

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 Meeting held 7pm on Monday 5th October 2020 at Gerrards Cross Memorial Hall

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

In Attendance: Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received from Cllr J Chhokar.

2. Public Participation – None.

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

East Common – JW reported: - (i) Collected 12 bags of litter; (ii) The underpass is still full of graffiti on the floor, walls and ceiling. It needs attention urgently; (iii) Millennium Yew (West Common) has some dieback – Ask Pyramid Consulting if there is a remedy; (iv) Ask Pyramid Consulting to collect tree guards.

West Common – IB reported:- (i) All looks fine. Nothing further to report; (ii) HO reported that the post laying on the grass by the layby needs removing.

Play Equipment – JP reported that a hole needs repairing on the safety surfacing under the zip wire.

The Camp – HO reported:- (i) Grass to be cut shortly. Unfortunately, cannot find anyone to bale it to remove the cuttings which would help the wildflowers. A local Botanist would like to discuss the flora so hopefully arrange a meeting with him this week before the mowing; (ii) A quote for £350 was agreed to flail back encroaching vegetation around the boundary.

4. Latchmore Pond Update – The clearance work was carried out last week but not so much was done as hoped for due to the wet conditions. It was agreed to ring fence any budget remaining to be carried over to next year for pond work.

5. Update on the Request from the Royal British Legion to plant a Common Beech and a Purple Beech trees on the Common to commemorate VE and VJ Day 75. HO and JW had looked at possible sites and have proposed:- (i) West Common, opposite the Bull Hotel where there is a gap in the hedge, to plant a group of 3 Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) which have brilliant autumn colouring and would grow well in the damp soil conditions; (ii) East Common between the youth shelter and the bund to plant an oak. JW preferred option (i).

6. Request for A request for Haybrook College to use Gerrards Cross Common to demonstrate orienteering, map reading and camping skills in training for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. It was agreed to grant permission except for camping skills if these included erecting tents and fires and to ensure the Byelaws are upheld. Date to be confirmed.

7. A request to run a fungi foray on the Commons. It was agreed to grant permission ensuring no digging or damage to the commons and to ensure the Byelaws are upheld. Date and number of participants to be confirmed.

8. To review outstanding projects: Noted. Additional comments (i) To seek a quote to cut back overgrown evergreen hedges either side of bridleway at the entrance to the Camp and submit these quotes to the owners of the hedges requesting them to arrange for the hedges to be cut back to their boundary. If the owners do not carry out this work, GXTC will do so and claim compensation from the owners; (ii) Repair of Valley Way steps at the Camp – A robust repair is required to ensure longevity. Also arrange for rubble to be rolled in to mud path, where there is a sharp slope by tree roots, to improve accessibility during wet weather conditions; (iii) Outdoor gym – still require some resistance when pedalling the bike; (iv) Replace rotor arm with a new piece of equipment (possibly the train).

Action

PC

**HO/J
W/SM**

9. To consider projects to submit to GX and Denham Community Board for funding. It was agreed to submit the following projects:- (i) £5k for a piece of play equipment suitable for the smaller children e.g. a train; (ii) £5k for removal of water lilies at new pond.

10.Common's Budget – Noted.

11.Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers – JW and HO reported that there were 15 volunteers and they worked along the main path, East Common, cutting back vegetation.

12.Review Footpaths – (i) JW - Footpath 23 the kissing gate still has a rope to fix it to the post. It does take the Rights of Way at Bucks Council a long time to carry out any repair work on footpaths.

13.Communication – None.

14.To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office.

15.The date of the next meeting of the Commons Committee will be held on 2nd November, 2020, 7pm at GX Memorial Centre.

Meeting closed at 7.48 pm

Signed.....

Date.....