

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 20th July 2020

Present: Cllr C Brown (Mayor), 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 Reed, Cllr D Smith, Cllr S Chhokar and Sue Moffat (Town Clerk).

36/20 Declaration of Interests - Councillors please give any declarations of interest at the beginning of the item on the Agenda.

37/20 Apologies for absence – A blanket apology has been made by Cllr B Gibbs that she will not be attending any more GX Council meetings.

38/20 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15th June 2020.

At the proposition of Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Wood, these Minutes were agreed by Council and signed.

39/20 Public Speaking - None.

40/20 To elect the Chairman of F&GP Committee. At the proposition of Cllr O’Keeffe, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge, Cllr J Chhokar was proposed as Chairman of F&GP Committee and this was agreed.

41/20 To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings:-

Commons Committee 6th July 2020. At the proposition of Cllr Orme, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge, the Minutes of the Commons Committee were agreed by Council after amending Minute 3 to clarify that ‘biker’ means a ‘child mountain biker’. Regards the quote for work to the ponds, HO and SM are working towards a new quote within the allocated budget. AW did agree that the cost for the skips in the original budget was a good price.

Highways Committee 6th July 2020. At the proposition of Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Roberts, these Minutes were agreed by Council.

Planning Committee 22nd June and 13th July, 2020 - Cllr J Chhokar confirmed the Planning Minutes.

42/20 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) updates.

Cllr Orme reported that there are no further updates but the next meeting is planned for later this week.

43/20 To consider when Gerrards Cross Town Council would want to resume in-person meetings again

– It was noted that at the present time NALC is advising town/parish councils to continue to hold meetings remotely. However, with lockdown restrictions easing, after much discussion, it was agreed to resume face to face Committee and Council meetings in September using a room with adequate space to adhere to Government guidelines. The Garden Room at the Memorial Centre was recommended. SM will check this out and ensure the Memorial Centre and GXTC have the relevant Risk Assessments in place. If circumstances change nearer the time and it is no longer safe to have face to face meetings then this would be agreed by email between councillors. It may also be possible to have Hybrid meetings and JP offered to see what technology is available to do this.

44/20 To consider if the order of the Council agenda should change to allow Buckinghamshire Council Councillors to make their reports at the beginning of the meeting. There were discussions for and against this change in order. The main points for the change being that the Buckinghamshire Councillors have important information to impart which could be useful in any decision making of GXTC. The main points against the change is that the meeting is a GXTC Council meeting and the decision making should be discussed at the beginning of the meeting for the Buckinghamshire Councillors to listen and be kept informed as to what is happening in Gerrards Cross. At the proposition of Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Scott, the proposal was put forward to change this agenda item to the beginning of the meeting. This was agreed by a majority vote with the proviso that time management is used to ensure GXTC's business has adequate time to be discussed and the meeting finishes by 9pm. Also, that the Buckinghamshire Council Councillors are willing to listen to the whole meeting unless there is a good reason to leave, such as another town/parish council meeting to attend.

45/20 To respond to the Model Code of Conduct Consultation from NALC.

All councillors can submit an individual response to this consultation which ends on 17th August 2020. Generally councillors appeared supportive of the new Code of Conduct. It was agreed to respond as a Town Council and for CB and SM to answer the straight forward questions without comments and circulate this to councillors for final agreement before responding.

46/20 Updates regards Gerrards Cross Town Council's consideration on moving to new premises more suitable for conducting the business of the Town Council- In response to the query raised at the last Council meeting:- 'In February 2020 the Public Works Loan Commissioners were abolished and their statutory powers transferred to HM Treasury who are now responsible for lending policy and for setting interest rates for PWLB loans. Method of application remains the same and the interest rate is decided on the day the loan commences'. At present there are no new premises in the pipeline but something may be available in the future. A number of comments were raised such as the present office is no longer suitable for meetings with the Covid 19 situation, if we did have a bigger premises how often would it be used, what size of premises would be suitable, possibility of sharing a premise but overall we need to ensure it would be value for money.

47/20 Updates for VJ Day 15th August 2020. Cllr Roberts had no further updates on the flight bypass as it was dependent on the Covid 19 situation and the weather. He did suggest that if it did go ahead he would organise a private party with the pilots to take place in the Memorial Centre with outside caterers providing a lunch at £15/head. It was pointed out that GXTC had agreed the £200 cost of the flight bypass for the residents of GX and time was needed to promote the flight. A deadline was given of one week for a final decision to be made if the flight was to go ahead.

48/20 Finances

Resolved to approve payments for July, 2020 (as circulated) and for the Chairman of F&GP and the Clerk to agree payments in August which will be reported to the next Council meeting in September.

49/20 Report from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors

Cllr Reed reported:- (i) TfB continue to deliver a service in these challenging times. FixMyStreet is a very good way to report a highway's defect; (ii) No further news of the South Bucks Emerging Local Plan that he reported on at the last meeting; (iii) The first meeting of Buckinghamshire Council has taken place. It was a shambles due to the technology to hold a virtual meeting was not robust to accommodate it. The meeting was 5 hours in length but he left after 2.5 hours.

