

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 7pm on Monday 4th October 2021 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 Brown (Associate Councillor).

1. **Apologies for Absence** – N/A

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.

Action

West Common - Cllr Da Costa reported that there is graffiti on two benches that are close to Packhorse Road.

Report Play Equipment – Cllr Chhokar reported that the path next to the playground is pooling with water in the dips. The Town Clerk confirmed that she has requested a quote from Highways UK to fix this issue.

Report on The Camp – Cllr Bracken reported that one of the steps on the entrance from Valley Way needs repairing. Cllr Bracken's opinion was that the grass is visibly better when it is cut and suggested to increase the times it is cut or cut half of it. This was discussed at the last Commons Meeting and it was agreed to keep the current cutting schedule in place. The Camp Grass Cutting to be added to the agenda in six months' time. The English Heritage Society have confirmed receipt of the letter the Town Clerk sent regarding maintenance of the Foss. The Town Clerk to organise a meeting once she has received a date from English Heritage.

SM

4. **Gerrards Cross Commons' Tree survey** – The Council agreed that a tree survey was necessary to ensure the Council is covered should any pedestrians be injured by a tree in a public place. Pyramid Consulting has quoted £1000 for the survey. The Council requested for the Town Clerk to get another quote. The Town Clerk to ask Fineland Forestry how often tree surveys should be done.

SM

5. **New Pond** – The Town Clerk has received a quote £4,919 to remove the reeds one meter away clear of the edge of the pond. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should go ahead with the one-meter distance and as some reeds are required for screening and to provide natural habitat for the wildlife. The Council also agreed to proceed with the quote of £3,935.20 to complete the removal of the lilies. The Town Clerk also to ask the contractor to provide a future maintenance plan.

SM

SM

6. At the request of Cllr Greenfield and Cllr Davy, **'To review the current Commons maintenance plan to understand if this is still sufficient for our on-going needs'**. – Cllr Greenfield and Cllr Davey are looking at putting a Commons Maintenance Plan in place. To do this Cllr Davey has requested to see the invoices. It has been confirmed that she can see the invoices in the office. Cllr Davey has asked the Bucks Legal Department if she can have the invoices electronically. Cllr Davey is waiting for a response on this matter.

7. At the request of Cllr Greenfield and Cllr Davy **'A review of all of the contracts we have in place to enable us to create a tender process'**. – Cllr Barnett stated that he made this request not Cllr Greenfield and Cllr Davey and asked for the agenda point to be updated to this effect. The Town Clerk explained that there is currently one contract in place for the grass cutting. Other work is carried out as and when required and the Town Clerk gets quotes for the work. Amersham Town Council carry out regular work and are very efficient because they have all the equipment. It was agreed that Amersham Town Council are very good value for money

and reliable. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should get a minimum of two quotes for larger projects unless it is an emergency.

- 8. To agree to have the Christmas Light Switch-On-** The Rotary Club have cancelled the Christmas Light Switch-On because of the rising Coronavirus cases. However it was agreed that some members of the Christmas Committee would like a low key Christmas light switch on and have suggested the Mayor does it. The Council still have the £500 street entertainment fund and there is the EU Funding. The Town Clerk to put the EU Funding on the F&GP Agenda. The Council agreed that the Mayor should switch the Christmas Lights on, Town Clerk to inform Leigh Electrical. Cllr Wood suggested getting local businesses to sponsor the town's Christmas Lights in the future and will ascertain if this is appropriate. **SM**
SM
AW
- 9. To Consider tree planting as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**
It was agreed that the Town Clerk should seek advice about suitable trees to plant for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, from Associate Councillor Jennifer Woolveridge and Pyramid Consulting. **SM**
- 10. To review outstanding projects. –**
(i) New descriptive signs for The Camp – The Town Clerk is chasing.
(ii) Top up footpath along West Common running through the woods from A40 to football pitch – The quotes agreed.
(iii) Paint subway railings – quote has been agreed and the work will take place when the weather is suitable.
(iv) Upgrade footpaths – the Town Clerk is seeking quotes.
(v) Play equipment - Seeking second quote for new play equipment for Platinum Jubilee. Seek Community board funding for quote already received.
(vi) Repaint the slide – the quote has been agreed.
(vii) Memorial bench – the Town Clerk is waiting to hear back from the donor.
(viii) The Council agreed that Cllr Greenfield can replace the helicopter handles at a cost of £25 each. The Town Clerk advised that this will need to be checked to ensure it meets safety standards. **TG**
- 11. Commons budget** – The zip wire and the roundabout have now been paid for.
- 12. Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers** – Cllr Greenfield confirmed that he attended the meeting and the group concentrated on clearing the pathways and cutting back the bushes.
- 13. Footpaths** – Cllr Da Costa confirmed that there is a fence down in the South Park Drive development. Cllr Da Costa to send the details to the Deputy Clerk so she can write to the developer. Cllr Stuart-Lee and Cllr Peck to walk the pathways around by the train station and identify the house numbers who need hedge maintenance letters sent. Bulstrode steps from Hedgerly Lane are overgrown and have been reported on fix my street. Cllr Barnett to send the Deputy Clerk the photo of pathway 14 which is in an unusable state. The Deputy Clerk to report the pathway to the Rights of Way department. **CDC/AM**
NB
/AM
- 14. Communications** –The new duck house information to be added to the website. Once agreed update the website with the new play equipment information.
- 15. To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office – (i)**
The Clerk has received an email from a resident who disapproved of the Duck House and suggested that the money would be better spent on repairing the pump. Associate Councillor Brown confirmed that there used to be a tap but was unsure if there was a pump. The Town Clerk to check with Associate Councillor Jennifer Woolveridge; (ii)The Council agreed that the Gerrards Cross Community Centre can use the parking by the Common for the fireworks display.
- 16. To confirm that the next meeting of the Commons Committee will be held on Monday 6th December 2021, 6pm at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.**

Meeting closed at 8.01.

Signed.....

Date.....

17.