

Gerrards Cross Town Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 21st January 2019 at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.

Present: Cllr H Orme (Chairman), Cllr Bayliss, Cllr J Chhokar, Cllr O'Keefe, Cllr J Palmiero, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr T Scott, Cllr E Surkovic, Cllr Wood and Cllr J Woolveridge.

In Attendance: Bucks CC Cllr B Gibbs, Bucks CC Cllr R Reed, SBDC Cllr D Smith, Mr I Gordon and Sue Moffat (Town Clerk).

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

103/18 To accept apologies of absence – Apologies received from Cllr C Brown, Cllr N Holmes and SBDC Cllr S Chokkar

104/18 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10th December 2018.

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

105/18 Public speaking from residents on matters relevant to the meeting's agenda.

Cllr Orme explained that she changed the agenda slightly to allow Cllr Gibbs to present her report at the beginning of the meeting as she had to leave the meeting early due to a prior appointment.

Bucks CC Report:- Cllr Gibbs reported:- (i) Station Road Car Park; - The approved planning application for the new car park has been revised to improve the visual impact by stepping back the upper layers, adding bronze panelling to the front of the building and soft landscaping. However at the end of the day Cllr Gibbs stated it is still a car park. The present car park does appear to have empty spaces as local businesses are parking in private driveways.

Chiltern Railway do accept there is a need for more parking spaces as they have agreed to fund a Feasibility Study. The Town Clerk added that GX Town Council was the first to offer funding towards a Feasibility Study and this was noted. Cllr Surkovic asked if the future costs of parking will encourage businesses to use the car park? Cllr Gibbs responded that in the past the fees had to be increased in line with the Station car park. However, after the new car park is built, Cllr Gibbs confirmed that there would be a scheme in place for staff in local businesses to get discounted parking, which is of course one of the big factors in the Council supporting the car park.

Cllr O'Keefe enquired as to which authority sets the car parking fees? Cllr Gibbs responded that SBDC sets the rates for off-street parking and Bucks CC sets the rates for on-street parking.

Any suggestions to the structure of future off-street parking fees should be sent to the Portfolio Holder at SBDC which is Cllr Louisa Sullivan; (ii) Unitary Authority – A decision has been made for the Shadow Authority to have 147 councillors in the first instant, 3 per division, to cover all the work that is required in setting up the new authority. All 4 districts have not consented to the details of the plan which Cllr Reed will explain under his report. However twin hatters will only have one vote and the new authority will definitely be in place by 2020.

7.43pm Cllr Gibbs left the meeting.

No members of the public were in attendance.

106/18 To confirm the minutes of the following meetings:-

1. Commons Committee held on 7th January 2019

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 highlighted:- (i) Guidelines for memorial benches were agreed at the meeting. Since the meeting she has circulated information about memorial trees which will be discussed at the next Commons Committee meeting; (ii) Cllr Orme will be attending and Open Spaces Strategy meeting with the Clerk tomorrow at SBDC.

2. Highways Committee held on 7th January 2019

At the proposition of Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Bayliss, the Minutes of the Highways meeting were agreed by Council and signed. Cllr Roberts gave a brief summary of the contents of the Minutes and highlighted:- (i) He is in the process of arranging a meeting with the gulley cleaning company; (ii) Cllr Surkovic highlighted the need for professional advice for pedestrian safety at Mill Lane bridge; (iii) Everyone agreed that the new flower planters across the railway bridge in Packhorse Road were a vast improvement to the street scene.

3. Planning Committee Meeting on 17th December 2018 and 14th January 2019.

Cllr J Chhokar confirmed the Planning Minute of 17th December and gave a brief summary of the contents highlighting those planning applications where objections were raised.

Cllr J Chhokar confirmed the Planning Minute of 14th January and gave a brief summary of the contents highlighting those planning applications where objections were raised. He also pointed out the positive comment that was made regards the extension of the Cinema to add an additional screen which would be a benefit to the facilities of the Town. The Town Clerk added that the Enforcement Officer is already investigating the driveway constructed at Raylands Farm. Cllr Woolveridge added that she met one of the previous owners who did not know anything about these works. She will continue her enquiries.

107/18 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) update

(i) The draw of the NP Questionnaire Returns - Cllr Orme invited the 3 newest members of the Council, i.e. Cllrs Surkovic, Wood and Palmiero, to select one name each from the bag containing all the entries. Cllr Orme announced the winners to be R Greaves, S Moore and I Howell who will each receive a cheque for £100.

(ii) Updates on Work in Progress. Cllr Holmes had submitted a report. From the 8000 residents in GX there were 419 responses, approximately a 4% return which is average for this type of scenario. The Consultants have analysed the responses and now the NP Steering Group will meet in February to examine the results.

