

# Gerrards Cross Town Council

South Lodge, East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD 01753 888018

Clerk to the Council - Mrs S Moffat clerk@gerrardscross.gov.uk

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## Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.

**Present:** Cllr C Brown (Chairman), Cllr Berntson, Cllr J Chhokar, Cllr N Holmes, Cllr M Lawson, Cllr J O'Keeffe, Cllr H Orme, Cllr Roberts, Cllr T Scott, Cllr J Woolveridge.

**In Attendance:** SBDC Cllr D Smith, Mr and Mrs Gordon, Ms Holloway and Sue Moffat (Town Clerk).

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

**153/17 To accept apologies of absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr M Baker, Cllr I Bayliss, BCC&SBDC Cllr B Gibbs and SBDC Cllr S Chhokar

**154/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

At the proposition of Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge, these Minutes were agreed by Council and signed. Cllr J Chhokar queried the complaint raised by the Town Clerk to SBDC and the decision making process in doing this. Cllr Brown responded that this was made due to a South Bucks District Councillor questioning the legality of the Town Clerk's advice and interrupted the meeting speaking in a way that could influence the decision making of the Town Council. The Town Clerk did discuss with the Chairman before any action was taken and in this specific situation the correct process was carried out.

**155/17 Public speaking from residents on matters relevant to the meeting's agenda.**

Ms Holloway said, although she has just recently moved to Beaconsfield, she has lived in GX for 50 years so still has an interest in the town. She is not opposed to the change of title of 'Chairman' to 'Mayor' but believes there should be 2 positions being a 'Mayor' acting in an honorary role who is elected each year so councillors can aspire to taking on this role, and a 'Chairman' who carries out the executive role and may remain the same person for more than one year, similar to what happens in Beaconsfield. She also believes that the public should be consulted on this issue.

Mr Gordon said on the matter of changing the title of 'Chairman' to 'Mayor' he can see no point in the change as there will be no difference in standing and the office of Chairman already holds respect with the public.

**156/17 To confirm the minutes of the following meetings:-**

**1. Commons Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 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. In response to the work being carried out at Latchmore Pond, Cllr Berntson made an urgent request that the chemical 'glyphosate' is not used in future to kill weeds. Cllr Orme responded that the use of glyphosate was recommended by a professional company that has expertise in this field and she has been informed that the chemical will not harm wildlife in the pond. However she will take on Cllr Berntson concerns and, after further research, will bring this matter to the Commons Committee for consideration.

## **2. Highways Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**

Cllr Holmes confirmed the Minutes and gave a brief summary. He added that the SPWP have had a recent meeting and commenced the Strategic Parking Review for Gerrards Cross. Also GXTC has hosted a meeting with Stakeholders (Network Rail and Chiltern Rail, BCC , SBDC) to discuss enlarging the Station car park which was a positive meeting. An holistic approach was agreed and another meeting will be held in November to discuss further the possibility of carrying out a Feasibility Study.

Cllr Scott reported that as a resident of Bulstrode Way she campaigned many years for double yellow lines as parked cars made it very dangerous exiting driveways and she would not want to see these removed. Also queried that if there was increase in parking fees to prevent commuters using Station Road car park this would also have an effect on those using hairdressers etc. Cllr Holmes responded that the structure of the parking fees would alleviate this problem e.g. different fees for 1 hr, 2-3hrs and all day parking. Cllr O’Keeffe reported that at present 1hr is £1.20, up to 4hrs is £3.10 and up to 24 hours is £3.50 so this structure does not deter commuters.

## **3. Planning Committee Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

Cllr O’Keeffe confirmed the planning minutes and gave a brief summary of the contents highlighting those planning applications where objections were raised. Also the matter was raised on non-permeable drives being allowed and this will be discussed further at a future Planning meeting

## **4. Planning Committee Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

Cllr Chhokar confirmed the planning minutes and gave a brief summary of the contents highlighting those planning applications where objections were raised. He pointed out that the response to Wapseys Wood was included in these Minutes regards the application for the development of a waste recovery and anaerobic digestion facility

## **157/17 Communications Working Party Updates**

The Minutes of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were proposed by Cllr Lawson and agreed. He highlighted Cllr Baker’s request for articles for VOICE and that there will be 2 new replacement noticeboards in Packhorse Rd by the bridge which will be stainless steel, similar to the street furniture outside Tescos.

## **158/17 Boost Update and future plans including the Best Kept Village Competition**

Cllr Lawson reported there were only 4 volunteers at the last BOOST WP in September which was disappointing. It was agreed to enter the Best Kept Village competition next year. The BOOST awards have been completed today after receiving information on GXTA membership of which there are 22 members. At the BOOST SG WP held today it was proposed to disband the ‘business leaders’. Instead it was proposed to identify key business personnel in the town to promote the concept of BOOST with their neighbouring businesses. Cllr Lawson went on to say he went with the Chairman to present the BOOST award to IHG HQ in recognition of the 26 volunteers working on the commons, road and GXCA’s jumble sale during their Community Volunteer week.

