

# Gerrards Cross Town Council

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

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## Minutes of the Commons Committee held at 7.45 pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 in the Garden Room, Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre

**Present:** Cllr. T Greenfield (Chairman), Cllr. N Barnett, Cllr. J Chhokar, Cllr. S Davey, Cllr. B Holborn, Cllr O’Keeffe, Cllr. B Peck, Cllr. A Wood

**In Attendance:** Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk), Amy McCreary (Deputy Clerk), Cllr J Woolveridge (Associate Councillor, left at 8.30 pm) Cllr L Lindvall (Associate Councillor)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr. M Bracken, Cllr. C Stuart-Lee,
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 reported that the roundabout does not go round. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should organise a meeting for Cllr Davey, Cllr Greenfield, and the contractor to discuss the zip wire and the roundabout not functioning properly.

**West Common** – Associate Cllr Woolveridge reported that there has been a rubbish collection issue on the Commons and the dog bins were overflowing. People have been leaving logs in strange places. The boundary hedge, opposite the Bull Hotel, is getting thin and wispy. Cllr Woolveridge to provide the Town Clerk with a map to show the location of the stinging nettles, which should not be cut back in the summer because they provide food for the caterpillars and butterflies. Cllr Wood requested for the two information signs on the Commons to be cleaned. Cllr Greenfield informed the Council that he had filled two Biffa bin bags with dog waste as the issue was so bad. The two Biffa bags were left on the turning circle and they have been collected. Cllr Wood request to Buckinghamshire Council for a bin to be installed on the route from the high street down West Common passed the Latchmore Pond, heading to the Bull Hotel, was agreed.

**Report Play Equipment – (i)** Cllr J Chhokar reported that the roundabout is not working properly. As previously agreed above Cllr Greenfield, Cllr Davey, and The Town Clerk to have a meeting with the contractor to discuss the functioning of the roundabout and zip wire. Cllr Chhokar informed the Council that the disabled swing is still missing. Cllr Woolveridge informed the Council that there are a lot of holes in the grass area around by the outdoor gym equipment and suspects that this is due to someone using a metal detector on the Common and digging up the ground which contravenes the Bye Laws. The Town Clerk to arrange for the holes to be filled.

**(ii) Cllr Davey and Cllr Greenfield to bring alternative play equipment quote for consideration** – Cllr Davey and Cllr Greenfield based their selection on appealing to teenagers, British made to support the economy and good quality with easy maintenance. The proposed equipment is one piece of equipment that is modular so new parts can be added later, a covered seating area (as they received feedback from parents that this was required) and a basketball net for older teenagers. The quote includes Jubilee text that would be cut into the equipment. The new quote will amount to no more than 43k, including surfacing. Cllr Wood reminded the Council that Gerrards Cross Town Council has already submitted match funding in a Community Board application for 60k. Cllr Davey and Cllr Greenfield to look at additional equipment so it matches the amount of the Community Board application and provides the Council with appropriate photographs. Cllr Wood reminded the Council they are unable to move forward with the project until they know if the Community Board application has been approved in April.

**Report on The Camp.** The Town Clerk read out an email from the Heritage Society regarding the maintenance of the Fosse and them being unable to attend the site due to the current workload. Associate Cllr Woolveridge informed the Council that they previously sort expert advice 10 years ago and as the work needs doing now they should continue. Associate

Cllr Woolveridge will look for the previous advice documents. The Town Clerk to book the maintenance work with Amersham Town Council.

4. **Gerrards Cross Commons - Tree Planting for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.** – Associate Cllr Woolveridge has identified a site for the Sessile Oak to be planted on West Common. Cllr Greenfield and the Town Clerk to meet Associate Cllr Woolveridge at the site.
5. **Gerrards Cross Commons – To consider purchasing a bench for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – The Town Clerk has provided the web sites of 3 companies which have a good reputation for public street furniture. Cllr Holborn identified a bench from one of these companies and emailed it to Councillors. Cllr Greenfield to look at the bench and report back to the next meeting.
6. **The Annual Play Report** – The Town Clerk to ask Amersham Town Council for a quote for the repair work. The matting for the gym equipment needs attention and it was agreed that Cllr Greenfield and Cllr Davey should ask the play equipment contractor for a quote to repair the gym surfacing.
7. **Latchmore Pond – Duck House** – The Town Clerk confirmed that the duck house has been installed and it was secured by a heavy-duty parasol base. The duck house is attached by a chain. There are concrete blocks on top of the base to keep it in place. It was agreed that the cleaning of the duck house should be added to the pond maintenance schedule once p.a. It was agreed that bird flu risk was an act of nature and there was little the Council could do to prevent it.
8. **To agree to the works for the upgrade of footpaths along East and West Commons-** The Town Clerk informed the Council that the online application forms for the Community Board are not available until April 2022. It was agreed that the Council is only committed to one Community Board application for match funding. The work for the four-day quote of £8270.50 will be covered in next year's budget. The Clerk to book the work for April 2022.
9. **To review outstanding projects** –
  - The Lidar sign for the Chiltern Hillfort Project – The Town Clerk has requested the artwork so the Council can make the sign but is still waiting for a response.
  - Top-up footpath along West Common running through the woods from A40 to football pitch – complete the Town Clerk to remove.
  - Paint the subway railings – complete the Town Clerk to remove.
  - Amersham Town Council will be installing the new notice board on the common shortly.
  - The Duck House – has now been installed – the Town Clerk to be removed.
  - The tree survey is in progress.
10. **Commons Budget** – noted.
11. **Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers-** The Volunteers met up on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022. They cut some low branches on West Common, cleared a fallen tree on East Common cleared the undergrowth by the British Legion. It was Anna Sullivan's last time leading the group. The Council agreed to thank Anna Sullivan for all her hard work and Cllr Greenfield to lead the group until a replacement is found.
12. **Footpaths** – No reports.
13. **Communications** – Ask for new volunteers to join the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers.
14. **To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office** – A resident wrote in asking if Gerrards Cross could do something like the Chalfont St Peter biodiversity project. It was agreed that this was not realistic as Chalfont St Peter Parish Council has hay wardens with more facilities. The Town Clerk to inform the resident about the conservation volunteers and add that more volunteers are needed.
15. **To confirm that the next meeting of the Commons Committee will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 7.30 pm following Planning at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.**

Meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....