In response to the work of TfB, Cllr Wood reported that the road defect outside Subway, Packhorse Rd, had been spray patched and is now worse than ever!

Cllr Smith reported:- (i) In Planning, commercial properties can now change legally from B1 to B3 i.e. offices to residential; (ii) He is the Armed Forces Champion with Cllr Mimi Harker for Buckinghamshire Council. They have been looking for events to take place for VJ Day but these are sadly limited.

Cllr S Chhokar reported:- (i) He thinks that new premises for GXTC, shared with other organisations, is a good idea; (ii) He thanked GXTC for moving Buckinghamshire Council's reports to be earlier on the agenda and agreed that a time limit should be allocated. If GXTC gives notice of questions to Buckinghamshire Councillors prior to the meeting they will then have more informed answers; (iii) The first Buckinghamshire Council meeting was not as bad as Cllr Reed described. It could have been better as difficult to accommodate 200 councillors, staff and other attendees; (iv) The first meeting of Denham, Gerrards Cross and the Chalfonts Community Board will be held this Wednesday. Cllr S

Chhokar is the Chairman of this and will be looking for suggestions for a list of priorities from GXTC. Cllr S Chhokkar said that areas of concern could be for example, Covid safety, mental well-being, traffic issues, young people, elderly. Cllr Brown, the Mayor, will be representing GXTC. JP will send a brief on WeAreGX to highlight this Community Group. Cllr S Chhokkar went on to say that once the priorities have been agreed, then sub-groups will meet between the Community Board meetings so there will be opportunities for a lot of councillors to be involved.

50/20 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.

Cllr Wood – CCTV meeting with Buckinghamshire Council (BC) on using their assets (street light columns) for mounting CCTV cameras and ensuring meets requirements of GDPR. BC will fast track use of assets to the next stage which will be approval of use of electricity. Positive meeting. Also found out that the Monitoring Office at HW Council is to be taken over by TVPA and moving to Aylesbury.

Cllr Orme – WeAreGX meeting on 17th July and GXCV on 18th July.

Cllr J Chhokar – Represented GXTC at Bucks Planning meeting to present objections to the Middlewood Planning application. Cllrs S Chhokar, Gibbs and Reed voted against the application but it was approved by the casting vote from the Chairman. The recent appeal regards the previous application was dismissed on the grounds of the size of the first floor extension. This was reduced in the current application so the Planning Officer gave approval. However the neighbouring residents were appreciative of GXTC speaking at the meeting and presenting our objections.

Cllr Roberts – None.

Cllr O’Keeffe: CTV meeting with AW and CB. He will be discussing the CCTV cameras’ locations with a new Officer.

Cllr Woolveridge: Age Concern have started the chiropody clinics. Memorial Centre most helpful with providing a room (ii) GXCV 10 members attended. Worked on the Colston Shed bund and now looks tidy and well cared for. A new couple joined the group who worked hard. We finished by clearing around the play equipment on East Common in line with our policy of keeping the undergrowth clear in that vicinity.

Cllr Palmiero – 3 meetings with WeAreGX including the one with Joy Morrissey MP and a Christmas Festival meeting.

Cllr E Surkovic – Will be attending the Library’s AGM where she will be raising concern that the library is still closed if that continues to be the case.

Cllr Bayliss – West Common meeting with Traders, Police and Joy Morrissey MP on 17th July. He gave a presentation on ASB on West Common. He is now arranging a meeting with the Police and asked GXTC if they would accommodate a meeting at the Memorial Centre.

Cllr Scott – None,

Cllr Brown – (i) CCTV meeting with AW and JO. Cameras have to comply with the guidelines of the Surveillance Camera Commissioner; (ii) Gaviots Green Parking meeting with AW regards the new consultation. Only minor amendments are involved with double yellow lines by junction with Fulmer Rd; (iii) WeAreGX emergency meeting on 17th July; (iii) Travel Fund meeting regards restrictions on Lower Rd. CB was disappointed that GXTC had not been involved with the initial consultation and will raise this with Cllr Gibbs. Main objective is to improve travel for CSP to reach GX railway station and Buckinghamshire Council appear to be railroading this through.

51/20 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office -

- (i) Movers and Shakers have not accepted their grant from GXTC this year as the Group is not sure they will be re-opening due to Covid 19.
- (ii) Complaint from resident of CSP that there are no public toilets in GX. CB reported that the public toilets were removed from SBDC’s car park as constantly vandalised and cost £100/visit to maintain. Buckinghamshire Council is now the authority to address any complaints on this matter.
- (iii) AW has arranged a meeting for GXTC at 6pm on 7th September with Joy Morrissey MP. The main purpose of this meeting is to address the problem of lack of road repair. This is the only suitable date for the MP on a Monday before she goes back to Parliament after the recess. JC added that he had arranged a meeting with her to attend the ATM which was cancelled due to Covid 19 so it would be good to meet up with our MP.

52/20 To confirm that the next Council Meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be at 7.30pm on 21st September 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed.....

Date.....