

# Gerrards Cross Town Council

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

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## Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.

**Present:** Cllr C Brown (Chairman), Cllr M Baker Cllr I Bayliss, Cllr Berntson, Cllr N Holmes, Cllr J O'Keefe, Cllr H Orme, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr T Scott and Cllr J Woolveridge.

**In Attendance:** SBDC Cllr D Smith, S Rosser, N Brown and Sue Moffat (Town Clerk).

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

**211/17 To accept apologies of absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr J Chhokar, BCC/SBDC Cllr B Gibbs, SBDC Cllr S Chhokar and I Gordon.

At this point, Cllr Holmes requested the opportunity to mention the resignation of Cllr Mike Lawson and to thank him for his experience, tenacity and knowledge in carrying out his duties as a town councillor. The Chairman, Cllr Brown, confirmed the resignation of Cllr Lawson and acknowledged and thanked him for all the hard work he had done for Gerrards Cross Town Council.

**212/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.**

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

**213/17 Public speaking from residents on matters relevant to the meeting's agenda.** Neil Brown spoke, on behalf of being an Associate Councillor and as the official Marketing Manager of GX Youth Club Committee to say that he supported BOOST as being a good organisation to have in GX and also to help with events and the Youth Club.

**214/17 To confirm the minutes of the following meetings:-**

**1. Commons Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

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 and added that a demonstration of the use of Foamstream has been arranged with Weedingtech for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and anyone who wishes to attend would be welcomed. The Commons Committee are looking for an alternative method to the use of the weedkiller, glyphosate, in order to eradicate Crassula in the ponds but recognise that the use of glyphosate should be determined on a case by case basis for other demands throughout the town. Cllr Orme also emphasised the importance of reporting any vandalism. Cllr Woolveridge highlighted that reporting must be increasing as the Bucks Free Press has Gerrards Cross high up on the list for reported crimes of this type. Cllr Roberts reported that he believes that dog fouling is on the increase and it was agreed to put a short article on this in the next VOICE. Lastly Cllr Orme suggested publishing the new sign for The Camp to remind people of the history of the site.

## **2. Highways Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

At the proposition of Cllr Holmes, seconded by Cllr O’Keeffe, the Minutes of the Highways meeting were agreed by Council and signed and Cllr Holmes gave a brief summary of the Minutes. Cllr Brown wished to emphasise that his comment to ‘review the quadrants’ was meant to be a positive comment to encourage greater participation to help make reporting Highways defects work more effective. Cllr Bayliss highlighted that GX Strategic Parking Review has been completed for agreement by the Highways Committee and then ratification by Council. If this is all passed then GXTC will need to discuss the way forward with a Bucks CC Officer. Concern was raised about the recent changes to the parking charges in Station Road car park with the introduction of 11 one hour parking spaces. The Town Clerk explained that SBDC Officers have delegated powers to introduce these to alleviate the problem of all day parking. However SBDC are in the process of carrying out a review of parking charges which will soon be available for public consultation. Cllr Holmes went on to say that discussions are still in hand with all the relevant stakeholders to look at increasing the Station car park with the main aim to address the parking problem of commuters. Cllr Roberts informed the Council that after further research on water gathering on Lower Road, this is not all caused by South Park but also due to shortage of gulleys in Marsham Lane. Lastly Cllr Orme added that the new technique of ‘Foamstream’ is also reported to be effective in removing moss.

## **3. Planning Committee Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

Cllr O’Keeffe confirmed the planning minutes and gave a brief summary of the contents highlighting those planning applications where objections were raised

### **215/17 Communications Working Party Updates**

Cllr Baker reported that no further meetings have been held since 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. With the departure of M Lawson another member is required to be quorate and hoping to hold the next meeting at 11am on 1<sup>st</sup> March. N Brown offered to attend if he is available.

**216/17 BOOST Updates** – It was recognised that the principle of BOOST to draw all the organisations together was an important aspect of a thriving town. However engaging the business community, which is a vital part of this venture, has proven to be difficult. It was agreed to have a BOOST Working Party, inviting all councillors, to re-define and clarify the aims and objectives of BOOST to present to the next Council meeting to agree the way forward on this matter.