Also a Christmas Festival meeting was held last week and the design of the flyer and sales document was agreed. Businesses will be approached to sponsor adverts for the Rotary’s Charity and sponsor Christmas lights which will go to GXTC as a donation towards the cost of the lights.

## **159/17 Neighbourhood Plan update**

### **1. Updates**

(i) Cllr Holmes reported:-The Steering Group is gradually progressing but always difficult when members come and go but the core membership remains. The first public meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> November is going ahead. Cllr Orme has worked with a sub-group to design and print a leaflet to be distributed to all households on 1<sup>st</sup> November and will be handed out to people at Tescos on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. After collating the information received at the public meeting, sub-groups will be set up to work on the specific topics as determined by the public.

(ii) Cllr Orme reported:- A temporary NP web site has been set up and the Website Company has offered free professional photographs as part of the service.

2. **Resolved** to approve the expenditure of £767.20 for the design and printing of the leaflet and invitation to the Public Meeting and £525 for the distribution of this literature.

**160/17 To resolve the change of title from Chairman to Mayor for Gerrards Cross Town Council**

Cllr Brown explained that it is quite usual for the leader of a town to be called the Mayor. A 'Mayor', the same as a 'Chairman' has no executive role and the only powers are to chair meetings, to have the casting vote if required in the decision making process and to represent the Council at formal occasions. He believes that having a Mayor would enhance GXTC's credibility in dealing with outside organisations and higher tiers of Government.

**8.20pm Cllr Roberts joined the meeting.**

An in-depth discussion took place regards the advantages and disadvantages of changing the title during which Cllr Brown confirmed that there would be no increase in the precept if the change took place as the difference is in title only.

**Resolved** to defer this agenda item to the Council meeting in January 2018 in order to have time to consult with the public. It was agreed for Cllr Brown to write a short, positive, article (after being agreed by councillors) on this matter, to be published in the November edition of VOICE so that all residents of Gerrards Cross have the opportunity to comment. Members of the Council will then be able to make a considered decision at the January meeting.

**161/17 To consider any changes to the Christmas drinks evening after the December Council meeting.**

It was agreed to hold the Christmas Drinks evening in the bar which is a more convivial environment.

**162/17 To approve payments for October 2017**

Cllr Orme proposed the payment schedule and this was approved by Council.

**163/17 Report from County and District Councillors.**

**Cllr Smith (SBDC) reported:-** (i) He apologised for any upset caused at the last Council meeting but he believes he was giving his personal advice on the matter of changing the title of Chairman to Mayor and was saddened that a complaint had been made by the Clerk; (ii) The Leader of SBDC has stepped down and there will be a formal election of the new chairman this coming Thursday after which a new Cabinet will be formed; (iii) If a new Cabinet is in place then there could be changes to the future of re-building Station Road car park; (iv) All 3 district councillors attended the first meeting of Denham and Gerrards Cross Local Area Forum. He supported GXTC application for LAF funding towards CCTV cameras in the High Street and this was agreed. Denham Parish Council's proposals for funding were not so well described or costed. There is no strong desire by district councillors to allocate much time to this LAF but will continue to ensure the LAF funding is distributed fairly.

**164/17 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.**

**Cllr Woolveridge:-** (i) Padstone meeting; (ii) Age Concern Committee meeting and organised a Tea Party at GXCA where 100 people attended; (iii) GXCV last Saturday with 11 volunteers.

**Cllr Chhokar:-** Nothing to report.

**Cllr Holmes:-** (i) Meeting with stakeholders on Station car park Feasibility Study; (ii) NP SG and sub-group meeting and; (iii) Distributing NP leaflets at Tesco's last Saturday.

**Cllr Lawson:-** (i) Was to have a meeting with Billy Irvine's fun fair for Christmas open evening but Billy went sick; (ii) Presentation of BOOST award at IHG HQ with CB; (iii) Meeting with stakeholders on Station car park Feasibility Study (iv) Festival Committee and; (v) Site inspection of proposed locations of CCTV cameras with JO.

**Cllr Roberts reported:** (i) Helped distribute NP leaflets outside Tesco's; (ii) Denham ATC Presentation evening. 30 new recruits so hopefully the article in VOICE helped.

**Cllr O'Keeffe reported:-** Site inspection of proposed locations of CCTV cameras with ML.

**Cllr T Scott reported:** Nothing to report.

**Cllr Orme reported** (i) Neighbourhood Plan SG and sub-group meetings; (ii) NP web site meeting; (iii) Latchmore pond site visit with Grounds Maintenance Contractors to discuss pond work; (iv) Bentinck Close Residents Association meeting

