

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 VIRTUAL Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14th December 2020

Present: Cllr C Brown (Mayor), Cllr N Barnett, Cllr Bayliss, Cllr J Chhokar, Cllr J O'Keeffe, Cllr H Orme, Cllr J Palmiero, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr Scott, Cllr E Surkovic, Cllr A Wood and Cllr J Woolveridge.

In Attendance: Buckinghamshire Council:- Cllr D Smith, Cllr S Chhokar and Sue Moffat (Town Clerk).

98/20 Declaration of Interests - Councillors please give any declarations of interest at the beginning of the item on the Agenda.

99/20 Apologies for absence – Apologies have been received from Cllr R Reed and Cllr B Gibbs.

86/20 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th November 2020.

Cllr O'Keeffe strongly objected that the full account of his reasons to have face to face meetings under Minute 79/21 were not recorded and asked for these to be added to the Minutes.

He also wanted it recorded that he believes the presentation made by GXCA at the Town Council meeting on 19th October 2020 was a breach of Standing Orders as the presentation was not on the agenda but was heard under Public Participation and the extra time allowance had not been agreed by Council. After much discussion it was agreed to take a vote to confirm the Minutes of 16th November. Cllr O'Keeffe asked for this vote to be recorded. Those councillors in agreement that the Minutes reflected a true record of the meeting were Cllrs Woolveridge, Brown, Bayliss, Barnett, Surkovic, Scott and Orme. Those councillors who abstained were Cllrs Palmiero, Chhokar, Roberts and Wood. Cllr O'Keeffe objected. The results were a majority of 7 to 5 so the motion was carried to confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th November 2020.

100/20 Public Speaking - None.

101/20 Report from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors.

Written report from Cllr Gibbs:- (i) A resident contacted her about the development on West Common pointing out anomalies with the final plans. Cllr Gibbs contacted the Enforcement Officer and subsequently the roof line has been amended and the façade is being monitored by an enforcement caseworker on a regular basis; (ii) On the issue of Wapseys Wood, this is being actively addressed by enforcement and is with the legal team so nothing more to say at the moment, except that it is moving forward. Best wishes to everyone. Happy Christmas and stay safe.

Cllr D Smith (i) Bucks Council are in the process of balancing the books for next year's budget. There has been a loss of income due to Coronavirus; (ii) Buckinghamshire is in Tier 2 restrictions for Covid-19 but neighbouring boroughs of Three Reivers, London Boroughs and Slough are in Tier 3. Hopefully Bucks won't go in to Tier 3 but it is being monitored; (iii) Cllr Gibbs and himself have regular meetings with the Local Area Technician and raised the concerns mentioned by Cllr Brown at the last meeting (*for reference these are - (i) Enforcement of Wapseys Wood appeal, (ii) Effluence still flowing across the A40 from Wapsys Wood for over a month; (iii) Continued flooding along the A40 (near to Crown Plaza) even after a large sump had been installed by BCC to prevent this happening; (iv) Damaged central bollards in the town centre (opposite Wildwood), which have been waiting repair for nearly 2 years; (v) Damaged central bollard on the A40 (close to the Appletree PH); (vi) Dangerous potholes in Packhorse Rd by Tesco traffic lights (outside Subway and Cancer Research). Temporary repairs should be carried out at least whilst waiting for the road to be resurfaced; (vii) Speed limit signs along*

the A40 are unlit and covered with grime so do not serve their purpose; (viii) Dangerous pothole on the A40 by junction with Bulstrode Way where a cyclist has recently had an accident). To date, they are still awaiting feedback.

Cllr S Chhokar:- (i) He has nothing substantive to report except to thank GXTC for all their hard work and Merry Christmas to everyone. Hopefully next year Corvid will not take over the agenda. At this point Cllr Roberts added that the Corvid vaccination for over 80's has started at the local medical Centre.

102/20 To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings:-

Commons Committee. At the proposition of Cllr Orme, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge, the Minutes of the Commons Committee were agreed by Council.

Highways Committee 5th October 2020. Cllr Surkovic asked that under Minute 9, Climate Change, 'Lobby' should be changed to 'Ask' so it reads:- *To Ask Buckinghamshire Council to trial alternative methods of weed control to eliminate the use of chemicals* and *'EV Charging Points in Our Public Car Parks' To Ask Buckinghamshire Council to action.* Also Cllr Orme asked to be added *'What alternatives are Bucks Council trialling to replace chemicals for weedkilling?'* Cllr Wood added that regards Minute 10, Mill Lane Bridge, Pedestrian Safety Improvements, he has asked Joy Morrissey MP and her assistant to visit Mill Lane. Cllr Brown added that it is Bucks Council's responsibility for pedestrian safety on a Highway so Joy Morrissey MP should be asking Bucks Council to resolve this not GXTC. With the above amendment agreed, at the proposition of Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Surkovic, these Minutes were agreed by Council.