### **217/17 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) update**

Cllr Holmes reported there has been no further meetings as awaiting the results of the consultancy work which has recently been completed so a skeleton Neighbourhood Plan should be forthcoming.

Cllr Orme asked for approval of the Consultants invoice of £1416.06 which was approved by Council.

### **218/17 To consider any changes in the format of the Annual Town Meeting with the electorate on 11<sup>th</sup>**

**April, 2018.** It was agreed for each Chairperson of the Committees i.e. Finance, Commons, Highways, Planning to present a short report in addition to the Chairman’s report. Each report would have a one page power point presentation on a Town Council formatted template. All reports to be publically available on line one week before the meeting. Questions from the public will be allowed at the end of the meeting as usual. It was also agreed for Cllr O’Keeffe to provide some training in the use of microphones to ensure the smooth running of the public meeting. Other organisations such as the Youth Club and Neighbourhood Plan Group would be welcomed to have their own stand at the event.

### **219/17 It was agreed to accept the invitation from Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant and the High**

**Sheriff of Buckinghamshire** for Gerrards Cross Town Council to organise for the Town Chairman to read a Proclamation following the Death of Her Majesty The Queen when the occasion arises. Location to be decided.

### **220/17 To decide any projects to put forward for funding in 2018-19 from Denham and Gerrards**

**Cross Local Area Forum** (approximately £10,000 would be available if the budget is agreed by LAF to be shared between stakeholders) – Two proposals suggested were:- (i) To plant more trees in the streets and ; (ii) To carry out a Feasibility Study for a zebra crossing in East Common close to the junction with

Mill Lane. However it was decided to defer the final decision until the next Council meeting to allow more time for consideration.

**221/17 Late application for a grant from Gerrards Cross and Fulmer Scouts due to unexpected repair works to the Scout building** - At the proposition of Cllr Bayliss, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge it was agreed for GXTC to provide a grant from Gerrards Cross and Fulmer Scout Group of £600.

**222/17 To approve payments for February 2018**

Cllr Bayliss proposed the payment schedule and this was approved by Council. Cllr Bayliss, Chairman of Finance Committees went on to say that he had a Finance meeting with the Vice-Chairperson, Cllr Orme, and the Town Clerk. A thorough inspection of the accounts was made and the budget is looking healthy.

**8.38pm Cllr Scott left the meeting.**

**223/17 Report from County and District Councillors.**

**Bucks CC – Cllr Gibbs** sent the following report:- Bucks CC have money to maintain the major roads to try to ensure that they do not deteriorate and then about £3 million a year to repair all the minor and residential roads. There is a back log of £170 million. We get about £150K of the £3 million which means about one side road a year apart from mending dangerous potholes. With this in mind although our LAT (local area technician) does visit regularly we need to help by letting the appropriate people know if there are potholes of a minimum of the following size :- 40mm deep, 300mm across and Straight edged (take the wall of a tyre out). The phone numbers to call to report potholes are from 9 to 5 Mon to Fri 01294 382 416 and out of hours 01296 486 630 or use the website on [www.transportforbucks.net](http://www.transportforbucks.net). It is worth reporting 'in your opinion' dangerous potholes as the LAT will come and look and may be able to remedy the situation. For information, the damage caused by one journey of an average HGV does the same amount of damage to the substructure of the road as 65,000 cars. To put this into further context there are 20,000 cars a day on our busiest roads so one HGV does the same damage as three days' worth of cars on a really busy road.

Wapsey's Wood- Cllr Gibbs has contacted both County and District enforcement teams and County has responded to say it is South Bucks who need to deal with the problem now. But as yet no response received from South Bucks. Cllr Gibbs has asked that it should be a priority and will follow up with the appropriate cabinet member, John Reed.

Slade's Farm - Permission is being sought again to develop Slade's Farm for gravel extraction and to then reinstate it as agricultural land. There is no mention of wanting a cement batching plant as well. This at least is to be welcomed as the dust from one of these could, she suspects, not only be harmful to people with impaired lung function and children living close by but also to the ancient trees in Burnham Beeches. This comes before the DevCon Committee, of which Cllr Gibbs is a member, on Wednesday of this week. Hedgerley Parish Council have an agent making representation. This is in the light of the needs highlighted in the emerging County plan for mineral and gravel extraction.

