

# Gerrards Cross Town Council

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## Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.

**Present:** Cllr C Brown (Chairman), Cllr Berntson, Cllr J Chhokar, Cllr N Holmes, Cllr M Lawson, Cllr H Orme, Cllr T Scott and Cllr J Woolveridge.

**In Attendance:** Bucks and SBDC Cllr B Gibbs, SBDC Cllr D Smith, I Gordon, T & R McDonnell, Dr J Chambers and Sue Moffat (Town Clerk).

### Would Councillors please give any declaration of interests at the beginning of the item on the Agenda

**185/17 To accept apologies of absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr M Baker, Cllr I Bayliss, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr J O’Keeffe and SBDC Cllr S Chhokar,

**186/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**

At the proposition of Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge, these Minutes were agreed by Council and signed.

**187/17 Public speaking from residents on matters relevant to the meeting’s agenda.** No members of the public wished to speak.

**188/17 To confirm the minutes of the following meetings:-**

**1. Commons Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

Minutes were proposed by Cllr Orme, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge and agreed by Council and signed. Cllr Orme gave a brief summary of the contents of the Minutes. Cllr Orme went on to thank all GX Conservation Volunteers for their continued work in 2017.

**2. Highways Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

Cllr Holmes confirmed the Minutes and gave a brief summary.

Cllr Woolveridge reported that the salt bin provided by GXTC for the incline at Hedgerley Lane has been used for the first time this week during the snowy weather conditions and was much appreciated.

**3. Planning Committee Meeting on 27th November 2017.**

Cllr J Chhokar reported on Minutes and gave a brief summary of the contents highlighting those planning applications where objections were raised

**4. Planning Committee Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

Cllr Woolveridge confirmed the planning minutes and gave a brief summary of the contents highlighting those planning applications where objections were raised.

### **189/17 Communications Working Party Updates**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were confirmed by Cllr Holmes as being a true record after asking for Dan Turner to be recorded as being present. Dan gave a brief presentation at the meeting on suggestions to upgrade the present web site. GXTC are now waiting for him to come back with further feedback. Cllr Holmes reported that the last edition of VOICE has been well received by the residents and thanked Cllr Baker for all his hard work in producing the newsletter.

### **190/17 Boost Update and future plans including the Best Kept Village Competition**

Cllr Lawson reported there has been no further BOOST meetings but have concentrated on assisting with the Christmas Fair. He thanked Cllr Scott and Cllr Woolveridge with their help manning the GXTC/BOOST stand on the night. JW raised some concern that 15 residents had told her that they had not received the VOICE but it was generally agreed that people could easily overlook this when it is delivered. TS reported that locals in CSP bordering on to GX would like to receive the VOICE but it was pointed out that there are copies available in the library and at Tesco. Cllr Brown reported that he received good feedback from the shops he visited and the general consensus seemed to be that the footfall was higher than last year. On the negative side, Cllr Lawson reported that the string foam was still being sold by one outlet and caused some debris. Cllr Scott said she had received complaints about the lack of bins and suggested each stall holder should be required to provide a bin. SBDC did provide recycling bins but not the large rubbish bins like last year. Cllr Brown thanked the BOOST team for bringing together all the local organisations involved to help Rotary with this event and having the celebrity, Beverly Craven, switching on the lights worked well. Also big thanks to Leigh Electrical for their work erecting the Christmas lights and sponsorship signs in time for the event and assisting at the Switch-On. Lastly Cllr Scott suggested having some promotional banners made up for the GXTC/BOOST stand for GX Fun Run.

### **191/17 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) update**

Cllr Holmes reported:-The Neighbourhood Plan web site is now up and running and thanked Cllr Orme for all her work in setting this up. This can be found at <https://gxplan.co.uk>. There are 22 people on the Steering Group but with a regular core membership of 8/9. At the last NPSG meeting the Group analysed the 280 responses from the public consultation at the Guide Hut on 11<sup>th</sup> November and now formed sub-groups. There were 3 members manning the stand at the Christmas Fair who gathered more public feedback. The next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Cllr Brown thanked NH and HO for all their hard work in moving this project forward.

**192/17 At the proposition of Cllr Woolveridge seconded by Cllr Orme, it was resolved to amend Standing Orders as follows:-** (i) To remove Item 1G as no prior consent is required in order to record a Council meeting; (ii) To change Item 19A(v) and 19B from £60,000 to £50,000 in line with the Financial Regulations and (iii) To amend 2C to 'Planning Committee sits as the Council' and remove Highways which will, like Commons, sit as a Committee whereby any resolution made is ratified at Full Council.