**Cllr Brown reported:-** (i) Regular site inspections of block paving and traffic works in town centre; (ii) Useful meeting with Rosie Taylor on Highways issues including potholes; (iii) Survey major hedge cutting work along Mill Lane with ATC; (iv) Denham and Gerrards Cross LAF meeting with the Clerk but left at the beginning of the meeting as Chairman was not willing to discuss GXTC's stance that there is no need for a LAF. The cost of holding these meetings and officer time involved does not warrant a forum to award the small quantity of funds distributed (c. £20 k this year). He is working with Cllr Gibbs regards the future of this LAF and will be writing to Martin Tett; (v) Presentation of BOOST award at IHG HQ with ML; (vi) Visit to Burgess Hill with Mark Averell and Mark Richardson from ATC to look at Devolved Pothole work. Mark Averell will be discussing the possibility of doing the same at Bucks with Mark Shaw and Neil Gibson; (vii) SPWP; (viii) Meeting with stakeholders on Station car park Feasibility Study; (ix) Had a meeting with Dominic Grieve MP on presumed liability i.e. to adopt in the UK that where there is a traffic accident that the fault is deemed to be the larger vehicle; also ask for the implementation of a proposed change to the Highways Act, to allow consultations to be made electronically, rather than by post and newspaper advert. Mr Grieve undertook to write to Chris Grayling, the Minister for Transport on these items; (x) Tesco traffic lights meeting; (xi) To note CB has just circulated the power point presentations from TfB conference and Parish Liaison meetings.

**165/17 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office.**

- Royal British Legion Remembrance Service Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 10.40am by the War Memorial

**166/17 To confirm that the next meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Centre.**

**The meeting closed at 10.05 pm**

Signed.....

Date.....

Payments 16th October 2017							
Chq No/Bacs/DD	Payee	Net Exp.	VAT	Gross Exp		Transaction Details	
<b>Commons</b>							
191	BAC	Latchmore Garden Care	95.00		95.00		Strim footpath at bridleway at The Camp and Wildwood
192	BAC	R B Tree Masters Ltd	3850.00	770.00	4620.00		Tree work from Roadside Tree Survey
<b>Highways</b>							
193	BAC	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75.00	450.00	906.00	Street lighting contract
194	BAC	Leigh Electrical	380.00	76.00	456.00		Hedgerley Lane repair and cut back trees
195	DD	SSE Southern Electric	498.06	99.61	597.67		Unmetered Supply
196	BAC	Amersham TC	1835.00	367.02	2202.12		Devolved Highways Work and materials for road sign
197	BAC	S.S.C. Public Works & LA Contractors	44749.20	8949.84	53699.04		Station Rd and P/H Rd block paving works
<b>General Admin</b>							
198	BAC	GXCA	101.00	0.00	101.00		Room hire NP
199	7108	The Royal British Legion	20.00				Remembrance wreath
200	DD	Chess	110.97	22.19	133.16		Telephone and broadband
201	DD	Chess	260.00	52.00	312.00		Telephone annual support charge
202	BAC	Came & Company	1271.22		1271.22		Annual Insurance
203	BAC	Mazars	625.00	125.00	750.00		External Audit
204	BAC	Viking	63.66	12.73	76.39		Stationery
<b>Council Office</b>							
205	BAC	GXCA	1375		1375.00		Quarterly Ground rent
206	BAC	Castle Water	168.57		168.57		Waste Water 7/7/16 to 30/9/16
207	DD	British Gas	54.40	2.72	57.12		Gas quarterly charge
<b>Communications</b>							
208	BAC	Nexus	100.00	20.00	120.00		Monthly Office 365 and Ipad Support
209	Card	Microsoft E1	58.50	11.70	70.20		Office 365
210	Card	Microsoft 365 E3	30.00	6.00	36.00		Office 365
<b>BOOST/BKV</b>							
211		Windowflowers	611.00	122.20	733.20		Annual Maintenance charge of flower troughs
<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>							
212	7109	Girl Guiding	105.00		105.00		Hire of Guide Hut for 11th Nov
213	BAC	Webfx	180.00	36.00	216.00		30% deposit for web site
214	7110	Planet (Evolving Together)	325.00	65.00	390.00		NP Consultancy work - July
215	BAC	Total salaries	3710.14		3710.14		
216		Bank Charges	12.25		12.25		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>60963.97</b>	<b>10813.01</b>	<b>71776.98</b>		

Signed  
Chairman F&GP

Date

Budget for 2017/2018

	Expenditure excluding vat			Council meeting October 2017	
	Budget	From re-allocated Reserves	Grants	Budget Expenditure to 17 Aug-17 (exc VAT)	Expenditure - Earmarked Reserves
Budget 2017/18					
COMMONS	£50,510.00	£13,455.00	£12,000	£3,006.42	£0.00
LIGHTING	£21,901.00			£11,531.84	
HIGHWAYS	£44,200.00	£103,750.00		£19,398.27	£1,971.10
GRANTS	£32,900.00	£785.00		£0.00	£785.00
COMMUNICATION	£10,690.00	£11,000.00		£2,935.50	
BOOST/BKV	£4,000.00	£3,000.00		£705.35	
GENERAL ADMIN	£14,440.00			£5,213.01	
COUNCIL OFFICE	£12,542.00			£4,554.38	
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	£0.00	£10,000.00			£1,635.45
SALARIES	£69,000.00			£26,599.27	
PRECEPT / TOTAL	£260,183.00	£141,990.00		£73,944.04	£4,391.55