

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 Commons Committee held at 7.30pm on Monday 17th January 2022 in the Garden Room, Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre

Present: Cllr. T Greenfield (Chairman), Cllr. N Barnett, Cllr. M Bracken, Cllr. J Chhokar, Cllr. S Davey, Cllr. C Da Costa, Cllr. B Holborn, Cllr O’Keeffe, Cllr. B Peck, Cllr. C Stuart-Lee, Cllr. A Wood

In Attendance: Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk), Amy McCreary (Deputy Clerk), Cllr J Woolveridge (Associate Councillor, left at 8.14pm)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None
2. **Public speaking from residents regarding matters relevant to the meeting’s agenda with time allowed as 5 minutes per person.** – No public present.
3. **Health & Safety Reports:-**

East Common – Cllr Peck confirmed that East Common is good.

West Common - Cllr Da Costa reported that the new pathway on West Common was looking good. There is graffiti on the bench on the turning circle, The Town Clerk confirmed that this has been reported. Cllr Wood confirmed that he has been working hard to resolve the overflowing bin issues. The bins on the Common have now been emptied. Associate Cllr Woolveridge reported that the dog bin on West Common is permanently open as the Waste Operatives do not appear to have the key for them.

Report Play Equipment – Cllr Chhokar reported that the orange swing is missing and the roundabout is stiff to turn. Cllr Stuart-Lee confirmed that the zip wire seems to stop half way. The Town Clerk confirmed that the orange swing has been removed to be repaired. The Town Clerk to check the zip wire and roundabout. Cllr Stuart-Lee suggested putting up a basketball hoop as these have been popular at other playgrounds she recently visited. The Council agreed that this was a good idea. Cllr Greenfield, and the Town Clerk to identify an appropriate site. The Town Clerk read out an email from a resident who had wrote to the local MP regarding lack of sensory and accessible play equipment on the Common for disabled children. The Council confirmed that an application had been put forward to the Community Board for funding but this equipment was based on the results from the playground survey. The proposal brought to the table by the Town Clerk for £60k was very expensive, Cllr Davey and Cllr Greenfield to look for alternatives.

Report on The Camp. The Town Clerk to confirm to Bulstrode Camp Ltd that Crabbe Hill pond and scrub will be cleared once the pond has dried out. The Town Clerk is still waiting for the English Heritage Society to provide information on the fosse maintenance. The Town Clerk to get the Camp Sign in a higher position on the post at the bridleway entrance to the Camp.

4. **Gerrards Cross Commons - Tree Planting for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.** – The Council agreed that a Verdun Oak should be planted in Gerrards Cross for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The Town Clerk, Associate Cllr Woolveridge and Cllr Greenfield to identify a suitable site. The tree needs to be planted before the end of March. The Council agreed that the bench at Latchmore Pond should be replaced. The Town Clerk to source a new bench for the council to consider identifying different types of materials.
5. **New Pond** – The Council agreed that the contractors had done a good job of clearing the lilies and reeds.
6. **Latchmore Pond** – Duck House, the Town Clerk has ordered the Duck House and Amersham Town Council will install it. The Council agreed that breeze blocks should not be used because they may damage the lining of the pond. The Town Clerk to ask the duck house company the best method to secure the duck house, what the standard cleaning requirements are and if any precautions are required to prevent the spread of bird flu.

- 7. To agree the works for Upgrade of footpaths along East and West Commons** – This money would cover the Town Clerks pathway suggestions: The Council agreed to go with the 4 day quote at a cost of £8270.50 from next year’s budget. The Clerk to put in a Community Board application in for £8000 match funding and the Council will invest another £8000 into the footpaths to be spent on any path maintenance not completed within the 4 day quote.
- (i) East Common opposite junction East Common/Mill Lane to the subway, (ii) East Common from junction with East Common/Packhorse Road along centre path parallel to playground;
 - (iii) West Common from Latchmore Pond to Information Board and the two pathway suggestions from Cllr Barnett and Cllr O’Keeffe:
 - (i) The pathway on East Common by the subway which looks incomplete
 - (ii) The pathway from the Town Council office to the playground.
 - (iii) Additional path work if surplus funds available
- 8. To review outstanding projects-**
- (i) **The Camp descriptive signs** – The Town Clerk is waiting for confirmation from Beacons of the Past at the Chilterns Society. She did suggest that if the artwork could be sent via email. The Council will then be able to get the sign made by using their own preferred print supplier.
 - (ii) **West Common new notice board**– The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed the notice board has been delivered to Amersham Town Council. The Town Clerk confirmed it will be installed at the bus turning circle facing onto the Common. Amersham Town Council to confirm the installation date.
- 9. Commons Budget** – Noted.
- 10. Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers-** The Volunteers did not meet this month. .
- 11. Footpaths** – Cllr Da Costa reported that the pathway from Packhorse Road that joins Lower Road needs to be swept. Cllr Da Costa to send The Town Clerk photos. The posters displaying the new foot bridge across the railway can now be removed.
- 12. Communications** – It was agreed that the pond work and the duck house should be added to the voice.
- 13. To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office** – None
- 14. To confirm that the next meeting of the Commons Committee will be held on Monday 21st February 2022, 7.30pm following Planning at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.**

Meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed.....

Date.....