**193/17 Resolved to amend Gerrards Cross Town Council's previous decision not to participate in the Local Area Forum, which was in agreement with Denham Parish Council at that time, and to now join the newly established Denham and Gerrards Cross Local Area Forum.** The Town Clerk will inform Martin Tett of this decision. Cllr Brown thanked Bucks CCllr B Gibbs who has assisted in this matter. Cllr Gibbs pointed out that there were only 4 LAF meetings a year and a representative of the Council was required to attend, but not necessarily the Chairman, so the work load can be shared. Cllr Brown went on to report that he had discussed LAF, amongst other issues such as devolved highways work, with Bucks CCllr Noel Brown when he attended the Parish Liaison meeting at Aylesbury. Cllr Noel Brown was interested in having a meeting with GXTC and it was agreed for the Clerk to organise a meeting in early New Year, with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Council and Committees, together with Cllr Gibbs. Cllr J Chhokar enquired if the previous method of spending LAF money via the County Councillor who was Peter Hardy at the time, was legal. Cllr Brown responded that it must have been the accepted method at that time but now new rules have been drafted so that LAF funding is awarded through the LAF meetings. Cllr Gibbs was in agreement with this. Cllr Gibbs went on to say that she would ensure that the criteria for accessing LAF funding was applied fairly across all councils. SBDCllr D Smith suggested that the venue of the LAF meetings should be held equally between locations in Gerrards Cross and Denham, both Councils being the main participants in this forum.

#### **194/17 To approve payments for December 2017**

Cllr Orme proposed the payment schedule and this was approved by Council. Cllr Lawson raised the question of the cost of the newly planted Christmas tree in West Common. Cllr Orme responded that this purchase had been agreed by both the Commons and Highways Committee with the cost to be split equally from both budgets. The tree was expensive as it was a 24 year old tree, transported from Germany as no tree growers in the UK invest in such a long term commitment.

#### **195/17 Report from County and District Councillors.**

**Bucks CC – Cllr Gibbs reported:-** (i) She will be going out with the Highway's Local Area Technician in the New Year to agree the year's programme for highways maintenance. She suggested that we may wish to publicise in the next edition of VOICE that if anyone reports deep potholes the approximate size of 300 x 40mm, these will be repaired as a matter of priority over and above the allocated maintenance; (ii) The planning application for an anaerobic digester at Wapsy's Wood was refused although she believes further applications may be put forward. However she will ask Enforcement for the commencement of reinstating the site to agricultural land which should have started by now. No penalties will be involved. Cllr Brown asked about the enforcement of the illegal activity on the travellers' site at this location? Cllr D Smith responded that SBDC are seeking to prosecute the owners of the site. Cllr Lawson asked if the illegal deposit of waste is contaminated? Cllr Gibbs responded that the Environment Agency was dealing with this. It is probably contaminated and if that is the case SBDC will have to remove it; (iii) Cllr Gibbs is on the Health and Social Care Committee at Bucks CC and an in-depth review of Child Obesity is being carried out. If anyone has information to help on this matter she would be grateful to receive it although she is looking at the 'Amsterdam Model' where there has been a 12% reduction in obesity.

**SBDC Report-** Cllr D Smith reported:- (i) SBDC is still looking at installing temporary housing in Burnham near the Taplow border. Due to more stringent fire regulations after the Grenfell Tower disaster, there is only one supplier. The temporary housing has a high specification and guaranteed to last for 30 years. The scheme will save money in providing temporary short stay shelter for those going on to the housing list and planning permission on a Green Belt site with industrial permission can last between 5 to 10 years.

#### **196/17 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.**

**Cllr Woolvridge:** - (i) Padstone meeting; (ii) Tree cutting in Hedgerley Lane after the snow; (iii) Christmas Fair.

**Cllr J Chhokar:-** Meeting with a resident regards the Glade Development to discuss the planning process as the Developer was given planning permission without actually owning all the land.

**Cllr Lawson:-** (i) Christmas Fair, visited several businesses about Christmas light sponsorship and; (ii) The Christmas Fair.

**Cllr Holme:-** (i) Neighbourhood Plan meeting; (ii) Christmas Fair and; (iii) A discussion with David Brackin from Fulmer Parish Council to offer advice on starting up the Neighbourhood Plan process.

**Cllr Berntson:-** A meeting of the Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group at CSP. Louise Patten, the chief Officer, was there who recognises the pressures of CSP and Stoke Poges Medical centres with the growing demand and if the medical facilities are reshaped in the future then there could be the possibility of having one in GX.

**Cllr Orme:** – (i) Tree planting of the Christmas tree on West Common; (ii) Latchmore Pond site visit with the garden contractors; (iii) Neighbourhood Planning meeting and; (iv) The Christmas Fair.

**Cllr Scott:-** Manned the GXTC and BOOST stand at the Christmas Festival.

**Cllr Brown:-** (i) Development Control Committee meeting where he represented GXTC to object to the Wapsy Wood planning application; (ii) Parish Liaison meeting where there was a lot of discussion about the problem of fly-tipping and this will be on the next agenda. He talked with Martin Tett, Noel Brown and Neil Gibson about devolved pothole repair and had an assurance from Paul Irvine that a definite date will be forthcoming by next April once the legalities have been sorted out. Also discussed LAF with Noel Brown; (iii) Meeting with the new Manager at Tesco, Alan Larkin and Jackie, the Community Champion. Also happened to meet Dominic Grieve MP at the same time who was at Tesco's helping with the promotion of the Food Bank Campaign.

