

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at South Lodge

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr Holmes 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) 7 bags of rubbish collected from both East and West Commons; (ii) Underpass - 3 lights still not working but Bucks CC have spent a lot of money installing a yellow handrail throughout; (iii) Some graffiti in the bus shelter; (iv) Grass in front of pump very pitted and needs flattening; (iv) Collecting tree guards for re-use; (v) JW has been informed by the Rotary Club that they will be doing a community litter pick and she would suggest litter picking the ditches; (iv) HO has litter picked the Packhorse Rd ditch, East Common side; (vii) HO reported the new sign is now on the pump.

**West Common** – IB reported that:- (i) Ponds are full and looking very good; (ii) Turf has been laid over the bund where the drainage work was carried out; (iii) It was agreed to install 4/5 concrete posts strategically placed along boundary of bund by bend (opposite Paddock House) to prevent grass damage by vehicles. HO and AW to have a site visit next Tuesday; (iv) Cars are parking in the temporarily closed car park by Latchmore Pond which prevents lorries accessing and exiting the new development from the A40. It was suggested that posts and chain is needed to prevent parking and AW offered to speak to the Developer.

HO/AW

AW

**Play Equipment** – JP reported all looks good. The Town Clerk reported that the handles of the overhead rotator have been removed as damaged and waiting for replacements..

**The Camp** – HO reported:- (i) Crabbe Hill ditch is now flowing as BCL have improved the drainage system. There is now no need to fill the ditch with gravel; (ii) Local residents have been collecting logs from the wood pile; (iii) There is a dangerous muddy section in Valley Way footpath caused by a sudden water flow across a steep part of the footpath. It was suggested to cover this area with stones to make safe. Also one of the steps needs attention. Write to owner at No7 regards state of fence and overgrown vegetation; (iv) JW asked for GXTC to write to the owners of 26 Camp Road to cut back conifers overhanging the bridleway.

SM

4. **To consider suggestions for Outdoor gym equipment and for a small train play equipment**

**Train** – It was agreed to use the equipment from Home Counties and have:- (i) double combi pull down/power push, (ii) double slalom skier, (iii) single exercise bike; (iv) Double squat push and (v) 3 person waist twister. All equipment to be in a semi-circle under grass matting plus grass matting surface for access pathway to fitness area. Quote was just under £9k. SM to ask for a design of this equipment in a semi-circle and length of the warranty of the equipment and maintenance required in order to finalise everything at the next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The train was also discussed and the design from Home Counties was the preferred one at a quote of £12k. However it was agreed to put on hold until the funding is in place. Can apply for a grant from Tesco's Bags for Help but now only grant a maximum of £2k per project.

- 5 **It was agreed to carry out tree thinning on East Common to allow focal trees to grow to their full potential for the future.** Our Tree Consultant, Pyramid Consulting, has advised this would be beneficial for the future development of the woodlands. The Forestry Commission has approved another 5 year felling licence. Pyramid Consulting has suggested that Practicality Brown carries out the work as they can accommodate large scale tree works and then treat the timber to be used as biomass energy. There will be difficulty accessing and exiting the site but would be beneficial if the work is carried out in conjunction with the holly mulching in September/October. HO went onto say that Practicality Brown use a robot mulcher for the holly re-growth which works below crown height of the trees and can mulch the roots of the holly to prevent regrowth.
- 6 **To review outstanding projects:** Updates:- (i) New signs awaiting installation, (ii) Some running posts have metal surrounds at base, (iii) Tree work as a result of tree survey should commence in March, (iv) Still waiting for The Camp signs being made by Chilterns AONB, (v) Litterbins by bus stops along the Oxford Rd – SM has asked the 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.
- 7 **Common’s Budget** – Noted and the £20k underspend this year will be reallocated to the outdoor gym and the train. **SM**
- 8 **Report on the latest meeting of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers** – About 13 volunteers turned up and cut back holly along East Common. It was pointed out that the volunteers must ensure the barrier of vegetation is retained between the Common and the road. Also any large trees that need cutting down requires to be done professionally and 2/3 ft high tree stumps should not be left as a trip hazard.
- 9 **Review Footpaths** - JP reported that the Bulstode Park footpath is not only waterlogged but has dangerous looking cows on it now. The Rights of Way Officer will be carrying out an inspection of this footpath and she also went on to say that the damaged step at the entrance to Footpath 4 from A40 is the responsibility of Tfb.
- 10 **Communication** – None.
- 11 **To note general information received in the correspondence at the Council Office.**
  - (i) Request to form a small outdoor fitness class on the Common from 8-9am on Saturday mornings. There was no objection to this provided she has insurance, ensures participants park considerately and to know the location.
  - (ii) Classic Car Show at GXCA -Request to use the grass area by the Colston shed as an overflow car park and the bus turning circle to advertise the event. Agreed.
  - (iii) Great British Spring Clean campaign from 20<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> April.
  - (iv) Talk on Hillforts by Professor Cunliffe on 7<sup>th</sup> March at Amersham.
- 12 **The date of the next meeting** of the Commons Committee will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020, 7pm at South Lodge.

Meeting closed at 7.58pm

Signed.....

Date.....

