

Gerrards Cross Town Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 19th November 2018 at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.

Present: Cllr C Brown (Chairman), Cllr Bayliss, Cllr J Chhokar, Cllr N Holmes, Cllr J O’Keeffe, Cllr H Orme, Cllr J Palmiero, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr T Scott, Cllr E Surkovic, Cllr A Wood and Cllr J Woolveridge.

In Attendance: BCC Cllr R Reed, SBDC Cllr D Smith, Cllr S Chhokar (joined meeting at 7:40pm) and Clair McCoy (Asst. Town Clerk).

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

79/18 To accept apologies of absence – none

80/18 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15th October 2018.

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

81/18 Public speaking from residents on matters relevant to the meeting’s agenda.

Members of the public in attendance: Mr I. Gordon, Mr P. Harker

Mr P Harker wished to update Council on the three items he had brought to Council’s attention at the 17th September meeting (item 57/18):

- Concrete remains of gun placement – Mr Harker thanked Council for provision of a temporary sign which he had put in place for Remembrance Day 11/11/18. Mr Harker also reported that he was not sure that the description he had provided for the sign was correct.
- Gates at Raylands Mead – Mr Harker thanked Council for investigating the ‘listed’ status of the gates. The gates are not listed.
- Heatherside, E. Common, delisting and demolition – Mr Harker noted with regret the loss of the property.

82/18 To confirm the minutes of the following meetings:-

1. Commons Committee held on 5th November 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.

2. Highways Committee held on 5th November 2018

At the proposition of Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Orme, the Minutes of the Highways meeting were agreed by Council and signed. Cllr Brown gave a brief summary of the contents of the Minutes. He and Cllr O’Keeffe had met with Tesco (16/11/18) regarding the Packhorse Road lights and crossings. Cllr Brown suggested that GXTC should send an FOI request to BCC to ask for clarity on where and when Phase 2 documentation had been discussed. Cllr Surkovic asked that item 7 on the Highways minutes should be redacted because it stated where the CCTV images were being stored.

3. Planning Committee Meeting on 22nd October and 12th November 2018.

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

4. Finance & general Purposes Committee Meeting on 29th October 2018.

Minutes were proposed by Cllr Bayliss, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge and agreed by Council and signed. Cllr Holmes reported on the closure of the GX Youth Club with regard to the grant that was agreed (8. (i)). It was agreed to keep the grant 'on hold' while efforts were made to keep the Youth Club going. GXTC to use social media posting to try to generate some interest. Cllr Brown said that we should try to resurrect the club. Cllr Woolveridge thanked Cllr Holmes for being on the Youth Club committee. Cllr Orme agreed to mention the closure at the next Neighbourhood Plan meeting to see if anyone was interested.

83/18 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) update

Cllr Holmes reported that the Questionnaire had been finalised and sent out for delivery with November issue of VOICE. Unfortunately, delivery had been very hit and miss with some roads being omitted and in some cases individual houses in roads missed. Delivery company has been made aware and they have done extra runs to try to remedy. Boxes for return of completed questionnaires had been distributed. Cllr Surkovic wanted to thank the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee for the professional look and organisation of the questionnaire.

Expenditure was approved for website – WebFx £348 and for consultancy – Planet £834

84/18 Communications

- (i) VOICE – November Issue had been delivered. Cllr Wood thought it was a good issue and thanked all concerned
- (ii) Events – Christmas Festival evening – Cllr Scott asked for volunteers for the GXTC stand. Cllrs Orme, Bayliss and Woolveridge volunteered time.
- (iii) Dates for the Diary – no additional dates/events reported

85/18 Resolved to agree the precept for 2019/2020 to be £288,360 as recommended by the F&GP Minutes of 29th October 2018 and the budget for 2019/2020 to be set the same (as attached with F&GP Minutes). This will be a 2.2% increase in precept.
Agreed unanimously.

86/18 Resolved to approve payments for November 2018

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

87/18 Report from County and District Councillor

BCC Report- Cllr R Reed reported: Decision had been taken for the Single Unitary Council, effective from April 2020. Elections for District Councils due in May 2019 may not take place. There was still a question regarding whether or not Parish and Town Council elections would take place in 2019. 5 local hubs are detailed in the Single Unitary Council business case. BCC had wanted assurance that no more tax-payers money would be spent fighting the Single Unitary Council decision but such assurance had been declined by the leader of SBDC who may take it to judicial review. Cllr Reed said that BCC was looking forward to both BCC and District Councils being abolished to make way for the completely new single authority. Cllr Reed was very much in favour especially in terms of the service provision. The business case allowed for 98 Councillors for the first term of the new unitary council, double the 49 that BCC has at the moment but considerably fewer than the 147 proposed in the District Councils 2-unitary model.

