

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

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

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

**53/20 Declaration of Interests** - Councillors please give any declarations of interest at the beginning of the item on the Agenda.

**54/20 Apologies for absence** – An apology has been received from Cllr B Gibbs.

**55/20 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**  
At the proposition of Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Wood, these Minutes were agreed by Council and signed.

**56/20 Public Speaking** - None.

**57/20 To agree the Co-Option** of Norman Barnett, to fill the vacant position of Town Councillor. This was agreed and Norman Barnett signed the declaration of Office and joined the meeting.

### **58/20 Report from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors.**

**Cllr R Reed:-** (i) Congratulations to GXTC for holding face to face meetings which sadly is lacking in Buckinghamshire Council; (ii) The "Quietway" trial between Gerrard Cross and Chalfont St Peter ended early. The Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet Member for Transportation, Councillor Nick Naylor, issued a statement to remind us all of "the growing level of local support for this scheme, that this was a decision for democracy in action, and that local people have spoken and we have acted" – sadly this was only after significant sums of public money had already been wasted; (iii) A list of Unitary Wards was published by Buckinghamshire Council, which shows GX now has eight Unitary Councillors to represent them but these do not include Cllr Reed.

**Cllr D Smith:-** (i) He agrees partly with Cllr Reed that it is disappointing not having face to face meetings at Buckinghamshire Council but as there are over 200 members there is no venue available to accommodate them all in order to ensure there is social distancing so have to rely on remote meetings; (ii) The Quietway scheme in CSP and GX was a bit rushed but was imposed on us by Government with funding they provided. There are some other Quietway schemes in the County that are successful; (iii) Buckinghamshire remains one of the lower risk areas in the Country regards Covid 19 but Cllr Smith believes the infection rate will increase again in the coming months. At the request of JW he will find out how many people have been affected by coronavirus in Bucks care homes.

**Cllr S Chhokar:-** (i) The planning application for a crematorium in Denham has been refused; (ii) GX, Chalfonts and Denham Community Board had their second meeting last week with presentations from volunteer groups and funding bodies. WeAreGX are a leading role in the Covid 19 and Recovery sub-group and the Safety sub-group as hoping to get the police involved in future meetings. Funding guides have been published on the Buckinghamshire Council's web site and will be on the Community Board web site as well when it is up and running.

**59/20 Election of Vice-Chairman for F & GP Committee.** At the proposition of Cllr Woolveridge, seconded by Cllr Roberts, it was agreed for Cllr O’Keeffe to be Vice-Chairman of F&GP for the ensuing year.

**8pm Cllr Roberts left the meeting.**

**60/20 To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings:-**

**Commons Committee 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.** At the proposition of Cllr Orme, seconded by Cllr Palmiero, the Minutes of the Commons Committee were agreed by Council. Cllr Orme had nothing further to add except how well the play equipment is appreciated by members of the public. Cllr Brown thanked Cllr Orme for all her work as Chairman of the Commons Committee.

**Highways Committee 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.** Cllr Wood added that he is pleased to report Buckinghamshire Council will allow GXTC to carry on with pothole repairs this year. Also to note GXTC did ask for the Quietway to be removed in GX. At the proposition of Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Surkovic, these Minutes were agreed by Council.

**Planning Committee 27<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 24<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020-** Cllr J Chhokar confirmed the Planning Minutes with the ones in July and August being Virtual meetings.

**61/20 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) updates.**

Cllr Orme reported that the last meeting was 23<sup>rd</sup> July where a Call for Sites was discussed and the findings passed on to our NP Consultants to see if they are suitable and then NPSG will circulate the results. The activities of NPSG can be found on the timeline of the NP website. Cllr Brown asked if the consultants have made any comments on the new Planning changes proposed by Government and the answer was, yes, NPs will be affected. Cllr Brown added that SBALC are having a meeting to discuss this Planning consultation. Cllr Surkovic asked if there could be 10 minute overview of the NPSG at the next Council meeting.

**62/20 Communications –** It was agreed to have the next edition of VOICE in November and to include the following topics:-

- AW – Highways issues including the danger of pedestrians who appear to be walking on roads more frequently rather than the pavements and overgrown hedges.
- JP – WeAreGX. ES did suggest a GX Heroes competition to recognise all the businesses that stayed open over lockdown with very broad categories (to cover most businesses), and the winners to be recognised at the next AGM? It was agreed for ES to put forward this competition to WEareGX for comment.
- JW – litter.
- HO –New outdoor play area.
- JO – CCTV
- JC to ask Cllr S Chokkar if he will write an article on GX, Chalfonts and Denham Community Board.

If councillors have any more ideas please submit them to the Town Clerk. Deadline for articles is Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**63/20 To set up a Working Party to consider the purpose of having new premises and the amount of space required.** It was agreed to set the Terms of Reference at the first meeting of the WP and to co-opt outside help if required. HO, NB, JP and JC agreed to be on this Working Party with HO chairing it.

