

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 Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 7th June 2021

Present: Cllr. A Wood (Mayor), Cllr. N Barnett, Cllr. M Bracken, Cllr. J Chhokar, Cllr. C Da Costa, Cllr. S Davey, Cllr. T Greenfield, Cllr. B Holborn, Cllr. B Peck, Cllr. C Stuart-Lee.
In Attendance: Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk), Amy McCreary (Deputy Clerk), Cllr Brown (Associate Councillor).

1. **Election of Chairman** – At the proposition of Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Barnett, it was agreed for Cllr Greenfield to be Chairman for the ensuing year. **Action**
2. **Elections of Vice-Chairman** - At the proposition of Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Barnett, it was agreed for Cllr Davey to be Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.
3. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr. J O’Keeffe
4. **Public speaking from residents regarding matters relevant to the meeting’s agenda with time allowed as 5 minutes per person.** – No residents attended.
5. **Resolved the councillors wishing to carry out Health & Safety Reports for 2020-21 for the following:-**
 - Report on East Common** – The Council agreed that Cllr Peck will be responsible for providing an update report on East Common
 - Report on West Common** - The Council agreed that Cllr Da Cost will be responsible for providing an update report on West Common. Updates - a (i) Yoga classes have commenced 4 x per week as agreed; (ii) Cricket not yet started due to bad weather; Cllr Chhokar declared an interest in this agenda item. (iii) Shakespeare Production on 12th June 2021 Cllr Stuart-Lee confirmed that the tickets for this event were sold out.

Cllr Wood informed the Councillors any urgent issues should be reported straight away via email to the Clerk with the Chairman and Vice Chairman in copy. They should not wait until the next meeting to report problems.

 - Report on The Camp** – The Council agreed that Cllr Bracken will be responsible for providing an update report on The Camp. Updates - Still waiting for Lidar sign. The Chiltern Society are creating a new information board as part of Beacons of the Past- Hillforts in the Chilterns Landscape. £2000 has been put aside for this sign.
6. **Report Play Equipment** – The Council agreed that Cllr Chhokar will be responsible for reporting the play equipment.
 - (i) **To consider quotes for replacement Zip Wire.** The Town Clerk has received three quotes for the Zip Wire. Quote one was £12500 because the firm confirmed that they would have to replace the posts. Quote two was £5681 for replacing the wire mechanism and the seat and overlay with safety matting. Quote three was £6660 to replace the wire mechanism, the seat, dig out and replace the safety matting. The Council agreed that the safety matting should be dug out and replaced. The Town Clerk, Cllr Davey and Cllr Greenfield are to get comparative quotes and it was agreed they have the autonomy to choose which firm to go with. **SD, TG & SM**
 - (ii) **To consider refurbishment or replacement of roundabout.** The roundabout is not working. The Town Clerk has not arranged for it to be removed because the Zip Line is broken and she did not want two pieces of equipment removed at the same time. The Town Clerk confirmed that Amersham Town Council need to remove the roundabout and check if it can be repaired. If it cannot be fixed a new accessible roundabout would cost approximately £7000 to £10000 and this includes safety surfacing. It was agreed that the Town Clerk, Cllr Davey and Cllr Greenfield should agree quotes for a new roundabout if the old one cannot be repaired. **SD, TG & SM**
 - (iii) **To consider the results of the Playground Survey** – Two of the main points from the Survey were there needs to be more play equipment for children under the age of six and an

accessible swing. It was agreed that the roundabout and Zip Wire should be repaired first before deciding any future improvements. Cllr Davey and Cllr Greenfield to review the survey results and give a report at the next meeting. SD & TG

7. To consider the quotes for the following works at New Pond:-

- (i) Manual removal of approx. 50% of water lilies and their rhizomes, leaving 3 clumps around high water marker in centre of pond, transport material to skips and tidy up site - £4,500
- (ii) Manual removal of Norfolk Reeds and their rhizomes to approx. 1m of the bank, transport material to skip and tidy-up site - £3,500.

The Council agreed that the £8000 left in the budget should be used to cover the cost of the above pond work. The Town Clerk confirmed the work would take approximately three days to complete. It was agreed that the pond work would be reviewed annually to keep maintenance costs to a minimum. It was agreed that due to the date of the quote the Town Clerk will confirm the cost of the work and verify it at the Full Council meeting. Cllr Greenfield and Cllr Davey to liaise with the Town Clerk before the work commences. The scheduled work should be put on the website and social media so the residents are aware. SD, TG & SM

8. Request from the Fun Fair to use West Common the third week in July. – Agreed.

9. Request from a Fitness Instructor to teach mum and baby fitness classes on the Common on Saturday mornings and one or two weekday mid mornings. The Council agreed to grant permission. The Town Clerk to inform the instructor not to play the music to loud. The guidelines for using the Common need to be uploaded to the Town Council’s website. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Common Bye Laws are on the website and on the Common notice boards.

