

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

www.gerrardscross.gov.uk



Minutes of the Commons Committee

Meeting held 7pm on Monday 2nd November 2020 at Gerrards Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs H Orme (Chairman), I Bayliss, C Brown, J Chhokar, J O'Keeffe, J Palmiero, and J Woolveridge.

In Attendance: Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received from Cllr A Wood and Cllr N Barnett.

2. Public Participation – None.

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

East Common – JW reported: - (i) Collected 15 bags of litter; (ii) The underpass is still full of graffiti. HO added that the black railings are chipped and need repainting; (iii) The grass sward by the play area has 2 deep holes that need filling; (iv) The base of the flag pole on West Common appears to be disintegrating and; (v) Concrete blocks (near bench opposite Wildwood) need removing.

West Common – IB reported:- (i) The ponds are filling up with water again; (ii) A quite substantial tent was found in the trees near to New Pond. SM to report this to the Homeless Officer at Bucks Council; (iii) There have been a lot of noise from fireworks and the police were phoned last Tuesday when fireworks lit late at night. Also local resident had eggs thrown at her door. The police were contacted and they did show concern; (iv) 3 wooden posts have been broken along access road. SM responded that waiting until the Coach House development is completed before replacing; (v) Complaints received from local residents about parking problems along West Common when there are football matches. SM has contacted the Organiser and pointed out there is a car park nearby. The Organiser explained that there are more cars than usual as no car sharing due to Covid-19 and also, due to the success of the teams, there have been more matches. He will contact the football teams to ensure there is more considerate parking in the future. SM will ask Bucks Council if free parking in the car park could be provided on Sunday mornings to alleviate the situation; (vi) HO suggested moving the bench by the Coach House, as will be close to the driveway of the new development, to opposite the footpath which would look over Latchmore Pond. This was agreed.

Play Equipment – JP reported:- (i) The roundabout is slowing up again and needs attention; (ii) SM reported that the hole in the safety surface of the zip wire has been repaired and one baby swing removed awaiting new chains; (iii) JW counted about 50 people using the play equipment on one particular occasion. They are very well used; (iv) Annual RoSPA inspection should be carried out soon.

The Camp – HO reported:- (i) A bench has a broken slat; (ii) AW has found someone who may be willing to cut and bale the grass next year

4. Request from the GX Rotary Clubs to hold a limited Santa Fun Run from 10.30am on 6th December 2020 on East Common was agreed.

5. Request from St James Church to about the possibility to erect a large Christmas tree on the Common to host a series of Christmas events for the Community was agreed. Suggested West Common may be the best location as electricity supply close by.

6. To consider quotes for cutting back overgrown hedges either side of bridleway, The Camp. Quotes have been received which are:- Left side Cypress group - Prune back to fence line £1440.00 +VAT and Right side Cypress group -Prune back by 2.5/3 over bridle path, £1590.00 +VAT. To note, this is cutting back to boundary and does not include a reduction in height. It was agreed that the Town Clerk will speak to both property owners first, following the high hedges guidelines recommended by JP:

<https://www.southbucks.gov.uk/highhedges>

Action

SM

SM

SM

SM

Also agreed that the oak tree in the bridleway needs haloing which is the Council's responsibility..

7. **To review outstanding projects:** Noted.
8. **Common's Budget** – Noted.
9. **Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers** – Anna Sullivan reported that 15 volunteers attended. The Rowan was cleared and several places along the new path.
10. **Review Footpaths** – (i) IB reported footpath 11/12, towards Hedgerley Lane end, the farmer has ploughed it up. SM to report to the Rights of Way officer; (ii) JO reported that in Footpath 6 a tree needs cutting back next to Street Light 19 at T-junction with Orchehill Rise.
11. **Communication** – None.
12. **To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office** – Query regards use of the Commons by horse riders? SM responded that the byelaws allow horse riders to use Commons but only allowed to walk the horse, not gallop or canter and not use footpaths.
13. **The date of the next meeting** of the Commons Committee will be held on 7th December, 2020, 6pm at GX Memorial Centre.

RoW
SM

Meeting closed at 7.51 pm

Signed.....

Date.....