Cllr Roberts asked if Cllr Reed could confirm whether or not any boundary changes would be made.

Cllr Reed said that he could neither confirm nor comment on any boundary changes.

Cllr O'Keeffe asked if Milton Keynes was in Buckinghamshire. Cllr D Smith (SBDC) confirmed that Milton Keynes was not in the administrative County of Bucks but was in the historic county. Cllr Reed confirmed that Milton Keynes had been hived off as a separate administrative area.

SBDC Report- Cllr D Smith reported: (i) Regarding the Single Unitary Council, the interim number of Councillors would be 200+ (all of BCC and all Districts). The decision on a judicial review had not been ruled in or out. Cllr Smith's personal view was that it was unlikely. There was no indication as to how the Interim Exec would be set up. With regard to the business cases, the BCC Single Unitary case had not included transformation costs whereas the 2-unitary case did. Cllr Smith said that District will accept the final decision and try to make it work but it was going to be difficult to move forward until the Interim Exec and numbers of Councillors had been confirmed. (ii) Cllr Smith pointed out that the previous GXTC Full Council Minutes (15th October 2018) had stated (75/18) that the plans for the car park in Station Road had "been delayed due to a Judicial Review being lodged". This was incorrect as no review had been lodged and the time had now passed. There could still be a Judicial Review regarding the process of delivering the business case.

Cllr O'Keeffe asked if the timeframe for the car park to be built was therefore delayed. Cllr Smith said that a one year delay was likely but it could be less than a year.

SBDC Report- Cllr S Chhokar reported: (i) Regarding the Single Unitary Council, the decision had been made and the guiding principle should be for both sides (BCC and District) to make the best of it. It requires both sides to work together. Town and Parish Councils should make a strong representation to illustrate how they will fit into the new scheme. Cllr Chhokar suggested convening a working party to put something forward. (ii) Cllr Chhokar explained that the Planning Permission for the Station Road Car Park is now in place but he and other colleagues had wanted to understand the financial case: in particular the financial viability of the scheme, the future use of the car park given likely changes in car ownership behaviour, and whether sufficient and effective public consultation had taken place. Cllr Chhokar and colleagues had raised their concerns at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Although Cllr Chhokar but did not feel that their queries had been answered fully, the Committee gave the go-ahead to the business case.

Cllr Brown asked if anything could now stop the car park being built. Cllr Reed said that the time period for lodging a Judicial Review would be passed in mid-January. Once that time had passed, the plans would proceed. Cllr Reed said that residents could lodge a Judicial Review if they were able to raise funds.

88/18 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.

Cllr Brown: Chairmanship training 18/10/18, Remembrance Day service 11/11/18, Tesco meeting 16/11/18

Cllr Bayliss: Remembrance Day service 11/11/18

Cllr Orme: Chairmanship training 18/10/18, Remembrance Day service 11/11/18, Tree review with Cllr Woolveridge 15/11/18

Cllr T Scott: Chairmanship training 18/10/18, Remembrance Day service 11/11/18

Cllr Surkovic: Chairmanship training 18/10/18, Remembrance Day service 11/11/18

Cllr Palmiero: Chairmanship training 18/10/18

Cllr O'Keeffe: Chairmanship training 18/10/18, Tesco meeting 16/11/18, GX Conservation Volunteers 17/11/18

Cllr Holmes: Remembrance Day service 11/11/18

Cllr Woolveridge: Chairmanship training 18/10/18, Age Concern Tea Party 22/10/18, Remembrance Day service 11/11/18, GX Conservation Volunteers 17/11/18 (14 attended). Cllr Woolveridge reported that all Trustees of Padstones had resigned following the move to Connection Support. Cllr Woolveridge had attended the AGM of the League of Friends of the Chalfonts Hospital – the next stakeholder meeting would be on either 12th or 13th December and would like GXTC representation.

89/18 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office.

Email received from John Rennie regarding closure of GX Youth Club – see agenda item 82/18 (4)

90/18 To confirm that the next meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be the Town Council meeting to be held on Monday 10th December, 2018, 7.30pm - 8:30pm at the Memorial Centre followed by Christmas drinks and nibbles in the bar area.