10. Flagpole – One quote received for £510 +VAT to check safety of flagpole before any work can proceed – The Council agreed the Town Clerk should check the legality of a yearly safety inspection. If it is not required by law, the Town Clerk would bring it back to the Council for a decision. SM

11. To review outstanding projects: (i) The Camp signs are still outstanding, (ii) Water the Christmas tree fortnightly basis – ongoing, (iii) The overhanging conifers has only been cut on one side of the bridleway – A letter has been sent to property owners, (iv) Top up footpath along West Common is now complete. Cllr Holborn stated that the footpath should be extended because after the stretch of path it gets muddy. Cllr Davey and Cllr Greenfield to check, (v) The ditch by Crabb Hill will be cleaned out once it has dried up, (vi) The wildflower areas have been installed. SM to follow up with Denham, GX & Chalfonts Community Board regarding the funding. The signs have been removed from the wild flower beds as two were damaged in the Camp. Cllr Holborn picked up one of the signs and will return it to the office. Cllr Davey and Cllr Greenfield to attend the Environmental WG of the Community Board meetings, (viii) Investigating and improving glades, the felling licence will expire in 2023. After that the Council can apply for more funding, (ix) Replacement of bins – The Town Clerk has been liaising with the South Bucks Waste Manager for agreement, (xi) Painting of the subway railings. The Council agreed that the railings should be re-painted white. SD & TG

12. Common’s Budget – Cllr Chhokar confirmed that only routine payments have been made this month. Cllr Bracken and Cllr Chhokar to discuss re-categorising the budget so it is easier to identify expenditure.

13. Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers – The Town Clerk informed the Council of the work of the Volunteers. They meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month. The current leader is leaving this month.

14. Footpaths – To resolve councillors wishing to carry out footpath checks. Cllr Wood confirmed that concrete footpaths should come under Highways and non-concrete footpaths come under the Rights of Way. Councillors need to check their allocated footpaths and report any issues on Fix My Street. They should also let the Town Clerk know of any reports.

Path no.	Location	Councillor responsible
2	From A413 over M25 Denham Marsh Wood to Slade Oak Lane	Cllr O’Keeffe
4	Packhorse Rd (opp Orchehill Ave) to Lower Road	Cllr Da Costa
5	Orchehill Ave to Ethorpe Close	
6	From railway footbridge to station car park	Cllr Stuart-Lee

6a	Orchehill Rise to Ethorpe Close	Cllr Stuart-Lee
7	Layters Way, over railway and left to footpath emerging on Orchehill Ave	Cllr Stuart-Lee
8	Bull Lane to Oxford Road	Cllr Barnett
10	Bulstrode Way to Latchmore Pond	Cllr Holborn
11	Adj to Wapseys Wood site	Cllr Greenfield
12	Hedgerly Lane parallel to M40	Cllr Greenfield
13	Oxford Road from Pig & Whistle Lodge	Cllr Greenfield
14	From Main drive to Moat Farm	Cllr Barnett
15	From Main Drive to Hedgerley Lane	Cllr Barnett
17	Manor Lane – Windsor Road to Oxford Road	Cllr Chhokar
18	From Oxford Road (adj to underpass) to Manor Lane	Cllr Chhokar
21	Bridleway from A413 just after layby near viaduct to isle of Wight Farm	Cllr O’Keeffe
22	East Common	Cllr Holborn
22b	West Common	Cllr Holborn
23	From Hedgerly Lane to M40 underpass	Cllr Greenfield
43	From Lower Road across A413 and along boundary with Chalfont St Peter parish	Cllr Greenfield

- 15. Communication** – (i) A resident had emailed in some suggestions for new play equipment for the playground, (ii) A number of residents have contacted the Town Clerk regarding the caterpillar infestation on the common. The Town Clerk has been in contact with WildLifeinSight who confirmed that the caterpillars are necessary to feed the nesting birds and most of them will pupated by the end of June, (iii)The Town Clerk has been notified that there is algae accruing on Latchmore Pond and has arranged for someone to come and check it.
- 16. Correspondence:** - (i) A resolution was passed not to use chemical weed killer, however, due to the cost and efficiency of using the alternatives, such as foamstream, the Council agreed to review this decision at the next meeting, (ii) Amersham Town Council have been asked to strim the ditches along the both sides of Packhorse Road..
- 17. The date of the next meeting the Commons Committee will be held on Monday 5th July 2021, 7pm at Gerrards Cross Memorial Hall.**

Meeting closed at 8.03 pm

SM

Signed.....

Date.....

