

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. C Da Costa, Cllr O'Keeffe, Cllr. B Peck (arrived at 7.34pm), Cllr. C Stuart-Lee, Cllr. A Wood.

In Attendance: Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk), Amy McCreary (Deputy Clerk), Cllr Brown (Associate Councillor) one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence**, - Cllr. N Barnett, Cllr. S Davey, Cllr. M Bracken, Cllr. J Chhokar, Cllr. B Holborn,
2. **Public speaking from residents regarding matters relevant to the meeting's agenda with time allowed as 5 minutes per person.** – **Action**

3. **Health & Safety Reports:-**

East Common – Cllr Peck reported that the dog bin on East Common does not close.

West Common - Cllr Da Costa reported that there is graffiti on the bin near the pond by the A40. Some pathways were waterlogged. The dog waste bin by the duck pond will not close. S Moffat will ask Amersham Town Council to check that it has been locked properly.

Report Play Equipment – Please see agenda 4 .

Report on The Camp – Cllr Greenfield, Cllr Bracken, Cllr Davey, Associate Cllr Woolveridge, S Moffat and Sue Jones from the Camp's Resident's Association had a meeting to discuss the maintenance of The Camp. It was agreed that the grass cutting regime should continue to be only once a year and preferably with the grass cuttings removed to encourage a wild flower meadow. The grass has now been cut and cuttings removed. The grass will also be cut around the perimeter. S Moffat has contacted Buckinghamshire Heritage to seek advice on the Foss maintenance.

Cllr Wood has been informed by the police that they are aware of the anti-social behaviour on the Commons. If they are caught, they will be given a code and arrested.

4. **Play Equipment**

- (i) Zip Wire – Has been renewed but requires tightening and this will be done when the contractor returns from holiday.
- (ii) Roundabout - A new roundabout has been installed.

The Council agreed that the playground needs some new play equipment. It was agreed that the Clerk should complete out a Community Board application form for the two new pieces of equipment. The playground survey results should be included in the application and how the Commons was beneficial to people's mental health during the pandemic. S Moffat to provide photos and locations of the examples of equipment she provided at the meeting. S Moffat to get another quote for similar equipment that are in the examples already provided. The Council would like the equipment to be assembled in time for the Queen's Jubilee. Cllr Wood informed the Councillors that it is very important that they go to the Community Board Meetings because it increases the chances of our applications be accepted.

SM

The Council agreed for Amersham Town Council to repaint the climbing frames and slide at a cost of £585.

The above will be ratified at the next Full Council Meeting.

5. **Woodland Management Plan 2021-23** – Cllr Greenfield, Cllr Davey, S Moffat, A McCreary had a meeting with Pyramid Consultancy to discuss the Woodland Management Plan. The Plan was put into place to manage areas of woodland. Gerrards Cross Town Council can apply for grants to help maintain the woodland. The plan is due to be renewed in 2023 and the consultant suggested to start collating it towards the end of next year. The consultant will then

submit the application to the Forestry Commission. The Management Plan includes managing the holly. S Moffat informed the Council that it is very important to keep the holly under control as it spreads very quickly. Cllr Wood requested that the public be kept informed when and why we are doing holly mulching through the website and Facebook.

6. **Duck House** – The Council agreed that a duck house should be installed on Latchmore Pond. This will be ratified at the next Full Council Meeting.
7. **To consider purchasing 3 new replacement woodland style litter bins** – The Council agreed not to pursue this agenda item. It was agreed to wait for the replacement bins from Buckinghamshire Council.
8. 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’**. – This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting. TG/S
D
9. 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’**. – This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting. TG/S
D
10. **To agree to have the Christmas Light Switch-On** around the Christmas Tree at West Common this year (instead of outside Waitrose/Guide Hut) on 19th November organised by Rotary Clubs and local businesses (details to be confirmed). The Town Clerk confirmed that it is proposed for three schools to sing carols around the Christmas Tree and Father Christmas will switch on the Christmas Lights. There will be a Christmas Grotto and the shops will be doing Christmas activities. Cllr Wood raised concerns that the part of the road by the turning circle has a heavy flow of traffic. Cllr O’Keeffe thought it would be best to get a road closure for the turning circle. The Town Clerk to clarify how the Rotary will manage the road crossing and ask for police confirmation that they are satisfied with the proposed road crossing arrangements. SM

The Council agreed that the Commons could be used for the Christmas light switch on providing the safety of the road crossing meets the requirements of the Police.
11. **To review outstanding projects** –
 - (i) New descriptive signs for The Camp –The Town Clerk has followed up but is waiting for an update from the Chiltern Society.
 - (ii) Investigating future Woodland Management including formation of glades. – this project is completed.
 - (iii) Overhanging conifers along either side of the bridleway from adjacent properties in Camp Road – It was agreed at The Camp Meeting this is no longer required.
 - (iv) Repaint the subway railings – The Council agreed that Amersham Town Council can repaint the subway railings at a cost of £1400.
 - (v) Top up footpath along West Common running through the woods from A40 to football pitch. The Council agreed Amersham Town Council can extend the top pathway with crushed concrete at a cost of £2750.
 - (vi) Upgrading the footpaths – S Moffat informed the Council that she has been advised that upgrading the footpaths would damage them further. Therefore, the Council agreed that only the dips should be filled in to stop puddling. The Town Clerk will seek a quote for this. Cllr Greenfield and Cllr Davey to inspect the footpaths and make a report of the most urgent ones for the next meeting. SM
SD &
TG
 - (vii) The pond and reed removal at New Pond will start soon.
12. **To consider projects for next year’s budget, 2022-23** – The Council agreed the following projects for next year’s budget:
 - Footpath upgrades.
 - Two new pieces of play equipment.
13. **Commons Budget** – Noted.
14. **Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers** – The volunteers met again in September and continued to cut back unwanted vegetation.
15. **Footpaths** – Footpath LE.2 is blocked with a fallen tree which the Town Clerk has reported the fallen tree to the Rights of Way Officer who have agreed to remove it. The Rights of Way Officer has explained that the upgrowth of vegetation is part of devolved highways work but overgrowing vegetation from adjacent land is landowner’s responsibility to cut back. Therefore, she has asked Amersham Town Council to clear it. Cllr O’Keeffe and the Town Clerk to revisit the pathway. The Town Clerk to provide Cllr O’Keeffe with the costing. Cllr Greenfield confirmed that the pathway across the A413 the styles are loose and overgrown. SM/
JOK

- S Moffat to send out the footpath allocation information again.
16. **Communications** – Date of the lily removal from the pond to be put on the website. The new duck house information to be added to the website. Once agreed, update the website with the new play equipment information.
 17. **To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office -** The Lord of the Manor has given permission for Swiss Fibre Limited a wayleave for an underground cable under the track which runs across the track by West Common.
 18. **To confirm that the next meeting of the Commons Committee will be held on Monday 1st November 2021, 7pm at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.**

Meeting closed at 8.04.

Signed.....

Date.....

