

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 VIRTUAL Commons Committee Meeting held 7pm on Monday 6th July 2020

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

In Attendance: Cllr T Scott and Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk).

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None.
2. **Public Participation** – None.
3. **To receive Health and Safety reports and Updates as follows:-**

East Common – JW reported: - (i) The crossing on East Common Rd where there are the lime trees with epicormic growth need strimming back; (ii) Swish, the internet firm, have put a new cabinet and box on the cross roads but left everything tidy; (iii) 15+ bags rubbish collected including 7 shoes; (iv) When the exercise equipment goes in they should be added to our assets; (v) The ditches at the cross roads have been dug out and spoil correctly put on the banks; (vi) On West Common the two ramps that were constructed to entertain children mountain bikers have been removed; (vii) On East Common, in an out of the way area, there remains some sort of tract and bumps for children mountain bikers. Agreed to let the children carry on using this; (viii) The bund by Colston shed now needs cutting back.

West Common – IB reported that:- (i) Last night still a lot of noise late at night; (ii) IB circulated a photo of a tent he found pitched in the woods; (iii) Toilet paper found at the edge of the woods; (iv) A West Common resident has installed stones across the grass outside the curtilage of their property. Difficult situation as none of the stones along the grass verge at West Common are legally allowed; (v) CB suggested that the boundary of the woods is beginning to encroach on the grass area and needs cutting back to make more open space for users of the Common. HO will review the situation and report back; (vi) JO suggested asking the GXCVC to cut back overgrowing vegetation from the footpaths, particularly the main path and the Tesco path.

HO

Play Equipment – JP reported that the play area was very busy last weekend although it is still officially closed due to Covid 19. There are 2 damaged areas of flooring under the Zip Wire.

The Camp – HO reported:- (i) Valley Way steps, lower half on left hand side have been damaged. SM reported that it is on the handyman's list of work to do. JW suggested damage caused by mountain bikers but HO responded there is a gap so no need to cycle over steps. Will monitor the situation; (ii) Generally the Camp looks clean and tidy; (iii) SM to investigate the possibility of bailing this year; (iv) JW reported - Damaged silver birch at the Windsor Rd entrance has been cut to safety. Bulstrode Camp Res. Ass. wish to put another more decorative tree in its place which would be fine.

HO
SM

4. **To discuss recent incidents on West Common:** - IB has been keeping the Council informed about the anti-social behaviour taking place on West Common until late at night/early hours of the morning since the ease of lockdown and hot weather. IB had wanted GXCVC to have a meeting with the Police but this had not been agreed by Council and that this meeting should be organised by the residents of West Common. It was also suggested that residents of West Common should collect evidence and report all crime to the Police so the police have the statistics to warrant more patrolling of the area. JC advised IB that under the Code of Conduct IB should declare a personal interest when discussing West Common. IB disagreed and in response JC said he would take this matter to the Monitoring Officer. AW informed the meeting that WeAreGX Group are having a meeting on 17th July with Joy Morrissey MP, Insp. Ellis from TVPA and the Transport Police. AW suggested that IB

IB

should attend this meeting which IB welcomed. Hopefully the meeting will take place at the Colson Hall if it is available. Also AW suggested that a nominated resident of West Common should keep a record of all the complaints made so have the evidence readily available for the police.

Regards the possibility of having a Public Spaces Protection Order for the Commons, this proposal was put on hold until other options have been considered.

5. **To consider the lifting of further Covid 19 restrictions on 4th July when playgrounds may be re-opened.** SM reported that ATC were carrying out a deep clean first thing tomorrow morning and signage would be erected to publicise the play area being open again with guidance on how to keep safe according to the Government's recommendations. SM
6. **To consider a quote to provide a hard standing surface using grass creting at the entrance to West Common** from Packhorse Rd, via the rhino posts, which is used for access by the Circus and Fairground - £6265 (previous quote £5975). In principle this quote was agreed but the work has been put on hold as there is no budget for this work and the circus/funfair are unlikely to use the Common in the foreseeable future.
7. **To consider the quote for works** to Latchmore Pond North side - £9150 and Works to New Pond East-Side - £6300. There is £5k in the budget for each pond. These quotes were sought in April 2020 after the budget was set in September 2019. However there is capacity to cover the outstanding cost from the Adult Gym budget. In normal years these adjustments are made to the Common's budget at the F&GP meeting which usual takes place in June/July. JW raised concern about the amount of water lilies taking over New Pond and the proposed formation of a bund at New Pond which would be detrimental to the endangered plant species, Star Fruit which has been known to grow in the area. HO explained a new Contractor was used last year to remove the water lilies on New Pond using an amphibious dredger. However, this machine cut up the water lilies before dredging them consequently leaving many small plant parts distributed throughout the pond which have propagated resulting in prolific growth this year. This method will not be used again. JO raised concern about the cost of the above-mentioned quote and that we should consider the possibility of getting another quote. SM explained that this work is very specialised and the contractor who has quoted is not the same one who used the amphibious dredger. We have used this contractor for several years and they have proved to be very good and reliable, so it is not necessary to seek another quote if we agree. HO and SM to discuss the pond work and will circulate amended quotes.
8. **Outstanding works** – Noted. HO reported:- (i) The draft design of the Lidar sign for the Camp should be available by the end of July; (ii) Other works still on-going.
9. **Common's Budget** – Noted. HO/
SM
10. **Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers from Anna Sullivan** – Anna was pleased to see volunteers returning to carry out the conservation work after lockdown. JW reported there were 11 volunteers and they were happy to come back. They cut back some overgrowing vegetation from pathways.
11. **Review Footpaths** – (i) JW - Footpath 23 the kissing gate has been damaged and has been repaired with a rope to fix it to the post.
12. **Communication** – None.
13. **To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office.**
(i) Local resident has complemented the wildflowers on the bunds along East Common.
14. **The date of the next meeting** of the Commons Committee will be held on 7th September, 2020, 7pm at South Lodge.

Meeting closed at 7.59 pm

Signed.....

Date.....