

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council meeting held on Thursday 21st February 2019 at 7.30 pm, Conference Room, Parish Centre

PRESENT: Cllrs. D Mitchell (Chair), I Hickmott, A Gardner, T Finnigan, V Mead, P Schofield and D Bigham

IN ATTENDANCE: C Kenny (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs M Maynard (health), I Caldwell (health), R Gray (holiday), C O'Donovan (health) S Kidd (holiday)

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**
None

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17th January 2019 were approved as a true record

5. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
None

6. **CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**
None

7. **MATTERS TO REPORT**
SID – Cllr Mitchell
Sunday Bus Service – Cllr Mitchell/V Mead
CPRE awards - Clerk

8. **COUNTY REPORT**
Cllr Mitchell gave an update from Cllr Brewster where she expressed her concerns regarding the lack of buses to bring school children back Harpenden, particularly because she did not feel the designated safe route along the Nickey line was safe enough. She is continuing to pursue this with the County Council.

9. **DISTRICT REPORT**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for looking at the re-arrangement of the Political map of all the Local Authorities in England. It is now St. Albans' turn, due to the considerable inequality of the size of the District wards and the differing number of District Councillors representing them. An example of this, based on the December 2017 register, is in London Colney where the three District Councillors represent around 7,297 electors whereas in both the Cunningham & Redbourn wards, the three District Councillors represent around 4,860 electors. This is not democratically right as each person's vote should represent roughly the same.

With regards to the electoral cycle, if the District keeps its current electoral cycle by electing thirds, the Commission, by law, would keep the three-member wards. But if the District changed to Whole Council Elections (WCE), this could change.

There will be two Public Consultations lasting ten weeks, on ward arrangements and where the wards should be. The Commission strongly wants to engage with the local community by holding briefings, just before the Review starts, with both Parish Councils and Community Groups. These are expected to take place in July/ August this year. The Commission is also happy to talk to Parish Councils directly.

It should be noted that the Electoral Review does not have the authority to change the external boundaries of Parish Councils. However, recommendations can be made where the District Review has directly affected the parishes e.g. the boundaries of parish wards.

There is continued good performance on the recycling and waste management in the St. Albans District. Indeed, the District is now ranked 13th out of 350 authorities in England for recycling performance which has resulted in a significant reduction in the tonnage of waste being sent to landfill.

Work is also being done with Veolia to improve performance of street cleaning. A street cleaning schedule is available on the District Council's website.

(<https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/environmentandwaste/street-care-and-cleaning/>):

Cllr Gardner questioned the figures asking if they related to population figures or electoral figures. Cllr Mitchell commented that the point is to ensure that the numbers are fairly distributed and that we didn't want to lose any of our District Councillors. Cllr Mead explained that the SLP proposals will increase population figures so SADC will do a forward review up to 2025.

Cllr Mitchell asked Cllr Mead if she could find out if SADC would be consulting with Dacorum. Cllr Hickmott felt that it would be prudent for SADC to do so as in the future, if they take part of the LP Housing numbers, this would have an effect on Dacorum.

In general, RPC support a fair way of selecting the right number of councillors for the number of Electors.

Cllr Mitchell questioned why there were 2 wards with Redbourn Parish ward; 6 in Nicholls and 6 in Beaumont. No one knew the reasoning behind this.

ACTION: Clerk to ask SADC as to the reason for 2 wards in Redbourn Parish

10. BUSINESS ITEMS

10.1 SADC's Local Plan – to consider the scoping application from the Crown Estate

There was nothing new to report on the Local Plan other than the next PPC meeting is to be held in March.

The scoping plan submitted by the Crown Estate was discussed. The application is an outline planning application and there doesn't appear to be much difference between this one and the one submitted in 2016. However, the latest submission includes a bigger, new junction called 8a and links the M1 and A414.