**Cllr Baker (by email):** - (i) 6<sup>th</sup> December, attended a public consultation/exhibition on Country Park proposal for SBDC 'The Lanes' golf centre in Stoke Poges, to be held at South Bucks Golf Club; (ii) 6<sup>th</sup> December – GX Christmas Festival.

**197/17 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office.**

- Chalfont St Peter Branch of NatWest will be closing in June, 2018. GX branch will remain.
- The Town Council office will close for Christmas as from 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, opening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**198/17 To confirm that the next meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Centre.**

**The meeting closed at 8.35 pm**

Signed.....

Date.....

Payments 11th December 2017						
Chq No/Bacs/DD	Payee	Net Exp.	VAT	Gross Exp		Transaction Details
	<b>Commons</b>					
BAC	Latchmore Garden Care	90.00		90.00		Strim Camp Rd Bridle Way
7134	P Collins	48.59		48.59		GXCV equipments and refreshments
BAC	Practicality Brown Ltd	2143.20		2143.20		O/s amount remaining for Christmas Tree
7135	Gpex	224.90	44.98	269.88	446.28	Signs for commons
	<b>Highways</b>					
BAC	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75.00	450.00	3450.00	Street lighting contract
BAC	Leigh Electrical	340.00	68.00	408.00		New head No. 22
DD	SSE Southern Electric	482.18	96.43	578.61		Unmetered Supply
BAC	Amersham TC	1809.56	361.91	2171.47		Devolved Highways Work
BAC	Leigh Electrical	1400.00	280.00	1680.00		To install christmas lights in GX High street, test all lights, store lights throughout the year and attend switch on night.
BAC	Leigh Electrical	760.00	152.00	912.00		To rewire and repair faulty sockets for Christmas Lights and materials and decorate Wildwood tree and new Christma tree on West Common.
	Gpex	63.00	12.60	75.60		Signs for Christmas light spoponsorship
	Gpex	84.00	16.80	100.80		Signs for Christmas light spoponsorship
7136	Network Rail	0.50	0.10	0.60		Rental p.a. electric cable
BAC	Windowflowers	1004.75	200.95	1205.70		Hanging baskets and planters quarterly maintenance charge.
	<b>General Admin</b>					
BAC	GXCA	155.50	0.00	155.50		Room hire
BAC	Viking	192.82	27.36	220.18		Stationery
7137	C Brown	24.90		24.90		Travel to BCC for meetings x 2
BAC	SLCC	208.00		208.00		Society of Local Council Clerks yearly membership
DD	Chess	109.28	21.86	131.14		telephone & broadband rental and charges
BAC	Pear Technology	225.00	45.00	270.00		Technical support and software updates
BAC	BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions	48.00		48.00		Credit
	<b>Council Office</b>					
BAC	Thames Boiler Service	195		195.00		Office boiler thermostat controla1
7138	Done N Dusted	1100.00		1100.00		Office decorating
	<b>Communications</b>					
BAC	Nexus	100.00	20.00	120.00		Monthly Office 365 and Ipad Support
Card	Microsoft E1	58.50	11.70	70.20		Office 365
Card	Microsoft 365 E3	30.00	6.00	36.00		Office 365
7139	D2D Distribution Ltd	350.00	70.00	420.00		VOICE distribution
	<b>BOOST/BKV</b>					
	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>					
BAC	Webfx	717.00	143.40	860.40		Final web site design and hosting for 1 year (£250).
7140	Planet evolving together	352.50	70.50	423.00		SG meeting on 25-4-17 (late invoice)
BAC	Total salaries	3695.21		3695.21		
	Bank Charges	12.95		12.95		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16400.34</b>	<b>1724.59</b>	<b>18124.93</b>		

Signed  
Chairman F&GP

Date

Budget for 2017/2018

	Expenditure excluding vat			Council meeting December 2017		
	Budget	From re-allocated Reserves	Grants	Budget Expenditure to 21st Nov-17 (exc VAT)	Expenditure - Earmarked Reserves	
<b>Budget 2017/18</b>						
<b>COMMONS</b>	£50,510.00	£13,455.00	£12,000	£15,966.42	£4,820.00	
<b>LIGHTING</b>	£21,901.00			£13,862.08		
<b>HIGHWAYS</b>	£44,200.00	£103,750.00		£22,383.37	£48,420.30	
<b>GRANTS</b>	£32,900.00	£785.00		£0.00	£785.00	
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	£10,690.00	£11,000.00		£4,040.50		
<b>BOOST/BKV</b>	£4,000.00	£3,000.00		£1,376.35		
<b>GENERAL ADMIN</b>	£14,440.00			£8,855.15		
<b>COUNCIL OFFICE</b>	£12,542.00			£6,356.54		
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b>	£0.00	£10,000.00			£3,015.45	
<b>SALARIES</b>	£69,000.00			£35,938.47		
<b>PRECEPT / TOTAL</b>	£260,183.00	£141,990.00		£108,778.88	£57,040.75	