**SBDC Report- Cllr D Smith** reported:- (i) SBDC has carried out a review on charges in car parks bearing in mind shoppers taking first priority, local workers second priority and third commuter parking. The proposed charges are 1hr -£1.50, 2hrs - £2.10, 3hrs - £3.70, 4hrs - £4.50, 9hrs - £8 and 24hrs - £10. With these parking charges in place, the Officers have analysed that there should be a loss of 75% of long term parking. These charges will be in place for one year, 2018/19. Weekly and monthly season tickets will only be issued to local residents and workers. A public consultation on these charges will commence shortly; (ii) Still no decision has been made by the Secretary of State on Unitary Authorities and; (iii) No more updates on the Local Plan until next May.

**224/17 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.**

**Cllr Bayliss:-** (i) Finance meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February with Cllr Orme and the Town Clerk; (ii) Site visit of Latchmore and New Ponds with an Environmental expert.

**Cllr Orme:** – (i) Finance meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February with Cllr Bayliss and the Town Clerk; (ii) Site visit of Latchmore and New Ponds with an Environmental expert to prepare estimates to carry out a healthcheck and an annual programme of maintenance. (iii) Meeting with Weedingtech to discuss Foamstream.

**Cllr Roberts** – (i) He was misinformed at DAEC and his report from the last Council meeting that 'the flying side at Northolt Airport is shutting down' is unfounded; (ii) He attended a meeting at Maidenhead

on the 'Third Runway' and Gerrards Cross will be consulted when the consultation on the 'routing' of the third runway takes place.

**Cllr O'Keeffe:-** GX Conservation Volunteer morning.

**Cllr Holmes:-** SBALC.

**Cllr Baker:-** GXTC preliminary meeting of Medical Centres in the area.

**Cllr Berntson:-** (i) Community Health meeting at Chalfont St Peter discussing ways to push healthcare into the community; (ii) GXTC preliminary meeting of Medical Centres in the area. A meeting has been arranged for the GXTC Medical Working Party to meet Lou Patten, CO of NHS Chiltern CCG and Bucks NHS Trust.

**Cllr Woolvridge:-** (i) GXCV – 12 volunteers turned up to work clearing trees around perimeter of New Pond which is nearly completed and; (ii) Today had a 2.5hr meeting of Trustees of Padstone discussing the merger with Connection Support; (iii) Whilst reporting some flytipping of builders rubble in Hawkswood Lane, SBDC are now saying it should be reported in a different way. Cllr Woolveridge will check and report back; (iv) Handycross roundabout was closed last weekend and for the next 2 weekends which is causing very heavy congestion so best to avoid the area.

**Cllr Brown:-** (i) SBALC meeting and interestingly other parishes are having the same problem with the lack of medical facilities so will be inviting Lou Patten to the next meeting; (ii) Denham and GX LAF where discussing the usual problems of travellers, fallen trees not being cleared but found out that Windor Road and Layters Way have been nominated to be resurfaced in the next financial year; (iii) GXTC preliminary meeting of Medical Centres in the area.

**225/17 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office.**

- (i) SBDC News Release that SBDC has been awarded £4.4million towards Bucks CC to build a relief road in Beaconsfield;
- (ii) SBALC Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Cllr J Chhokar pointed out that the minutes were incorrect regards GXTC running the Pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. This had already been noted by Cllr Baker. Also Cllr J Chhokar enquired why it was not raised in GXTC's report that GXTC are considering having a Mayor instead of a Chairman as he believes this could be a good forum to obtain some non-binding external feedback on our proposal from other towns/villages of a similar size and perhaps they too would be interested in pursuing a similar course in the future. However Cllr Brown did not believe this topic was pertinent to this forum as, apart from Beaconsfield, all those involved are parishes. Also need to keep to the top 4 priority topics so as not to prolong the meeting.
- (iii) 'Be a Good Neighbour' scheme;
- (iv) Keep Britain Tidy - Great British Spring Clean 2-4 March 2018

**226/17 To confirm that the next meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Centre.**

**The meeting closed at 9.04 pm**

Signed.....  


Date.....  
19/3/2018.