The Crown Estate are concerned that the number of houses shown in the new LP is not deliverable and their plan works to the number of houses planned on the original SLP. They are looking for outline approval for 2,452 (new LP required 5,500 houses) along with hotel, elderly provision, primary and secondary school, gypsy pitches, link roads and associated parking.

The closing date for responses is 1st March 2019.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded and resolved that:

RPC objects to the proposed development on the grounds it contravenes Policy 1 of the current SADC Planning Policies (1994). We also object to the SADC draft Local Plan (2016 & 2018) in respect of the East Hemel site: please see our responses to the respective Regulation 19 Public Consultation.

10.2 High Street Clock – to receive a recommendation for repairs to the High Street Clock

Clerk reported that they had received two quotes for repairs to the clock and were struggling to obtain a third one.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded and resolved that:

Clerk to arrange for Public Clocks Ltd to carry out repairs as per their quotation on 6th February 2019 for £1,120.00

10.3 Redbourn House Nursery – to consider a request from Redbourn House Nursery to use the Common for access to their garden during refurbishments to garden and play area

The Clerk explained that Redbourn House Nursery have plans to refurbish their garden and would like Permission to use the part of the Common in front of their building for access. This would enable the Contractor to move his small digger into the garden.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded and resolved that:

RPC would allow access of contractor's equipment over the Common in front of Redbourn House Nursery during the refurbishment of the nursery garden. All damage caused to the Common to be made good at Nursery's cost

ACTION: Clerk to take pictures of area in question before work starts

11. FINANCE

11.1 Finance Report

No up to date reports available

11.2 Invoices for payment

No up to date reports available

11.3 Receipts

No up to date reports available

11.4 Council Tax – to receive an update on Council tax situation

Cllr Mitchell talked through the SADC council tax figures for 2019-20. SADC will be charging Redbourn residents an extra £265.72 (band D) for special items they deal with (e.g. the toilets and car park by the Village Hall) which is the highest in the District. RPC's precept is und £100.30 (band D).

ACTION: Cllr Mead to ask SADC for a breakdown of Parish Council precepts as a comparison. Clerk to add article in newsletter explaining the breakdown.

12 COMMITTEES

12.1 Commons Committee

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the Commons and Opens Spaces Committee meeting held on 7th February 2019 are adopted by the meeting

Cllr Schofield asked if a meeting could be arranged between Redbourn in Bloom and Clerk to agree a space in Cumberland Gardens for a project. This has already been agreed at a previous Commons Committee meeting.

12.2 Planning Committee

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29th January 2019 are adopted by the meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Mead to find out the situation regarding planning application for the fish and chip shop in the High Street (5/2019/0119) and call in if minded to refuse.

12.3 Management and Communications Committee

It was proposed by the Chair and resolve that:

The minutes of the Management and Communications meeting held on 12th February 2019 are adopted by the meeting.

12.4 Finance and Policy Committee

Nothing to report

12.5 High Street Working Party

Cllr Finnigan updated Cllrs on the activities of the High Street Working Party as follows:

'We put together some Terms of Reference for the working party and updated the vision for the future of the High Street.

Updates since the beginning of the year:

- Museum / Local Historian – Ivan and Teresa - Joyce Clayton a local resident has put together a comprehensive account of our local streets and buildings, this information is currently being put on the local village website, Redbourn Village Online, we have also had discussions with the Museum on this and Joyce and Ivan will meet with other members of the Museum Committee, hopefully at their March meeting to discuss further. The aim is to work towards launching this on-line history working title "Redbourn Through Time", to include holding an event prior to it going live in July.
- Car Parking – Teresa - as you may be aware members of the working party met with SADC to walk the High Street last year, and from this meeting a priority list was put together, which was reviewed by SADC, looking at the current parking overall in the High Street and its design and we have now have been added it to their existing work programme.

Village Hall - SADC is in the progress of reinstating the 2-hour parking between 8.00am and 6.00pm – no further update from SADC, Teresa will continue to chase.