Planning Committee 23rd November and 9th December 2020 - Cllr J Chhokar confirmed the Planning Minutes. Cllr Roberts added that Denham Aerodrome did not know about planning application PL/20/3640/PADDC and will be taking this up with SBDC Planning.

103/20 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) updates.

Cllr Orme reported that after the advert in VOICE and the on the web site there have been no requests for 'Call to Sites' from developers or members of the public. Now reverting back to the list of 'Call for Sites' prepared by the NPSG which will be assessed by the consultant. (HO to circulate the list).

104/20 Communications – No further updates.

105/20 To consider the Premises and Infrastructure Working Party – To consider the Minutes of the meeting on 16th November, 2020.

CB asked what basis was 12,000 sq ft founded on? HO responded that it was the minimum space needed which included an additional member of staff and the number of councillors. Also CB asked why was Colston Hall not included? HO responded that now the medical centre in GX is back on the agenda she will include it at the next meeting if it is the agreement of the Council. It was agreed for this be included as part of the remit of the PIWP. HO will write to L&Q for an update on the premises. JW said this would put up the costs considerably. Is it worth it? HO responded that if other organisations e.g. police, medical centre, became involved so is an option worth being considered at this stage. ES believes the IPWP are making great process in looking at all the options but there is no money available this year apart from £12k already in the budget. She believes that we need to have the narrative as to why we need to spend public money on this project to justify an increase in expenditure. JO questioned the minimum space of 12,000 sq ft for South Lodge. If it is an expansion of 5% to include disabled toilets, lobby area, how much will be allocated to office space as this may not be compliant to accommodate the number of visitors which is not known. How much compliance is taken over by the wish list? HO responded that we first need to find out from a pre-planning application the space increase that would be allowed for South Lodge. JO asked about the lease with GXCA. HO responded that GXCA Trustees have responded to the tentative enquiry of expanding South Lodge and would be prepared to entertain a peppercorn rental agreement for the duration of the building period and to negotiate a rent free period to make some allowance for the expenditure GXTC will incur before a commercial rent is imposed. CB added that at present there is no contractual lease just a year by year one. NB added that a new lease could include GXTC having to take on more responsibilities for the building e.g. structural repair. HO said the IPWP will explore all possibilities. PR added that Barclays Bank is closing so there will be another building available and Lloyds bank closes on 2nd March and has a substantial room at the back and offices at the front. PIWP will take on board all the comments raised at this meeting and are still looking at all options available.

8.38pm Cllr S Chhokar left the meeting.

106/20 At the request of Cllr H Orme, 'To respond to NALC's survey on climate change'.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HVNZMR6>

Cllr Orme and the Town Clerk have completed the survey which was circulated in the report pack. It was agreed for councillors to consider this and make comment. The closing date is 29th January 2021.

Cllr Orme will be preparing a draft Climate Change Emergency Strategy Statement for GXTC to be considered at Full Council in January. HO explained she is proposing that GXTC has a Climate Change statement which can be included in future decision making process e.g. as a planning consultee, future TPO's, introducing wild flower areas etc, and bring awareness to the community. It was pointed out that we are already doing this in many ways but HO responded that such a statement will reinforce what we are doing and raise public awareness. 'Emergency' should be removed from the title. ES is very involved with Climate Change at her work so has a good knowledge at a wider level. She believes it is important that everyone is committed to this and should check there is public enthusiasm to support this. HO and ES will work together, HO will prepare a Climate Change statement for GXTC and ES will prepare one for the community with a leaflet to this effect to be included in the VOICE.

107/20 To consider employing an additional member of staff – It was agreed to employ an additional member of staff as an Assistant Clerk. At this stage the position will be part time, mainly working from home until safe working conditions are available and offer professional training with the view that the position may progress to a future career opportunity at GXTC. The Town Clerk will draw up a job description and suggested salary for consideration.

108/20 To investigate the possibility of introducing better medical services to Gerrards Cross.

CB explained that this has been considered by GXTC in 2018 but 2 councillors left who were the driving force behind the project. Also, the results of the survey carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan confirmed that a medical centre in GX was high up on the community wish list. It is difficult to set up a medical centre (CB will circulate last correspondence which explains this). At this meeting CB wanted to introduce the topic again with a view to setting up a Working Party at the next Council meeting for those who want to get involved.

This was agreed and some councillors offered to investigate this topic further with their contacts they have in the medical profession.

109/20 At the request of Cllr J O'Keeffe, 'To discuss the taking of Minutes and Compliance with Standing Orders and if necessary, the setting of procedures and actions as the meeting may agree'.

