

REDBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Commons & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday 4th October 2018 at 7.30pm in the Conference Room, Redbourn Parish Centre

PRESENT: Cllrs T Finnigan (Vice Chair), D Bigham and M Maynard

IN ATTENDANCE: C Kenny (Clerk) Resident relating to item 8.3

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs I Caldwell (health) D Mitchell (family) C O'Donovan (holiday) V Mead (Prior engagement)

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
Cllr Finnigan – Redbourn Classics on Common

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Item 8.3 was brought forward.

To Consider implementation of a drone policy flying over Common land.

A local resident spoke to the meeting about drone ownership and gave a short demonstration of how drones worked. He stated that individual owners of drones generally used them for personal use and racing (which is done in fields).

He told the meeting that individuals should follow the drone code which includes not flying near airfields and not above 400ft. There should be responsible ownership and owners should hold relevant public liability insurance.

There are new laws coming into force next year which means that drones cannot be flown within 50 meters of buildings and it is likely that a person will have to register ownership. There are currently no age restrictions.

Councillors discussed whether there was a need for Redbourn Parish Council to have a drone policy in place and it was decided that Cllr Finnigan would investigate further.

ACTION: Cllr Finnigan to produce a report for Full Council to consider.

4. MATTERS FOR REPORT

- 4.1 Firework volunteers
Kane Haulage
Cumberland House
Remembrance Day

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2018 are adopted as a true record of the meeting.

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

None

7. FINANCE

The Clerk presented the income and expenditure report for Commons Committee and reported that there were no issues but to be mindful that expenditure code 4785 did not include the 3% increase in the ground's maintenance contractors' prices. Therefore, this code will most likely be an overspend by the end of the financial year.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The Commons Income and expenditure report for month September 2018 be received.

To consider next year's budget

The Clerk explained that she is in the process of preparing next year's budget and would meet with the Chair of Commons on his return from holiday to discuss. Councillors discussed if there were any projects or equipment that they would like considered. All agreed that we should invest in festive lights for the trees at either end of the village and to investigate the cost of having lights across the Village Hall car park.

ACTION: The Clerk to investigate cost of additional lighting across the Village Hall car park entrance.

8. REDBOURN COMMON

8.1 To receive an update on Common repairs

Cllr Bigham reported that the litter bin on The Common by Lybury Lane and North Common junction has disappeared.

ACTION: Clerk to speak to SADC to advise them of the missing bin and request a new one be installed.

The Clerk reported that the overflow car park has now been closed and new removeable posts will be installed by second week of October. 20 x wooden bollards have been ordered to replace rotten ones at Cumberland House end of the Common. There will be spares for future repairs.

The Clerk explained that she was still awaiting quotations from suppliers for the proposed mound and will report at the next meeting.

8.2 To receive and adopt amended Use of Common Policy document

The Clerk presented the Use of Common Policy documents with the agreed amendments made as per the Commons meeting held on 6th September 2018.

It was proposed by the Chair and resolved that:

The amended Use of Common Policy document be adopted by the Commons Committee.

8.3 To consider implementation of a drone policy flying over Common Land

Item brought forward to the beginning of the meeting

8.4 Update on hedgerow on North Common

Cllr Finnigan updated the meeting about the hedgerow on North Common. Ringways completed a site visit and confirmed that the site line was fine and not a cause for concern although suggested that RPC write a letter to the resident asking that the hedgerow be cut back to the boundary wall which is causing problems when bigger vehicles try to pass.

ACTION: Clerk to write a letter to the resident in the first instance and if no response, Ringways will write a follow up letter.

8.5 To receive a report on new 20mph signage at East Common

The Clerk reported that Herts Highways had erected new 20mph signage at both ends of East Common. However, complaints had been received from the landlord of the Cricketers Pub due to the size and positioning of the new signs. The new signage is double the size of the previous sign and encroaches onto the Common which is in a conservation area.

ACTION: The Clerk to speak to Highways Officer at Ringways to request a reduction of the size of the signage as it is not currently appropriate for the area.

8.6 To agree where to install new cycle racks

Through the locality budget, HCC will supply 2 x cycle racks to Redbourn Parish Council and the location of each was discussed.

ACTION: The Clerk to advise Cllr Brewster to install in the following locations:

- Outside Nisa
- Outside The Hub near the planters

9. NICKEY LINE

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

Cllr Finnigan informed the meeting that a new person had taken over the project but had confirmed there was S106 monies available. Cllr Finnigan will give a progress report at the next meeting where we will be in a better position to understand the timescales involved in the work. It was suggested that if the lead times are not acceptable, RPC pay for one side of the access points (The Park) to be done as the state of repair is disintegrating and will become dangerous if left much longer.

10. CUMBERLAND GARDEN

Redbourn in Bloom had approached the Council and asked if an area of Cumberland Gardens could be designated to them for a project, possible drought garden.

ACTION: The Clerk to seek clarification of the size and area required. Add to next agenda.

The meeting discussed the possibility of changing the planting in Cumberland Garden to incorporate more colour and what this would entail.

ACTION: The Clerk to arrange a meeting with Redbourn In Bloom to talk through options and if they had capacity to take this on.

11. PLAY AREAS

To receive an update on the following play areas:

11.1 East Common Play Area

Nothing to report

11.2 Long Cutt Play Area

Nothing to report

11.3 Flamsteadbury Lane Play Area

The Clerk reported that a swing seat had been burnt out in the play area. She is in contact with the Kompan who did the refurbishment with the view to using the £500 vandalism pot that was set up to fund the replacement seat.

11.4 **Silk Mill**
Nothing to report

12. **TREES**
Nothing to report

13. **COMMONS OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**
Cllrs went through the outstanding list and noted that there were not too many items outstanding.

14. **MATTERS FOR REPORT**

Fireworks – meeting was asked to consider volunteering to help at the Firework Display on 3rd November.

Kane Haulage – Cllr Finnigan is in contact with SADC and HCC Minerals and Waste regarding the size of the concrete pile and the dust created by this. They are checking the licensing conditions to ensure Kane Haulage is complying. Residents have expressed concerns to Cllrs about the number of lorries and trucks coming in and out of the site along with subsequent mess/dirt left on the roads.

Cumberland House – Clerk informed the meeting that a letter would be sent to owners of Cumberland House requesting they adhere to conditions of their easement.

Remembrance Day Parade – Clerk informed the meeting that as it is the centenary of the start of WW1, the parade will start at 9.30am with a Church Service at St Mary's and then the procession will begin from the Church down to the War Memorial where the Battle's Over Beacon will be lit.

15. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 1st November 2018, 7.30pm, Parish Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Chair..... *Date*