Hawkes Drive - SADC considering dividing existing car park into zones. 2-hour parking provision between 9.00am and 6.00pm, awaiting consultation on this - The current new off-street order is on hold at present, SADC will update Teresa as soon as they know what's happening.

- Business Workshop – Ivan and Teresa - back in January, we were more than happy with the turnout of 20 people, who were put into small groups to discuss the changes they wanted to see and ideas of attracting more visitors, customers and shoppers to the High Street. After much discussion, a priority list was put together comprising of the following - providing a regular market, a TLC plan and campaign for the High Street, have a community shop and business hub, new signage, especially on the Bypass, capitalise on Redbournbury Mill, try to fill all vacant shops and offer “pop-ups”, explore opportunities to improve High Street during the evenings.

- Village Market – Teresa - on the back of the business workshop, we put together a committee who met up and started to put together a list of guiding principles/aims and objectives:

Benefits to the community – brings people together and encourages shop local.

Only local produce – should we broaden area to cover Herts, Beds and Bucks or just Herts, something to think about.

Produce of good quality and range – ensuring that is the case.

Be environmentally friendly – encourage bring your own bags and containers initiative.

Then we compiled a checklist of what it could entail and look like and what was needed to get this up and running:

Name – Village Market - doesn't necessarily have to be called a farmer's market.

Day – Saturday - most shops and businesses are open, would benefit them, increased footfall.

How often - bi-monthly to begin with - Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct and Christmas Markets December.

Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm - talked about covering lunch time traffic.

Location – Village Hall Car Park - it's visible and potential to expand inside the hall.

Car parking – loss of car parking due to potential use of this site for the stalls.

Number of stalls – at least 12, creates a lively and social atmosphere.

Good range and balance of stalls – selling all kinds of foods to take home and eat there, pet supplies, creative, gifts, flowers and plants and community stalls.

Stall costs – St Albans charge £33 and Harpenden charge £37 for a pitch at their farmers market.

Council – Parish and SADC - liaise with various bodies – SADC, approach the market team on the hire of their stalls, costs for set up and removal, licensing and legal requirements, planning requirements, use of Village Hall car park, permission from SADC.

Advertising – banners – three entrances, Harpenden, St Albans and Hemel Hempstead.

Marketing/Promotion

Finance – cost implications

Insurance policy

- **"Friends of the High Street" Workshop 5th March – Ivan**

This up and coming workshop is on the back of the previous business workshop, to continue with the momentum that it created. It will look at two aspects of the High Street - In what ways can the community come together to contribute to making the High Street something we are proud of and what “look and feel” improvements do we want to see introduced? How can our High Street get the “TLC” it deserves?

All Councillors are invited and please spread the word.'

13 MATTERS TO REPORT

SID (Speed Indicator Devis) – At the Highways meeting held on 20th February, Cllr Brewster offered RPC money from her locality budget for an additional SID, providing RPC fund half of the cost. There is already a socket at Hemel Hempstead Road so the cost to RPC would be £2,255.00. It was agreed, subject to ratification at the next Finance and Policy meeting, that RPC would contribute to another SID.

Sunday Bus Service – Cllr Mead reported that the bus operator, UNO, have placed a notice on Facebook saying they would no longer be running the Sunday 304 & 657 bus services after 21st April. Guy Brigden at Herts County Council has confirmed that these services are under threat as UNO have declined to accept a contract extension after 21st April. HCC are currently going out to tender on behalf of St. Albans City & District Council, for a new operator to take on these services. Also, the Inter Parish Forum, (Redbourn, Wheathampstead & Sandridge) is arranging a date to meet MP, Bim Afolami, to discuss the Sunday bus service issue. Hopefully, this will take place within the next couple of weeks

CPRE – The Clerk reported that we have received details of this year’s CPRE awards. The Community Officer will contact local organisations asking for their nominations. Once received, she will coordinate with Cllrs.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 21st March 2019, 7.30pm in Conference Room, Parish Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chair *Date*