

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 held at 7pm on Monday 6th September 2021 in the Garden Room, Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre

Present: Cllr. T Greenfield (Chairman), Cllr. N Barnett, Cllr. M Bracken, Cllr. J Chhokar, Cllr. S Davey, Cllr. C Da Costa, Cllr. B Holborn, Cllr. B Peck, Cllr. C Stuart-Lee, Cllr. A Wood.

In Attendance: Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk), Amy McCreary (Deputy Clerk), Cllr Brown (Associate Councillor).

1. **Apologies for Absence**, - Cllr O’Keeffe. Action
2. **Public speaking from residents regarding matters relevant to the meeting’s agenda with time allowed as 5 minutes per person.** – A resident raised concerns about the long grass at the Camp. He highlighted the fact that the Camp is a popular safe place for local people to walk their dogs. However the long grass produces high pollen which some dogs are allergic to. Long grass is the ideal home for ticks and the grass seeds get in the dogs’ paws. He also raised concern that residents were not informed when clearance work was carried out on The Fosse last autumn and pools of water collected in the depression when it rained. The resident queried the use of chemicals and suggested mowing the grass more than once a year. The Town Clerk confirmed that no chemicals had been used on the Camp. It was agreed that the mowing frequency will be raised at the next Commons meeting. SM
3. **Health & Safety Reports:-**
 - East Common** – Cllr Peck reported that East Common was looking good. The only problem is the road closure due to the construction works and this should finish September/early October.
 - West Common** - Cllr Da Costa has sent in a report and the Town Clerk will organise the repair of the defects of the issues raised. SM
 - Report Play Equipment** – Cllr Chhokar confirmed that play equipment is looking good. The zip wire and roundabout are out of action waiting for replacements.
 - Report on The Camp** – To Note: The Camp is cut once year in order to encourage a wildflower meadow. This year it has been arranged for a local Farmer to cut and remove the grass in September (once flower seeds have dropped) in order to encourage soil conditions low in nitrogen which promotes the growth of wildflowers. Cllr Bracken confirmed that all the debris around the substation had been removed. The Town Clerk confirmed that the broken step had been reported to the handyman.
4. **Play Equipment.**
 - (i) New Zip Wire – completed
 - (ii) New Roundabout - Order placed and 4/6 weeks manufacturing wait.
5. **Woodland Management Plan 2021-23** – The Woodland Management Plan Meeting will take place 7th September. Cllr Greenfield confirmed he will report back to the Council after the meeting. TG
6. **Memorial Bench** – The Council agreed to Mrs Gordons request for a Memorial bench at The Camp in memory of her late husband Ian Gordon. Ian Gordon, was a councillor for many years on GX Parish Council and was instrumental in the upkeep of the Camp. The Town Clerk to source the bench. SM
7. **Request to hold a ‘Fungal Foray’** on (probably) 31st October for up to 16 people on the Commons – The Council agreed this request.
8. **Flagpole** – The new ornamental base is now in place.
9. **Duck House** – It was agreed that the Town Clerk should research the positive and negatives for a duck house on Latchmore Pond and report back at the next meeting. SM

10. At the request of Cllr Davey, “**Tim and Sarah to review the current Commons maintenance plan to understand if this is still sufficient for our on-going needs and report back the finds at the next meeting.** The Council agreed. **TG/S D**
11. At the request of Cllr Barnett, ‘**A review of all of the contracts we have in place to enable us to create a tender process**’. The Council agreed to check the current contracts. Cllr Bracken to review The Councils Financial policy and report back to the next F &GP meeting. **TG/S DNB MB**
12. **Request from St James Church to host a Community Carol Service in a marquee on the north west side of West Common (near to Wildwood Restaurant) on 19th December 2021.** The Council agreed to this request. S Moffat confirmed this is a free event.
13. **Review outstanding projects**
- (i) The new descriptive signs for the Camp – The Chiltern Society have nearly completed making the new signs.
- (ii) There is a meeting on Wednesday 8th September at the Camp. The conifers that overhang the bridal way will be discussed. **MB/T G/SD**
- (iii) It was agreed that The Council should apply for funding to top up the footpath along West Common running through the woods from A40 to football pitch. The Town Clerk to apply through the Community Board and report back. **SM**
- (iv) 3 x new replacement woodland style litter bins to be added as an agenda item for the next meeting. NB The Community Board will not fund these new style benches. **SM**
- (v) Cllr Wood confirmed the 2 x additional woodland style litter bins were under review by South Bucks Waste Manager. Cllr Wood to report back. **AW**
- (vi) Amersham Town Council have recommended to paint the subway railings white instead of black. The Council agreed.
- (vii) The Council agreed to go with a single notice board for West Common. A McCreary to order. **AM**
- (ix) S Moffat confirmed that she is getting a quote from a company to upgrade the footpaths. **SM**
14. **To consider projects for next year’s budget, 2022-23.** – The Council agreed to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.
15. **Common’s Budget: 5K has been set aside for work at The Fosse this year.** It was agreed to discuss this at The Camp Meeting 8th September 2021.
16. **Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers** – The Volunteers have been working hard. At the last meeting they uncovered a bench. They have been focusing on clearing the paths on the Common.
17. **Footpaths – LE2** – The Town Clerk confirmed that Rights of Way will be removing the tree that has fallen down and Amersham Town Council will remove the overgrowth.
18. **Communications** – The Town Clerk to confirm the date that the lily removal on the pond will take place and the date is to be put on the website. **SM**
19. **To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office**
Enquiry about impact on parking by users of ‘boot camps’ and free access by organisers; (b) No Parking signs on access roads on West Common need replacing; (c) Complaint that due to the long grass at The Camp dogs are suffering from allergies picked up from the pollen and dogs can’t be seen; (d) West Common Residents Association has been set up.
20. **The date of the next meeting the Commons Committee will be held on Monday 4th October 2021, 7pm at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.**

Meeting closed at 7.53

Signed.....

Date.....