Payments 19th February 2018						
Chq No/B acs/DD	Payee	Net Exp.	VAT	Gross Exp		Transaction Details
	<b>Commons</b>					
BAC	Practacity Brown	9000.00	1800.00	10800.00	11868.00	East Common holly mulching
BAC	Practacity Brown	890.00	178.00	1068.00		Conifer hedge Camp Rd bridleway
BAC	Pyramid Consulting	1350.00		1350.00	1350.00	Survey of specimen trees in GX
BAC	The Garden Company	8400.00	1680.00	10080.00	10080.00	Latchmore pond Refurbishment
BAC	Fineland Forestry	290.00	58.00	348.00	348.00	Remove fallen Ash, East Common
Card	Trinity Mirror	378.49	75.70	454.19	454.19	Public notice advert, container, East Common
BAC	Pear Technology Services Ltd	40.00	20.00	60.00	60.00	Importing tree survey data and creating PDF maps
	<b>Highways</b>					
BAC	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75.00	450.00	1338.00	Street lighting contract
BAC	Leigh Electrical	740.00	148.00	888.00		Replace post hit by car and elec feed 242 Daleside
DD	SSE Southern Electric	482.18	96.43	578.61	578.61	Unmetered Supply
BAC	Amersham TC	1809.56	361.91	2171.47	2171.47	Devolved Highways Work
BAC	SSE Networks	736.76	147.35	884.11	884.11	Connection charges cols. 244 and 234 (Daleside and Fulmer Drive)
	<b>General Admin</b>					
BAC	GXCA	73.00	0.00	73.00	73.00	Room hire
DD	Chess	112.19	22.44	134.63	134.63	telephone & broadband rental and charges
BAC	Beverly Simpson & Co Ltd	150.00		150.00	150.00	Quarterly internal audit
BAC	BNP Paribas	264.97	52.99	317.96	317.96	Quarterly photocopier lease
	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>					
BAC	Planet (Evolving Together)	1180.05	236.01	1416.06	1416.06	Consultancy fees
	<b>BOOST</b>					
290	BKV Competition	25.00		25.00	25.00	BKV entry fee
	<b>Council Office</b>					
BAC	Affinity Water	61.94		61.94	61.94	Clean Water quarterly charge
	<b>Communications</b>					
BAC	Nexus	100.00	20.00	120.00	120.00	Monthly Office 365 and Ipad Support
Card	Microsoft E1	78.00	15.60	93.60	135.84	Office 365
Card	Microsoft 365 E3	35.20	7.04	42.24		Office 365
BAC	Total salaries	3954.47		3954.47	3954.47	
	Bank Charges	7.70		7.70	7.70	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30534.51</b>	<b>4994.47</b>	<b>35528.98</b>	<b>35528.98</b>	

Signed  
Chairman F&GP

Date

*J. J. Bayliss*  
19/2/18

Budget for 2017/2018

	Expenditure excluding vat		Council Meeting February 2018			
	Budget	From re-allocated Reserves	Grants	Budget Expenditure to 11th Dec-17 (exc VAT)	Expenditure - Earmarked Reserves	Grants Expenditure
<b>Budget 2017/18</b>						
<b>COMMONS</b>	£50,510.00	£15,241.00	£14,000	£20,884.91	£18,706.00	£ 12,100.00
<b>LIGHTING</b>	£21,901.00			£16,028.76		
<b>HIGHWAYS</b>	£44,200.00	£103,750.00		£27,898.30	£58,966.30	
<b>GRANTS</b>	£32,900.00	£785.00		£0.00	£785.00	
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	£10,690.00	£11,000.00		£5,067.50		
<b>BOOST/BKV</b>	£4,000.00	£3,000.00		£1,401.35	£2,210.45	
<b>GENERAL ADMIN</b>	£14,440.00			£10,125.52		
<b>COUNCIL OFFICE</b>	£12,542.00			£7,795.04		
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b>	£0.00	£10,000.00			£5,503.90	
<b>SALARIES</b>	£69,000.00			£43,272.37		
<b>PRECEPT / TOTAL</b>	£260,183.00	£143,776.00		£132,473.75	£86,171.65	£ 12,100.00