(iii) To note any expenditure up to £500 at any one time from the allocated budget that has been made under delegated authority – 3 x £100 for the winners of the draw.

(iv) To approve any proposed expenditure over £500 – None.

108/18 Communications

(i) VOICE – Any suggestions for topics to be included in the next edition that will be published in April, please inform the Clerk. The April edition will include the AGM report of 10th April, so please will the Mayor and Chairman of Committees have their reports completed by the beginning of March.

(ii) Dates for the Diary – no additional dates/events reported.

109/18 Resolved to approve payments for January 2019

Cllr Bayliss proposed the payment schedule and this was approved by Council. Cllr Wood reported that the Pothole Repair Project should be commencing soon and the budget will hopefully be spent in this financial year.

110/18 Report from County and District Councillor

Bucks CC Report:- Cllr R Reed reported:- (i) Unitary Authority – The new Council will be called Buckinghamshire Council and the first elections for this Council will be in May 2020 for a 5 year term of office and thereafter 4 years in order to bring it back into the present election cycle. There will be 147 members at a cost in excess of £1mil. The Shadow Authority (SA) will consist of all district and county councillors but double hatters will only have one vote. The Shadow Executive (SE) will consist of 8

county councillors and 8 district councillors plus a Chief Executive who will be the present CE of Bucks CC. Bucks CC are likely to announce their representatives by the end of this week. Bucks CC are anxious to commence a.s.a.p. and hope to start meetings before April 2019. The SE will prepare the budget to be approved by the SA. The interim Shadow Officers will serve the SE. Cllr Woolveridge asked about the financial investments of the districts and what will happen to the staff as this will be a tremendous upheaval. Cllr Reed responded that the new Authority in 2020 will be responsible for all finances. To date SBDC have spent £43k in their bid to support a 2 unitary authority. The staff will be TUPE'd across to the new authority but there will be some redundancies; (ii) Gaviots Green – Cllr Reed was aware of the parking problems in Gaviots Green and has been on several site visits with the Parking Manager. The introduction of more dropped kerbs, inconsiderate parking by neighbours and families having more cars, has caused the parking problems in this area to increase. He will visit the site again with the new Parking Manager but there is no easy solution. He will keep GXTC updated; (iii) Denham and GX LAF – The next meeting is on 30th January and he is hoping for good results regards GXTC's 3 applications; (iv) Cllr Wood enquired about the Government's Road Investment Strategy announced on 29/10/18 of £420m to be spent by March 2019 on road improvements. Cllr Reed did not know about this but will make enquiries with Bucks CC and report back.

SBDC Report- Cllr D Smith reported: (i) Unitary Authority – SBDC, together with the other 3 district councils, have not given their consent to the new governance proposed by Bucks CC as all the districts believe it is not constructive and is unworkable. The exact details of the governance need to be laid out before the DC's will give their consents. The SA cannot come into existence before the Order has been laid. The 4 DC's have overwhelming objections to the community hubs and do not believe the savings made add up so are not happy with BCC's proposals. Unless changes are made the DC's will not co-operate.

111/18 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.

Cllr Woolveridge: A successful first meeting this year of the GXCV was held last Saturday. 12 members turned up including 2 new members. Work was carried out along the boundary of the woodland in West Common (opposite Miller Place) and removing spindly trees along the 'Tesco' footpath to create the haloing effect of the focal trees. (ii) Meeting of Age Concern last week. Age Concern is now doing less as the nature of older people have changed e.g. tellies, phones, fridges and heating and people are independent for longer.

Cllr J Chhoker: :- Observer at the Station Rd car park meeting where 150 people turned up to object to the new planning application to increase the car park; their main concern being the business case.

Cllr O'Keeffe: GXCV meeting.

Cllr Roberts:- Observer at the Station Rd car park meeting.

Cllr Orme: GXCV where she stayed for half of the meeting and took more photographs.

AT THIS POINT, CLLR ORME ANNOUNCED THAT CLLR JENNIFER WOOLVERIDGE HAS RECEIVED A BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL IN RECOGNITION OF HER MANY YEARS OF HARD AND DEDICATED WORK TO THE OLDER GENERATION AND TO THE COMMUNITY. THE WHOLE OF THE COUNCIL CONGRATULATED CLLR WOOLVERIDGE ON THIS HONOUR AND ALL AGREED IT WAS VERY WELL DESERVED.

112/18 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office.

- Cllr Brown has circulated to all councillors the draft letter from the Chairman of SBALC suggesting similar objections as the district councils to the proposals of governance by Bucks CC in setting up the new Unitary Council. Please will councillors send any comments to Cllr Brown before the SBALC meeting on 24th January.
- Iver PC had sent a copy of letter to SBALC which had been sent to Planning at SBDC outlining the inconsistencies to planning guidelines and asking to provide training for town and parish councils.
- Third Runway Heathrow Consultation is at GXCA on 14th February.

