

# Gerrards Cross Town Council

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

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## Minutes of the Commons Committee Virtual Meeting held at 7pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

**Present:** Cllrs H Orme (Chairman), N Barnett, I Bayliss, C Brown, J Chhokar J O’Keeffe, J Palmiero, A Wood and J Woolveridge.  
**In Attendance:** Cllr T Scott and Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk).

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None.

2. **Public Participation** – None.

3. **To receive Health and Safety reports and Updates as follows:-**

**East Common** – JW reported: - (i) Collected 10 bags of rubbish this month; (ii) Believes the person is still camping in West Common; (iii) Water level in New Pond is very high; (iv) Some graffiti on the subway; (v) Climate change - Managed to ask 2 people to switch off idling engines; (vi) Met Duke of Edinburgh volunteer picking up litter.

**West Common** – IB reported:- (i) All looks good. Ponds are full up and water table is high as a lot of surface water on grass areas; (ii) Someone is body building on grass area opposite West Common Close and gouging out potholes in the grass; (iii) Tent still there but have not seen any sign of the occupant; (iv) Graffiti on one litter bin; (v) Concrete post has been re-installed

**Play Equipment** – JP reported:- (i) Grass area around play equipment is very muddy due to wet weather conditions but still well used.

**The Camp** – HO reported:- (i) Valley Way steps have been completed and drainage channel to redirect the water appears to be working. Where the Fosse has been cleared it is now very waterlogged; (ii) Artwork for the Camp sign from Chilterns AONB has been circulated. It is slightly inaccurate as it depicts dwellings on the fort which The Camp never had, but it is a corporate image for all the ancient hill forts in the Chilterns; (iii) Garden rubbish is being dumped.

4. (a) **Resolved to trial 4 x 30sq m wildflower areas:-** (i) West Common by ‘Rotary bench’ (next to Oxford Rd/Packhorse Rd traffic lights) using perennial wildflower matting; (ii) The Camp – opposite the bench using perennial wildflower seeds; (iii) East Common, end corner of East Common/Oxford Rd (One Stop Shop) using perennial wildflower matting and; (iv) Highways green outside Gaviots flats along the Oxford Rd using annual wildflower matting,

Also, to install information signs for the public by each trial area. Advice for these trials to be sought from ATC.

(b) **Resolved to apply to Denham, GX and Chalfonts Community Board Grant** for funding towards the wildflower areas which was estimated to be in the region of £3500-£5000.

A quote has been received from ATC for £1120 but will now ask to requote to cover additional trial area.

7.30pm Cllr Scott joined the meeting.

5. **Resolved to apply to Denham, GX and Chalfonts Community Board Grant** for funding for 3 brown composite wood style’ bins. Locations:- 1 on East Common to replace concrete bin along main path, 1 to replace concrete bin opposite Wildwood and 1 to replace graffitied bin by New Pond. Approx. cost of £790 per bin, totalling £2370 all with a ground lock fixing system. Also agreed to put GXTC’s logo on new bins.

6. (a) **To Resolve to agree to introduce Wheelchair accessible playground equipment to East Common** being a wheelchair accessible carousel and specialised wheelchair swing – possibly both (if space available). The different options were discussed. The carousel was supported as it is inclusive to both abled body and wheelchair users. The ability swing with

Action

HO/  
SM

HO

enclosure would be solely for the use of wheelchair users. It was recognised that there are other types of accessible swings and play equipment available. It was resolved that GXTC will include accessible play equipment in the play area ensuring that it is of good quality and fit for purpose. The carousel appeared to be one good option and will investigate further for other options. It was agreed to carry out a community survey to gauge public opinion and the type of equipment needed. Once this is completed and further options considered, GXTC:-

HO

**(b) Resolved to apply** for a Denham, GX and Chalfonts Community Board Grant for funding for accessible play equipment.

**7. To discuss the high water levels in ditches by the side of the carriageway at the crossroads at Oxford Rd and Packhorse Rd.** It was recognised that there are high levels of water everywhere due to recent weather conditions but the puddling on this section of the carriageway is dangerous particularly in icy conditions. There may be a blocked drain causing this. AW offered to investigate the problem with Highways UK and as this also a Commons issue, HO and AW arranged to meet on site.

AW

**8. To review outstanding projects:** Noted. Points highlighted:- (i) The Camp: Information sign -awaiting text; overhanging conifers – letter sent; puddling at bridleway entrance – completed; Valley Way Steps – completed; (ii) Commons – holly mulching. HO, JW, SM have had a site meeting with contractor and work will commence this week; relocation of bench by Latchmore Pond – ATC have advised that the old concrete bench is likely to break when digging it out of the present location. It was agreed to proceed with this work and to purchase a new bench if required.

ATC

**9. Common's Budget** – Noted.

**10. Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers** – No meeting held due to Corvid-19 restrictions.

ES

**11. Review Footpaths** – (i) NB highlighted the muddy conditions of footpath running alongside West Common made worse by walkers stepping off path to maintain social distancing. It was generally agreed nothing can be done at the present time but will monitor the situation; (ii) ES to send in photo of remedial work required on bridleway,

**12. Communication** – None.

**13. Correspondence:-** (i) Request from St James Church to organise an Easter Story trial on the Commons in a Corvid safe way. This was agreed; (ii) Letter of complaint about the standard of the play area. Unable to reply as email is blocked; (iii) Letter from West Common residents complaining about parked construction vehicles on the access road. Noted.

**14. The date of the next meeting** of the Commons Committee will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

Meeting closed at 8.03 pm

Signed.....

Date.....