

# Gerrards Cross Town Council

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

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## Minutes of the Commons Committee at the Garden Room, Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre at 7pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Present:** Cllr. T Greenfield (Chairman), Cllr. N Barnett, Cllr. M Bracken, Cllr. J Chhokar, Cllr. C Da Costa, Cllr. B Holborn, Cllr. B Peck, Cllr O’Keeffe, Cllr. A Wood.  
In Attendance: Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk), Amy McCreary (Deputy Clerk), Cllr Brown (Associate Councillor).

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr. S Davey, Cllr. C Stuart-Lee **Action**
2. **Public speaking from residents regarding matters relevant to the meeting’s agenda with time allowed as 5 minutes per person.** – No residents attended.
3. **Health & Safety Reports:-**
  - East Common** – Cllr Peck reported that the common was looking good. Some paths need vegetation trimming back. SM reported that Amersham Town Council are aware of this task and it will be done shortly. Cllr Wood confirmed that the underpass blocked drains and flooding has been reported to the local area technician and he has escalated it. Amersham Town Council have confirmed that the railings will be re-painted white in August / September. There has been reports of the paths getting flooded and SM said this was down to wear and tear. It was agreed that SM can get a quote to rejuvenate and repair the pathway potholes. **SM**
  - West Common** - Cllr Da Costa reported both path entrances near the Packhorse Road are overgrown. There are some bins with graffiti on and there is none offensive graffiti on the picnic bench. The bench parallel to Packhorse Road needs repainting. SM confirmed that the handyman is waiting for materials to fix the bench at Latchmore Pond. SM to arrange for the sign to be put back on the war monument and trim the grass around it. Cllr Barnett to send a photo of the two bins that have been moved together on the common. SM to contact the contractor regarding the logs that need chipping under the trees. It was agreed that this job was urgent and if the Contractor is unable to do it, SM should contact another company. SM confirmed that the pathway that runs by New Pond by the A40 is meant to get muddy because it is the natural overflow from the pond. **SM**
  - Report Play Equipment** – Cllr Chhokar confirmed that the broken balance beam has been made safe.
  - Report on The Camp** – Cllr Bracken has reviewed all entrances. No entrance is blocked but Valley Way entrance would benefit from being cut back overhanging branches. Town Clerk requested to write to relevant homes on Valley way and Woodbank avenue. Noted there is some equipment near to Crabb Tree Hill entrance – Cllr Bracken to follow up. SM confirmed that the grass will be cut in September. **MB**
4. **Report Play Equipment** –
  - (i) Cllr Davey reviewed the Playground Survey and a report has been circulated. It was agreed to proceed with the recommendations in the report to refresh existing play equipment i.e. To paint and repair play equipment. It was also agreed to repair safety surface edges where cracks have appeared.
  - (ii) Zip Wire update. There are two quotes and it was agreed to go with the least expensive one as both cover the same specification. The play repair company will use the present frame but replace the complete cable mechanism. The safety surface will be dug up and replaced. The warranty for the wet pour is three years but this does not include vandalism Also to include two new signs informing the public of the age restriction. **SM**
  - (iii) Roundabout has been repaired- SM confirmed Amersham Town Council have replaced the bearings on the roundabout. It was agreed that Councillors should send any new suggestions for play equipment to SM, focusing on equipment that is low maintenance.

- SM to contact the Taplow Clerk to get information about the assault course in the children's play area. **SM**
5. **Woodland Management Plan 2013-23** – The Woodland Management Plan has been reviewed by Pyramid Consulting in June 2021 to cover the period from 2021 -2023 after which a new Management Plan will need to be produced. It was agreed for SM to arrange a meeting with Cllr Greenfield, Cllr Davey and Pyramid Consulting to discuss the Woodland Management Plan and report back at the next meeting. **All**
  6. **To re-consider the use of chemicals** to control unwanted vegetation on the Commons and the Camp. The Council agreed that using chemicals was better value for money. Previously the Council had tried Foamstream (very hot, soapy water) to eradicate weeds but this was ineffective and expensive. It was agreed to temporarily return to using chemicals. Cllr Holborn continued to raise concerns about the use of chemicals and offered to investigate alternative solutions. **SM, SD & TG**
  7. **To consider the state of the footpaths in the Commons** – It was agreed that SM should seek a quote to refurbish existing paths where required and a quote to resurface the footpath from A40 (Bulstrode Court) to the grass area by the football pitch. **BH**
  8. **Flagpole** – Our Insurance Company have confirmed any injury as a result of the flagpole will be covered by our public liability. However, it is prudent to carry out safety checks every so often. A special offer arose, unexpectedly, and our flagpole was checked on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at a special rate of £150. SM confirmed that the flagpole needs an ornamental base.
  9. **To consider the Green Flag award** – The Council agreed not to pursue the Green Flag award.
  10. **To review outstanding projects:** The Council reviewed the outstanding projects spreadsheet.
  11. **Common's Budget** – Cllr Chhokar confirmed that only routine payments have been made this month.
  12. **Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers** – More volunteers are required. The Council agreed to advertise on the website and Cllr O'Keeffe to put up the banner along Tesco's railings. **JOK**
  13. **Reports on Footpaths:-** Cllr Holborn has reported state of footpath next to Bulstrode Court to The Camp, to Rights of Way; (ii) Cllr O'Keeffe reported that a section of Footpath LEC 2 (near Isle of Wight Farm) is blocked. SM has been reported this to Rights of Way. **NB**
  14. **Communication:** - None but will advertise for more for GXCVs.
  15. **Correspondence** – (i) A commercial company emailed the Clerk to ask if they could use the common for their fun day. The Council voted against this request because it would set a precedent for other companies to make similar requests; (ii) A resident from West Common has written to advise the Council that he is hoping to set up a West Common Resident Association, to work with the police and monitor antisocial behaviour on the common and traffic issues. (iii) A trainer has requested to use the common for his bootcamp. The Council agreed to this with the usual conditions. **SM**
  16. **The date of the next meeting the Commons Committee will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 7pm at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.**

Meeting closed at 8.09 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

