

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 Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 19th July 2021 in the Garden Room at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre

Present: Cllr. A Wood (Mayor), Cllr. N Barnett, Cllr. M Bracken, Cllr. J Chhokar, Cllr. C Da Costa, Cllr. T Greenfield, Cllr. B Holborn, Cllr. J O’Keeffe, Cllr. B Peck, Cllr. P Roberts, Cllr. C Stuart-Lee.

In Attendance: Chris Brown (Associate Councillor), Sue Moffat (Town Clerk) and Amy McCreary (Deputy Town Clerk). Four members of the public.

39/21 To accept apologies of absence: Cllr Sarah Davey, Buckinghamshire Council Cllr. T Broom, Buckinghamshire Council Cllr. P Bass, Buckinghamshire Council Cllr S Chhokar, Buckinghamshire Council Cllr. G Hollis.

40/21 Declaration of Interests - Councillors please give any declarations of interest at the beginning of the item on the Agenda.

41/21 To approve the Minutes from the Full Council meeting on 21st June 2021. Cllr Wood proposed, Cllr Da Costa seconded and the Council agreed the Minutes.

42/21 Public Speaking from residents regarding matters relevant to the meeting’s agenda with time allowed 5 minutes per person. – Michael Taylor a resident of Orchehill Avenue expressed his concerns about trees being cut down in the conservation area. The trees add value to the neighbourhood and the residents would like to do as much as they can to help protect them. The Neighbourhood Plan was discussed as a means of providing extra protection for trees. Cllr Wood informed the residents that the Town Council also supports the protection of trees as they are an important feature of Gerrards Cross. Members of the public can attend the Neighbourhood Plan meetings to highlight this issue as well.

43/21 Report from Buckinghamshire Councillors.

Cllr Bracken went to the Community Board Meeting and informed the Council that there is a portion of last year’s budget unspent. This is going to be moved into the 21/22 budget and the Council should consider putting some proposals forward.

Cllr Bracken, Cllr Broom and Cllr Wood had a meeting with the Head of Licensing at Buckinghamshire Council regarding the East Common road closure. Buckinghamshire Council are reviewing the road closure and will issue a formal response. The developer is working with the Council and has provided a provisional time for re-opening in the first or second week in September. The East Common Road Closure is an agenda item for the Buckinghamshire Council full Council Meeting.

Cllr Wood had a meeting with Buckinghamshire council regarding the resurfacing of Packhorse Road and raised concerns that the paperwork states repatching. Buckinghamshire Council have confirmed that the patch work taking place is on a bigger scale and not the standard patchwork used to fill potholes. Cllr Wood has received confirmation that the white lining at junction of Oxford Road and Packhorse Road will be completed at midnight on 19th July 2021. Cllr Wood is also waiting for confirmation for the date when Woodlands is going to be resurfaced.

East Common residents reported flooding in the road. This was reported to Buckinghamshire Council who have been out and cleared the gullies to rectify the problem.

44/21 To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings:-

- (i) Commons Committee 5th July 2021 Cllr Greenfield proposed Cllr Peck and the Council agreed the Minutes after making the following amendment to:- *Report on The Camp – Cllr Bracken has reviewed all entrances. No entrance is blocked but Valley Way entrance would benefit from being cut back overhanging branches. Town Clerk requested to write to relevant homes on Valley way and Woodbank avenue. Noted there is some equipment near to Crabb Tree Hill entrance – Cllr Bracken to follow up. SM confirmed that the grass will be cut in September. The Council agreed to the update.*
- (ii) Highways Committee 5th July 2021 Cllr Peck proposed, Cllr Holborn seconded, and the Council agreed the Minutes.
- (iii) Planning Committee 28th June and 12th July 2021 – Cllr Chhokar confirmed the Minutes.

45/21 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) updates

Norman Holmes (Chairman) of the NPSG declined the request of having two councillor representatives to join the group. S Moffat has requested for one councillor, Cllr J Chhokar to represent The Council and is awaiting a response.