Cllr Woolveridge thanked CMcC for taking Minutes in SM's absence.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Payments 19th November 2018						
Chq No/Bacs/DD	Payee	Net Exp.	VAT	Gross Exp		Transaction Details
	Commons					
BACS	Amersham Town Council	300.00	60	360.00	5123.47	Flail cut The Camp as Quote 382
BACS	Amersham Town Council	500.00	100	600.00		Lay matting under the Snake as quote363
BACS	Amersham Town Council	130.00	26	156.00		Weekly Playground checks
BACS	Amersham Town Council	360.00	72	432.00		Christmas tree watering during summer season
BACS	Irvine Grenson Ltd	18950.00	3790	22740.00	22740.00	New footpath East Common
BACS	Organick Gardens	150.00		150.00	812.12	Repair rails and sand and stain benches on Camp
BACS	Latchmore Gdn Care	65.00		65.00	110.00	Strim and cut back shrubs Memorial bench area by Wildwood
BACS	Glasdon	60.12	12.02	72.14	72.14	Doggy bags
BACS	The Playground Inspection Company	65.00	13	78.00	78.00	Annual Inspectin
	Highways			0.00		
BACS	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75	450.00	1266.00	Monthly street lighting contract
BACS	Leigh Electrical	680.00	136.00	816.00		2 New heads West Common
DD	Southern Electric	81.39	16.27	97.66	97.66	Unmetered electricity
BACS	Amersham Town Council	1809.56	361.91	2171.47		Devolved Highways Work
BACS	Amersham Town Council	1170.00	234	1404.00		Weed kill pavements x3 through year as per quote 359
BACS	Organick Gardens	662.12		662.12		Repair slats and supports and stain benches in high street throughou the year
BACS	Latchmore Gdn Care	45.00		45.00		
	Adminlstration					
BACS	GXCA	38.00		38.00	38.00	Room rental
DD	Chess	118.06	23.61	141.67	141.67	Telephone and broadband
BACS	Beverley Simpson & Co Ltd	150		150.00	150.00	Second Internal audit
BACS	Bucks&MKALC	350		350.00	350.00	Chairmanship training
BACS	Viking	62.75	12.55	75.30	75.30	Stationery
BACS	Gpex	80	16	96.00	677.00	Stationery
	Parish Office					
BACS	GXCA	1375.00		1375.00	1375.00	Quarterly Ground Rent
	Neighbourhood Plan					
	N Holmes	23.30	4.66	27.96	27.96	Suggestion boxes to collect questionnaire
BACS	Webfx	250.00	50.00	300.00	348.00	Website hosting Year 2
BACS	Webfx	40.00	8.00	48.00		Add questionnaire page to Gxplan web site
BACS	Planet (Evolving Together)	695.00	139.00	834.00	834.00	Consultancy work
	Communications					
BAC	Nexus	100.00	20.00	120.00	120.00	Monthly software and support
BACS	Gpex	581.00		581.00		
Card	Microsoft Office 365	84.00	16.80	100.80	143.04	Microsoft 365
Card	Microsoft Office 365	35.20	7.04	42.24		Microsoft 365
	Bank Charges					
BACS	Salaries	4534.46		4534.46	4534.46	
	Total	33919.96	5193.86	39113.82	39113.82	

Chairman.....

39113.82

Date.....

Budget for 2018/2019

		Expenditure excluding vat							
Budget 2018/19		Budget	From re-allocated Reserves	Grant	Budget Expenditure to 15th October (exc VAT)	Expenditure - Earmarked Reserves	Total Expenditure		
COMMONS	£70,110.00	£33,800.00	£1,000	£5,948.14	£3,979.50	£	9,927.64	£	
LIGHTING	£18,501.00			£9,758.07		£	-	£	9,758.07
HIGHWAYS	£53,219.00	£57,000.00		£16,611.05	£611.00	£	-	£	17,222.05
GRANTS	£36,571.00	£600.00		£34,571.00	£600.00	£	-	£	35,171.00
COMMUNICATION	£7,862.00	£11,000.00		£4,151.80		£	-	£	4,151.80
BOOST/BKV	£2,000.00			£25.00		£	-	£	25.00
GENERAL ADMIN	£13,705.00			£7,504.59		£	-	£	7,504.59
COUNCIL OFFICE	£10,692.00	£1,500.00		£3,362.91	£3,127.00	£	-	£	6,489.91
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN		£4,080.00	£3,171.00		£1,314.00	£	-	£	1,314.00
SALARIES	£69,000.00			£28,853.69		£	-	£	28,853.69
PRECEPT / TOTAL	£281,660.00	£107,980.00		£110,786.25	£9,631.50	£	-	£	120,417.75