113/18 To confirm that the next meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be the Town Council meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 18th February 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Payments 21st January 2019						
Chq No/Bacs/DD	Payee	Net Exp.	VAT	Gross Exp		Transaction Details
	Commons					
BACS	Amersham Town Council	5000.00	1000	6000.00	8327.47	Fosse clearance
BACS	Amersham Town Council	130.00	26	156.00		Playground Inspection
BACS	Latchmore Garden Care	75.00		75.00	75.00	Camp Rd bridle way strimming
BACS	Fineland Forestry Ltd	55.00	11	66.00	66.00	Emergency tree work on West Common
BACS	The Green Team	1730.00	346	2076.00	2076.00	Foamstream to eradicate crassula
	Highways					
BACS	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75	450.00	2130.00	Monthly street lighting contract
BACS	Leigh Electrical	1400.00	280.00	1680.00		Installation of christmas lights/removal and storage for the year second payment
DD	SSE Southern Electric	78.89	15.77	94.66	94.66	Unmetered electricity
BACS	Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks	374.74	74.95	449.69	449.69	Electricity connection for replacement column 123 o/s St Michaels Convent
BACS	Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks	374.74	74.95	449.69	449.69	Electricity connection for replacement column 198 Cheyne Close
BACS	Amersham Town Council	1809.56	361.91	2171.47		Devolved Highways Work
BACS	Organick Gardens	512.97		512.97	512.97	Varnishing of various benches and bus shelters
BACS	Wycombe District Council	4210.00	842	5052.00	5052.00	Stage 1 of CCTV installation
BACS	WindowFlowers Ltd	3500.00	700	4200.00	4200.00	Installation of 10 troughs in P/H Rd and winter/spring maintenance
	Administration					
BACS	GXCA	73.00		73.00	276.50	Room rental
BACS	GXCA	202	1.5	203.50		Christmas refreshments
DD	Chess	117.78	23.56	141.34	141.34	Telephone and broadband
BACS	CCS Ltd	81.62	16.32	97.94	97.94	Quarterly Printing costs
BACS	Viking	105.45	21.09	126.54	126.54	Stationery
Card	Land Registry	12	0	12.00	12.00	Land search
BACS	Beverley Simpson & Co Ltd	150		150.00	150.00	Third quarterly Internal Audit
	Bank charges	10.15		10.15	10.15	
	Communications					
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
BAC	Nexus	100.00	20.00	120.00	300.00	Monthly software and support
BACS	Nexus	150.00	30.00	180.00		Quarterly web site support
BACS	Whitehall Direct	3295.00	659.00	3954.00	3954.00	2x new noticeboards
	Parish Office					
BACS	GXCA	1500.00		1500.00	1500.00	Quarterly ground rent Jan-March 19
BACS	Castle Water	2.54		2.54	2.54	Waste Water
DD	British Gas	158.94	7.94	166.88	166.88	Quarterly gas
	Neighbourhood Plan					
7113-5	Winners of the NP draw 3x £100	300.00		300.00	300.00	
BACS	Salaries	3781.58		3781.58	3781.58	
	Total	29785.16	4610.83	34395.99	34395.99	

Chairman.....

Date.....

Budget for 2018/2019

		Expenditure excluding vat							
Budget 2018/19									
	Budget	From re-allocated Reserves	Grant	Budget Expenditure to 10th December (exc VAT)	Expenditure - Earmarked Reserves	Total Expenditure			
COMMONS	£70,110.00	£33,800.00	£1,000	£32,692.63	£4,279.50	£ 36,972.13	£		
LIGHTING	£18,501.00			£11,513.31		£ -	£		
HIGHWAYS	£53,219.00	£57,000.00		£26,757.04	£3,091.00	£ 29,848.04	£		
GRANTS	£36,571.00	£600.00		£34,571.00	£600.00	£ 35,171.00	£		
COMMUNICATION	£7,862.00	£11,000.00		£5,521.20		£ -	£		
BOOST/BKV	£2,000.00			£25.00		£ -	£		
GENERAL ADMIN	£13,705.00			£9,287.38		£ -	£		
COUNCIL OFFICE	£10,692.00	£1,500.00		£4,857.91	£3,127.00	£ 7,984.91	£		
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN		£4,080.00	£3,171.00		£2,818.20	£ 2,818.20	£		
SALARIES	£69,000.00			£37,334.20		£ -	£		
PRECEPT / TOTAL	£281,660.00	£107,980.00		£162,559.67	£13,915.70	£ 176,475.37	£		