Cllr O'Keeffe postponed this agenda item as he will be taking up the matter with the Monitoring Officer.

9.25pm Cllrs Bayliss and Scott left the meeting.

110/20 Finances

Resolved to agree payments for December 2020 - Noted.

111/20 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.

Cllr Orme – (i) Webinar on Bucks Archaeological HS2 digs, (ii) Tree Charter Festival Day, (iii) NALC training on Open Spaces and Play.

Cllr Woolveridge – Age Concern Chiropractic Clinics are still going, JUST.

Cllr Roberts – Denham Aerodrome Consultative Committee – Station Road planning application, Planning Local – discussions with possible M25 Service station on Bucks Council land at Iver, no complaints from residents at GX and air space negotiations between CIA and NATS are ongoing.

Cllr j Chhokar – None.

Cllr E Surkovic – None.

Cllr Wood – (i) Meeting with Highways UK on outstanding pothole repair; (ii) Meeting with Highways LAT. He would encourage everyone to report any highways issues to FixMyStreet as the more people reporting an issue, the quicker it gets repaired.

Cllr Barnett – Councillor's training course by BALC.

Cllr Brown – (i) Meeting with Highway's LAT where a good discussion took place on highways defects in GX; (ii) SBALC – Letter sent to Martin Tett that town and parishes should have better recognition at the Community Boards in line with localism. Unsatisfactory response from Martin Tett so now taking this to

the MP and Minister of Housing, Communities & Local Government; (iii) Meeting with Chairman of Raylands Mead Housing Association and SM regards highways issues in Bulstrode way e.g. overgrown hedges, lack of lighting, which are now being followed up.

112/20 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office – (i) Email read out from Brian Peck regards the debate on the relocation of the bench outside the Coach House discussed at a council meeting; (ii) Notification that Barclays Bank will be closing; (iii) Network Rail carrying out some construction work at GX Station; (iv) Response from GXCA querying the terms of the offer of the grant by GXTC. To be discussed at the next Council meeting.

113/20 To confirm that the next Council Meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be at 7.30pm on 18th January 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Payments 14th December 2020						
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	2356.00	Weekly playground inspections - Sept
BACS	The Garden Company	5100.00	1020	6120.00	8520.00	Latchmore Pond clearance
BACS	The Garden Company	2000.00	400	2400.00		Latchmore Pond tree work
BACS	Fineland Forestry Ltd	360.00	72	432.00	546.00	Make good damaged branches/Veteran oak, Camp
BACS	Fineland Forestry Ltd	95.00	19	114.00		Take down leaning birches New Pond
BACS	A M S	876.50		876.50	876.50	Monthly grass cutting contract
Highways						
BACS	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75	450.00	3042.00	Monthly street lighting contract
BACS	Leigh Electrical	40.00	8.00	48.00		charge up and move MVAS
BACS	Leigh Electrical	160.00	32.00	192.00		Supply and fit new tree lights, Wildwood
BACS	Leigh Electrical	200.00	40.00	240.00		supply and fit double socket on lamppost for xmas lights o/s M&S
BACS	Leigh Electrical	180.00	36.00	216.00		Supply & fit new photocell o/s WHS for Xmas lights
BACS	Leigh Electrical	1580.00	316.00	1896.00		To install Christmas lights
DD	Southern Electric	297.68	57.6	355.28	355.28	Unmetered electricity
BACS	Amersham Town Council	1833.33	366.67	2200.00		Devolved Services September
	Network Rail	0.50	0.1	0.60	0.60	Electric cable
Administration						
BACS	BNP Paribas	264.97	52.99	317.96	317.96	Photocopier quarterly rental
BACS	Pear Technology	225.00	45	270.00	270.00	Technical support and software p.a.
BACS	Gpex	40.00	8	48.00	48.00	Business cards
	Bank charges	7.70		7.70	7.70	
Parish Office						
DD	CNG Power	44.20	2.21	46.41	46.41	Gas Charge
DD	Gazprom	119.93	6.00	125.93	125.93	Electricity charge
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
DD	Vatu	108.34	21.67	130.01	130.01	Domain renewals for GXTC
BACS	D2D Distribution	350.00	70	420.00	420.00	Voice distribution
Card	Natwest OneCard	66.00	13.20	79.20	139.76	Microsoft 365
Card	Natwest OneCard	35.20	14.08	49.28		Microsoft 365
Card	Natwest OneCard	9.40	1.88	£11.28		Microsoft 365
BACS	Salaries	4198.17		£4,198.17	£4,198.17	
	Total	18896.92	2743.40	21640.32	21640.32	

Chairman.....

Date.....