

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Commons & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday 3rd MAY 2018 at 7.30pm in the Conference Room, Redbourn Parish Centre

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

IN ATTENDANCE: N Khanna (Clerk) and 1 x Dunstable Resident (Item 8.7)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs T Finnigan (Vice Chair - Holiday), M Maynard (Health) and V. Mead (Election)

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

8.7 To receive feedback on the change to the overflow car park for this year's cricket season.

A Dunstable resident and long-term supporter of Redbourn Cricket Club addressed Cllrs with concerns over the change to overflow car parking on the Common this year. The concern was that elderly and disabled supporters of the Cricket Club have traditionally been able to park on the Common by 'The Avenue' and watch matches from their cars. The closure of this area and positioning of the alternative overflow car park do not allow this to happen. Cllrs were asked to consider reopening the traditional car park, which would allow these spectators vehicular access to watch matches. Cllrs explained that repairs were required at both entrances to the traditional overflow car park and it was incumbent on the Council to maintain the Common.

Marshalling access just for elderly/disabled spectators was considered, but not felt to be easy to do or reasonable, as it could potentially involve stopping access to others.

The Clerk suggested investigating if a 3rd entrance from the car park would be possible. If it was, Cllrs could then consider rotating all 3 entrances throughout the year to minimise wear to the Common. In the interim, it would also allow the required repairs to the usual entrances.

Cllr O'Donovan offered to meet with our grounds maintenance contractor to explore this option and get costings. Cllr O'Donovan committed to bring his findings back to the next meeting for consideration.

ACTION: Cllr O'Donovan / Clerk

4. MATTERS FOR REPORT

4.1 Easement across the Common

4.2 Hanging basket watering contract

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2018 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 To receive the Finance Report on Commons expenditure

The Clerk presented the Income and Expense report dated 27th April 2018 showing reconciled accounts to the end of March 2018. The Clerk also provided an explanation with supporting reports of individual budget codes that were overspent.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The Commons Committee Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet reports dated 27th April 2018 and reflecting reconciled accounts to 31st March 2018 be received.

The Clerk also presented Cllrs with the Balance Sheet dated 27th April 2018 showing the Councils reserves.

8. REDBOURN COMMON

8.1 To receive an update on Common repairs

Cllr O'Donovan reported that our grounds maintenance contractor was in the middle of a full cut of the Common that should be completed by 4th May 2018.

8.2 To receive an update from the Common car park Working party

None.

8.3 To receive a Use of Common request for the 2018 Cricket Club Dinner and Dance

Cllrs received a request from Redbourn Cricket Club to hold their annual dinner/dance in a marquee on the Common in front of the cricket pavilion on 15th September 2018.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that:

The Redbourn Cricket Club could hold their annual dinner / dance in a marquee on the Common on 15th September 2018. The marquee to be erected on 14th and removed on 16th September 2018.

Cllrs discussed the fact that this event coincided with the Classics on the Common event and there may be parking issues. Cllrs said they would be open to considering cars being allowed on the Common where the fairground traditionally set up. Cllr Finnigan said she would feed this back to the Classics on the Common organisers.

Action: Cllr Finnigan

8.4 To receive a Use of Common request to run a boot camp exercise class on the Common

The Clerk updated Cllrs on this request that had been carried forward from the last meeting. Equipment used in these classes included battle rope and sand bag weights, so damage was deemed to be low risk.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The boot camp exercise class could be held on the Common, to the left of the car park near the cricket pavilion. The class is to run for one hour from 9am each Saturday and the equipment approved for use were battle ropes and sandbag weights.

Cllrs then had a broader conversation around whether commercially run exercise classes should be charged to use the Common as a venue. The Clerk was asked to add this to the next meeting's agenda for consideration.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk was asked to amend the Use of Common request form to include the question 'What is the benefit to Redbourn Residents?'

Action: Clerk

8.5 To receive a Use of Common request for the museum to have a gazebo at their 2018 Redbourn in Steam event

Cllrs received a request from Redbourn Museum to have a gazebo on the Common by the entrance to the museum for their 2018 Redbourn in Steam event which runs from 10am-4pm on 28th May 2018. There may also be an old steam tractor and barrel organ.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

A gazebo, steam tractor and barrel organ could be sited on the Common near the entrance to Redbourn Museum as part of the Redbourn in Steam event on 28th May 2018.

The Clerk was asked to verify we had received the relevant insurance and risk assessment documents for the event.

ACTION: Clerk

8.6 To receive a Use of Common request to hold the VW 'Show and Shine' event on the Common

Cllrs received a request to hold the local, annual VW 'Show and Shine' event on the Common on 12th July 2018 from 6-10.30pm.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The local, annual VW 'Show and Shine' event be held on the Common on 12th July 2018 from 6-10.30pm. The area of the Common being used will be within the temporary overflow car park to the left of the car park by the cricket pavilion.

8.7 To receive feedback on the change to the overflow car park for this year's cricket season.
See Item 3 above.

8.8 To receive an update on the 2018 Parish Pathways Partnership grant scheme

The Clerk reported that the PP had confirmed we could apply for this grant to top up the amount previously received to enable us to produce some maps showing walks in and around Redbourn.

The Clerk to progress the grant application.

ACTION: Clerk

9. NICKY LINE

9.1 To receive an update on surfacing the Chequer Lane access points

Awaiting update from CMS.

10. CUMBERLAND GARDEN

Cllr O'Donovan reported that the wall to the left of the garden required some repairs and asked the Clerk to arrange for this to be investigated and quotes sought, if work is required.

ACTION: Clerk

The Clerk was also asked to see if the bin by the pergola needed to be emptied more frequently by our grounds maintenance contractor.

ACTION: Clerk

11. PLAY AREAS

11.1 East Common Play Area

None

11.2 Long Cutt Play Area

None

11.3 Flamsteadbury Lane Play Area

None

11.4 Silk Mill

None

12. TREES

None

13. COMMONS OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

No discussion.

14. MATTERS FOR REPORT

Easement across the Common

The Clerk reported that the easement previously agreed by Commons for the property known as Cover Point was now progressing with our solicitors. Cllr O'Donovan said he and the Clerk would progress this as the homeowner was looking to commence work on 4th June 2018 and bring the final draft easement to next Commons Committee.

ACTION: Clerk / Cllr O'Donovan

Hanging basket watering contract

The Clerk reported that he had received the quote for this year's hanging basket watering contract and that it had increased to £3009. Cllrs recognised that it had been historically difficult to get contractors to quote for this work. The quote was approved in principle and the Clerk was asked to proceed, but to put this on the next agenda for formal signoff.

ACTION: Clerk

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th June 2018, 7.30pm, Parish Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chair..... *Date*