46/21 To amend GXTC Climate Change Statement 2021 (See Minute 6 of the Commons

Committee 5th July, 2021)– Remove the following statement under:-Support Biodiversity – *‘and use alternatives such as mulching.* The Council requested that the wording be updated to state ‘– *‘and use non-chemical methods such as mulching and when these methods are not effective to use chemicals’.*

47/21 To agree the office refurbishment – S Moffat has received two quotes and the local contractor is the best value for money. The quote is for £24,000 which includes complete decoration, furniture and hot water in the toilet. There is an additional £680.00 for replacing and tidying up the IT cabling by out IT company. It was agreed to see if the Town Clerk could negotiate any reductions to keep within the £24k budget, but it was recognised that since Covid, cost of materials have increased. The Council gave approval to go ahead with the office refurbishment once the new lease has been agreed.

Cllr Wood, as Mayor, moved the next agenda item, 10, to the end of the meeting due to it being a confidential nature of business to be transacted.

48/21 High Street entertainment - Update. Awaiting feedback from WeAreGX.- A McCreary confirmed that WeAreGX are reviewing the list of street entertainment and a shortlist of acts will be sent out shortly. S Moffat and A McCreary to work with WeAreGX and chose suitable acts.

49/21 My Town Guide App - After a meeting with WeAreGX it was suggested that a better way forward would be to sign up to GXTC’s web site on the mobile phone and to have a digital, up to date, noticeboard in the town centre. Cllr Da Costa informed the Council that the main points regarding the electronic noticeboard would be that it provides up to date information and it would require another employee to manage the notice board. The approximate costs for the employee and the notice board would be:- Notice board: £4000, Employee: £1000 per month. The running costs could be reduced if the notice board was used for advertising. There is also the potential location of putting the board outside Tesco and Tesco have agreed to provide the electricity. The Town Clerk will carry out further investigations.

50/21 a) To approve payments for July - The Council approved the payments for July as circulated.
b) To delegate to the Chairman of F&GP and the Town Clerk to approve payments in August – The Council agreed. S Moffat confirmed any payments made in August will be presented at the September meeting.

51/21 Report on meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council:-

Cllr Holborn confirmed he had raised the flag for the football in July.

Cllr Barnett and Cllr Chhokar attended the Gerrards Cross litter pick.

Cllr Peck has had regular meetings with the residents and the developers at East Common regarding the road closure.

Cllr Peck, Cllr Wood and Cllr O’Keeffe attended a meeting with Highways UK regarding Mill Lane.

Cllr Wood has discussed with Highways the East Common closure and road closure signs regularly falling on a daily basis.

Cllr Da Costa and Cllr Greenfiled had a meeting with WeAreGX and S Moffat regarding the My Town App.

Cllr O’Keeffe, Cllr Wood and Cllr Barnett had a meeting with Denham Aerodrome regarding noise complaints and low flying aircraft.

52/21. To note information received in the correspondence at the Council Office – (i) A McCreary contacted the turtle sanctuary regarding capturing the Terrapin in New Pond because they had recently rescued some from Black Park. The sanctuary explained that the terrapins were removed from Black Park because they are planting new vegetation which the terrapins would eat. They informed us that one terrapin is unlikely to cause damage to the pond. The cost for removing the terrapin would be £2000 plus. The Council agreed to leave the terrapin in New Pond. (ii) A resident has requested for a duck house to be built on Latchmore pond for the safety of the ducks keep getting attacked. The Council agreed.

53/21 Resolved that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw (Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1) for the following agenda item.

54/21 To consider the proposed new terms of GXTC’s – The members of the public were asked to leave the meeting at 8.10pm.

