

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 6pm on Monday 7th December 2020 at Gerrards Cross Memorial Hall

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

In Attendance: Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk).

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

2. Public Participation – None.

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

East Common – JW reported: - (i) Collected about 10 bags of litter; (ii) Good news is the underpass remains clean; (iii) The grass area by crossroads, leading down to Windsor Road, has been left in a mess after the Superfast Broadband works; (iv) JP reported fallen tree across footpath. SM confirmed an order has been placed for its removal.

West Common – IB reported:- (i) There are a couple of broken posts by the gravel access road; (ii) CB reported that the Coach House Developers are not been putting the barrier tape across the turning circle. HO offered to talk to site operatives.

Play Equipment – JP reported:- (i) All looks fine. Adult Gym can be re-opened now lockdown has ended.

The Camp – HO reported:- (i) The bench has been repaired; (ii) The Fosse clearance work has commenced and expecting periphery to be flailed soon; (iii) Valley Way steps still waiting to be repaired and drainage improved; (iv) JW reported there is hawthorn scrub growing in the grass area which needs removing.

4. At the request of Cllr Orme – Climate Change and GXTC.

Help Native Pollinators Locally - Friends of the Earth advocate helping native pollinators such as bees, moths, butterflies, beetles, wasps - locally. We need our pollinators, they are in decline due to Habitat loss, Pesticides and Climate Change. This initiative would have a wide appeal, so it would be good to raise awareness.

Local Authorities have a duty to Conserve Biodiversity - At the Camp, the number of wildflowers should improve once baling commences next year and the grass cuttings are removed. HO suggested having a wildflower area on the grass verge along the Oxford Rd by junction of Fulmer Rd (by the telephone mast) as residents have been keen to have a wildflower area at the entrance into town. It was agreed to seek a quote from a contractor to carry out the work and apply for funding from the Local Community Board. Plugs may be preferable to seed. If anyone has other ideas for Climate Change projects, please include them in future agendas.

5. To note response from Plantlife after inspecting the Ponds– Starfruit was last seen at New pond in 1998 and Latchmore pond 1993. JW reported that Plantlife used to carry out yearly inspections of our ponds and were licenced to spread the seeds from Starfruit which they did, planting seeds from GX around the ponds at Black Park. This was successful, as with the cattle trampling the ground around the ponds and differing water levels throughout the year, it created the right conditions for Starfruit to grow. Sadly, Plantlife could not find any visible signs of Star Fruit at their recent visit to GX. As Starfruit is on the list of rare plants we must manage our ponds keeping this in mind. HO went on to report that Plantlife noticed some cloudiness in the water due to run-off from adjacent hard surfaces which needs to be monitored. Also, Crassula is prominent but GXTC have agreed not to treat this with chemicals and in the last report from the Ecologist, he did say that Crassula may reach a climax and then start receding.

Action

LAT

HO

- 6. **To note the Annual Playground Inspection Report** – This was noted. The defects were low to medium risk and some were fundamental due to the design of the equipment. The new Adult Gym had a good report (except bolt cap cover missing on the bicycle). The grass matting is looking good now the grass has grown. SM has asked ATC to carry out any necessary repairs. Also, to note renewal of some safety surfaces has been included in next year’s budget. ATC
- 7. **Request from GX Rotary Matins to change the date of the Santas Fun Run from 6th to 20th** December and to use the new hardstanding area on West Common by the turning circle for their small Santa float on Saturday and Sunday (19th and 20th Dec) mornings. This was agreed.
- 8. **To review outstanding projects:** Noted. Points highlighted:- (i) The Camp: Information sign - awaiting update; overhanging conifers – SM to visit owners after Christmas; puddling at bridleway entrance – ATC to fix; Valley Way Steps – waiting for handyman to repair and include a trench for water to drain away. (ii) West Common – relocation of bench by Latchmore Pond. SM
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- 9. **Common’s Budget** – Noted.
- 10. **Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers** – No meeting held in November.
- 11. **Review Footpaths** – (i) JO reported the tree has now been cut back along Footpath 6 ; (ii) JW reported that the dam has been removed by New pond.
- 12. **Communication** – None.
- 13. **To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office** – None.
- 14. **The date of the next meeting** of the Commons Committee will be held on 4th January, 2020.

Cllr Orme thanked members of the Commons Committee for their input throughout the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed.....

Date.....