O'Donovan pointed out that if we contributed, we should ensure that the service is publicized so that residents are more aware of it. It is vital that as a Parish Council we continue to lobby our MP, County Councillors and District Councillors on the bigger issue of lack of public transport in and around Redbourn.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***RPC agree to make a contribution for one year of £2k along with both Wheathampstead and Sandridge Parish Councils contributing £2k. This will match fund a £6k contribution from Cllr's Salih's locality budget at SADC. RPC will advertise this service to ensure residents are aware of its existence. The contribution is made on the understanding that work will continue to find an alternative solution to keep this service running.***

**10.3 Hertswise – to receive a request from Hertswise to extend their use of the Centre for an Additional 10 weeks**

Hertswise have been running a 10 week support programme for families/carers in Redbourn affected By dementia and have requested that this be extended for a further 10 weeks. They have a budget of £5 - £10 towards facility costs.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***The Hertswise programme be extended a further 10 weeks, free of charge, for an hour and a half, every Friday.***

**10.4 Museum – to receive a request from the Museum to use the Parish Centre, free of charge, to Hold their AGM**

The Museum Trustees have asked if they could have use of the Parish Centre to hold their AGM, Free of charge. Their normal venue is not able to accommodate them.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that:

***RPC would provide the Parish Centre as a venue for the Trustees of the Museum to hold their AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019, free of charge.***

**10.5 Redbourn Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Finnigan explained that it had been planned to have the Neighbourhood Plan document signed off by Full Council at this meeting. However, our Planning Advisor from Navigus has brought to our attention an issue with the wording in SADC Local Plan. Policy S2 of the Plan says:

'The 'exceptional circumstances' required for Green Belt releases for development only exist in the Broad Locations set out in Policy S6 and the Policies Map.'

She reported that:

'Redbourn is not one of the 11 broad locations identified in the DLP and means the green belt boundaries cannot be amended in Redbourn at present as our sites are not currently needed to deliver SADC's housing requirement; the broad locations put forward do that.

Navigus have offered two options:

1. Remove the 5 sites from the NP as they sit in green belt and submit a cut-down version with the non-policies before the 24<sup>th</sup> January deadline. Due to the NPPF rules changing, this was the date we were aiming for before Christmas to get the NP to SADC.
2. Don't submit the NP and wait to see what happens with the DLP

Chris Briggs (SADC) had a different interpretation to Navigus Planning. SADC haven't seen the new draft Redbourn NP so they do not know what approach to sites we have proposed and the paragraph 136 of the new NPPF makes it explicitly clear that NP's can change green belt boundaries. NPPF para 136 states:

'Once established, green belt boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified, through the preparation or updating of plans. Strategic policies should establish the need for any changes to the green belt boundaries, having regard to their intended permanence in the long term, so they can endure beyond the plan period. Where a need for changes to green belt boundaries has been established through strategic policies, detailed amendments to those boundaries may be made through non-strategic policies, including neighbourhood plans'.

Navigus Planning has significant concerns with SADC's interpretation of the NPPF and the way this is reflected in Policy S2 in the DLP. It does not provide the assurance that our NP can either amend the green belt boundaries or allocate residential sites in the green belt.

Chris Briggs (SADC) went onto say that the intention of the SADC DLP is to allow NPs to allocate sites in the GB if they wish. The approach at S2 is not supposed to rule this out and in context they don't think it does. He also said that no-one (including Redbourn PC) has raised this as a possible issue under the DLP Regulation 19 publication consultation back in October. They are happy to look at the detailed wording again and could potentially address as a clarification, as a 'minor amendment', but they will need to think properly about this over a period of time.

**After much discussion, the view of the NP working party was to put the Plan on hold and no point in aiming for 24<sup>th</sup> January and presenting the NP without the sites, we need the sites in the NP so we will wait for the outcome of the Inspector's report on the SADC's DLP later in the year.**

Navigus Planning's current view is that the SADC's DLP's allocating all the growth to such a small number of broad locations is likely to hit trouble. It is overly reliant on all these large sites coming forward and suspects that the Inspector will have concerns about this. It may prove that Redbourn comes back onto the table as location for growth.

Navigus Planning apologised for not picking this up earlier when the consultation on the DLP came out.'

A statement has been composed to go on the website and Facebook pages informing residents of the situation.'

Cllrs gave a big vote of thanks to the Community Officer and the NHP working party for all the effort and time given to this project. Cllrs recognise that this is work that can be picked up again at an appropriate time.

## **11. FINANCE**

### **11.1 Finance Report**

The Clerk highlighted to Cllrs an overspend on code 4283 which is due to the purchase of a water urn and 2 fridges that needed to be replaced.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***The Income and Expenditure report dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 reflecting Reconciled accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 be received***

### **11.2 Invoices for payment**

The Clerk presented Cllrs with the list of payments (Current account – Cash Book 1) for December 2018.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***The List of Payments (Current account – Cash Book 1) reports dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 showing payments for November 2018 be received.***

### **11.3 Receipts**

The Clerk presented Cllrs with the list of receipts (Current account – Cash Book 1) for December 2018.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***The List of Receipts (Current account – Cash Book 1) report dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Showing receipts for November 2018 be received.***

## **12 COMMITTEES**

### **12.1 Commons Committee**

It was noted that the Commons Committee meeting due to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 was cancelled due to lack of business.

### **12.2 Planning Committee**

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

***The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 are adopted by the meeting.***

### **12.3 Management and Communications Committee**

It was noted that the Management and Communications Committee meeting due to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 was cancelled due to lack of business.

### **12.4 Finance and Policy Committee**

Nothing to report

**13 MATTERS TO REPORT**

Cllr Caldwell informed Cllrs that Citizens Advise Bureau will receive 1% of what Co-op members spend on Co-op branded food products in stores and selected services, as well as money raised from sales of carrier bags and Co-op scratch cards in our stores.

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019, 7.30pm in Conference Room, Parish Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm

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