The quote from Alan James, a solicitor based in High Wycombe, to represent the Council was agreed. Cllr Barnett is in the process of negotiating with the Solicitor the terms of the new lease for the Town Council Office at South Lodge with Gerrards Cross Community Association

55/21 To confirm that the next Council Meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be on 20th September 2021 at the Memorial Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Payments 21st July 2021						
Chq No/Bacs/DD	Payee	Net Exp.	VAT	Gross Exp	Total to Payee	Transaction Details
	Commons					
BACS	Amersham Town Council	130.00	26	156.00	5339.20	Weekly playground inspections
BACS	Amersham Town Council	2486.00	497.2	2983.20		Supply and install wildflower areas as per agreed quote
BACS	A M S	876.50		876.50	876.50	Monthly grass cutting contract - June 21
BACS	Latchmore Garden Care	255.00		255.00	445.00	Cut footpaths at the Camp and by Latchmore Pond
BACS	Organick Gardens	832.00		832.00	1067.00	Sand down, stain benches, repair benches, repair information board, clear up mess after BBQ, fence off Zip Wire
BACS	Mylene Security Ltd	521.50	104.3	625.80	625.80	Service/repair rhino posts at West Common
BACS	Zephyr	150.00	30.00	180.00	180.00	Flagstaff safety check
Card	Survey Monkey	15.83	3.17	19.00	19.00	Access playground survey results
	Highways					
BACS	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75	450.00	1870.80	Monthly street lighting contract
BACS	Leigh Electrical	40.00	8.00	48.00		charge up and move MVAS
BACS	Leigh Electrical	340.00	68.00	408.00		New head St Huberts Close
BACS	Leigh Electrical	664.00	132.80	796.80		To pay and organise electricity supply from SSE for West Common
BACS	Leigh Electrical	140.00	28.00	168.00		Disconnect and remove xmas lights by Guide Hut to building site
DD	Southern Electric	293.81	58.76	352.57	366.44	Unmetered electricity
DD	Southern Electric	13.21	0.66	13.87		Unmetered electricity
BACS	Amersham Town Council	1833.33	366.67	2200.00		Devolved Services
BACS	Latchmore Garden Care	190.00		190.00		Strim Oak End Way and Marsham Lane bench areas June & July
BACS	Organick Gardens	235		235.00		Stain benches, remove graffiti on bus shelter, high street weeding
BACS	Forde 7 McHugh	416	83.2	499.20	499.20	Hire of cherry picker to re-install cctv cameras outside Cookes
	Administration					
BACS	GXCA	300.00		300.00	300.00	Room hire for June
DD	Chess	142.57	28.51	171.08	171.08	Telephone and broadband
BACS	BMKALC	380.00		380.00	380.00	Bespoke Council training
BACS	ICO	40.00		40.00	40.00	Data Protection Renewal
Card	Amazon	19.99	4	23.99	23.99	Headst for laptop
	Bank charges	8.40		8.40	8.40	
	Parish Office					
	CNG	20.79	1.04	21.83	21.83	Gas Supply
DD	Gazprom	45.98	2.30	48.28	48.28	Electricity charge
BACS	Hazlemere Fire Protection	18.00	12.00	30.00	30.00	Fire extinguisher service
	Neighbourhood Plan					
	Communications					
BAC	Nexus	100.00	20.00	120.00	120.00	Monthly software and support
DD	Vatu	100.00	20	120.00	120.00	Web site hosting and support
Card	Natwest OneCard	66.00	13.20	79.20	132.72	Microsoft 365
Card	Natwest OneCard	35.20	7.04	42.24		Microsoft 365
Card	Natwest OneCard	9.40	1.88	£11.28		Microsoft 365
Card	Amazon	6.99		£6.99	6.99	Apple Ipad case
Card	Amazon	258.31	51.66	£309.97	309.97	Apple Ipad
Card	Amazon	9.99	2	£11.99	11.99	Apple Ipad case
Card	Currrys PC World	119.99	24	£143.99	143.99	Apple Box
Card	Amazon	13.98		£13.98	13.98	Apple Ipad case x2
BACS	Salaries	6214.73		£6,214.73	£6,214.73	
	Total	17717.50	1669.39	19386.89	19386.89	