

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 Meeting held 6pm on Monday 2nd March 2020 at South Lodge

Present: Cllrs H Orme (Chairman), 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 Chhokar.

2. Public Participation – None.

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

East Common – JW reported: - (i) 5 bags of rubbish collected from both East and West Commons; (ii) Underpass - 3 lights still not working; (iii) Walnut tree still alive; (iv) Returning tree covers to Council Office to be re-used;

(v) JO reported that the iron railings have fallen down at Colston Hall and are dangerous along that boundary with the Common.

West Common – IB reported that:- (i) Ponds are full and looking very good and the Common is very wet after all the rain; (ii) Christmas tree is looking a bit sad. Practicality Brown did offer to mulch the soil around it; (iii) 3 Canadian geese have returned; (iv) JW reported the muncjack is very much in evidence; (iv) Buses are driving over the grass at the turning circle. JO suggested focussing the CCTV cameras on to this area and ask for extra parking enforcement; (v) JO suggested that, now the rhino posts have been repaired, need to level the surface by the post at the access point used by the fair and circus to stop damage. Agreed to consider concrete grass creting; (vii) The Sculptor never came forward to sculpture the log. The log is now rotting but is safe and will monitor the situation; (viii) The state of the footpath alongside Latchmore Pond is satisfactory considering all the wet weather. Today all was dry apart from a couple of small puddles. The Developer is placing stones where potholes occur. Will monitor the situation and report any problems to the Office. AW and HO are a good point of contact with the developer; (ix) Still to check the safety aspect of installing concrete bollards along West Common.

Play Equipment – JP reported all looks good. The Town Clerk reported that she is looking for a lower quote to replace the handles of the overhead rotator. The play equipment in general is well used.

The Camp – HO reported:- (i) Crabbe Hill ditch is working well; (ii) There are 2 streams flowing down Valley Way footpath. Need some more, but bigger stones, to cover this area to make safe. Also, need to consider a proper refurbishment of the area, possibly installing more steps. The wooden surrounds of broken steps should be replaced with concrete surrounds so longer lasting. Some wooden surrounds need repairing; (iii) SM has written to the owner at No7 regards state of fence and overgrown vegetation; (iv) SM has written to the owner of 26 Camp Road to cut back conifers overhanging the bridleway; (v) Puddling by gate at the entrance of bridleway so needs levelling.

4. To consider suggestions for Outdoor gym equipment The quote was agreed to purchase the equipment from Home Counties at a £8850. The design will be slightly modified to ensure it is a semi-circle shape. To check guarantee of equipment and starting date.

5. To discuss the use of metal detectors on the Commons – To Note Byelaw 4 States that’ No Person Shall without lawful authority, upon the common or any parts thereof:- (i) Remove or

displace turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay of other substance. Also, to note the Government guidance on 'Open access land: management, rights and responsibilities' states that under the CROW Act one of the restrictions is that a metal detector cannot be used without permission of the landowner. After consideration it was agreed not to give permission for people to use metal detectors on East and West Commons.

6. To review outstanding projects: Updates:- (i) New signs still awaiting installation. It was agreed to use the original 'No Fishing' sign. (ii) Some running posts still waiting to have metal surrounds at base, (iii) Tree work as a result of tree survey will now commence at the end of March as the Tree Surgeon has been delayed due to the recent storms, (iv) Still waiting for The Camp signs being made by Chilterns AONB, (v) Litterbins by bus stops along the Oxford Rd – Still waiting for a response from SBDC's Waste Contract Manager to move one of the 2 bins by the subway bus stop to the next one along the Oxford Rd.; (v) Remove Footpath 4 from the list.

7. Common's Budget – Noted.

8. Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers – About 11 volunteers turned up and continued to cut back holly regrowth in East Common.

9. Review Footpaths - HO reported Bulstode Park footpath is still very muddy. JC sent in a report that he had walked his footpaths and had nothing to report.

SM

10. Communication – None.

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

Letter from local resident to highlight the new Agricultural Bill which is designed to take a new approach towards land management such as rewilding, to contribute to the global environment. It was agreed that GXTC are very much pro-active in promoting biodiversity and about 90% of the Commons are natural woodlands and grasslands. However, it is important for GXTC to manage the Commons for all users of the community so it is important to have playgrounds, running circuits and other uses of the Commons, such as football, to be available

12. The date of the next meeting of the Commons Committee will be held on 6th April, 2020, 7pm at South Lodge.

Meeting closed at 7.58pm

Signed.....

Date.....