**64/20 At the request of Cllr Scott ‘To discuss facilities for young people in Gerrards Cross’**

Cllr Brown thanked Cllr Woolveridge for the email she circulated summarising what action has been taken in the past on this subject which included skate parks, GX youth club and activities such as football clubs. Cllr Scott believes there are very few facilities available, particularly for the 12-15 age groups, in Gerrards Cross and need to seek the views of the community to find out what is needed. It was agreed to propose Cllr Scott to head up a Young Peoples Working Group on the GX, Chalfonts and Denham Community Board, if this is agreeable with the Community Board.

**65/20 Finances**

Resolved to note payments for August and approve payments for September 2020. Cllr Chhokar highlighted the 2 biggest payments for August were for pothole repairs and the new web site and for September the outdoor gym and the tree work on the commons.

**66/20 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.**

**Cllr Woolveridge** – GXCV where 15 volunteers turned up including 3 from Tesco's. One volunteer had seen a grass snake on the common. Also found out Peter Chapman is moving out of the area and would like for GXTC to formally thank him for his chairmanship work when he was a parish councillor and for his work as a GXCV.

**Cllr Wood** – 2 x WeAreGX meetings, Safety Working Group of GX, Chalfonts and Denham Community Board and the meeting of GX, Chalfonts and Denham Community Board

**Cllr Orme** – NP on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Webinar to improve biodiversity in the community, 4<sup>th</sup> August the police meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> September Chairmanship BMKALC training course, 8<sup>th</sup> September Webinar by Locality on affordable housing and the NP and lastly GXCV.

**Cllr J Chhokar** – None.

**Cllr Roberts** – Not available. Cllr Reed had nothing to report on Denham Aerodrome on his behalf.

**Cllr O’Keeffe**: CCTV meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**Cllr Palmiero** – 4<sup>th</sup> August meeting with the police where he highlighted speeding on the A40 resulting in a 1:1 meeting with the Neighbourhood Police Sergeant and representative from Bucks Council who made recommendations which he is taking to GX, Chalfonts and Denham Community Board. JP declared a personal interest in this matter being a resident along the A40 and has asked for a volunteer to come forward but none to date, 15<sup>th</sup> September meeting of GX, Chalfonts and Denham Community Board and lastly, 18<sup>th</sup> September litter picking photo with Joy Morrissey MP and WeAreGX.

**Cllr E Surkovic** – None.

**Cllr Bayliss** – 4<sup>th</sup> August, meeting with police regards ASB on West Common.

**Cllr Scott** – Councillors training by BMKALC.

**Cllr Brown** – (i) 2 x meetings of GX, Chalfonts and Denham Community Board where he pressed for the funding of the 2 outstanding projects agreed by the ‘old’ GX and Denham LAF, Opening of a new GX Dentist in Packhorse Rd on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> September the TfB Virtual conference where he submitted the following questions:- improvements for cyclists and pedestrians and dangerous 50mph speed limit on the Oxford Road. TfB said they would get back to him. No further news on Wapsey’s Wood enforcement but has seen the site is still expanding and sewage coming from the site is now flowing across the A40.

**67/20 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office – None.**

**68/20 To confirm that the next Council Meeting** of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be at 7.30pm on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at GX Memorial Centre.

**The meeting closed at 9 pm**

Signed.....

Date.....

Payments 21st September 2020						
Chq No/Bacs/D	Payee	Net Exp.	VAT	Gross Exp	Total to Payee	Transaction Details
	<b>Commons</b>					
145	BACS Amersham Town Council	✓ 130.00	✓ 26	156.00	4712.00	Playground checks July
146	BACS Amersham Town Council	✓ 130.00	✓ 26	156.00		Playground checks August
147	BACS A M S	✓ 876.50		876.50	876.50	Monthly grass cutting contract for August
148	BACS Home Counties Play Ltd	✓ 8850.00	✓ 1770	10620.00	10620.00	Outdoor gym
149	BACS Fineland Forestry Ltd	✓ 10155.00	✓ 2031	12186.00	12186.00	Tree work on Commons asa result of tree survey
	<b>Highways</b>					
150	BACS Leigh Electrical	✓ 375.00	✓ 75	450.00	1770.00	Monthly street lightling contract
151	BACS Leigh Electrical	✓ 640.00	✓ 128.00	768.00		Bentic Close, fit new post
152	BACS Leigh Electrical	✓ 340.00	✓ 68.00	408.00		Supply and fit new head Orchehill Rd to Station
153	BACS Leigh Electrical	✓ 80.00	✓ 16.00	96.00		Make safe following collision on Gaviots Green Way
154	BACS Leigh Electrical	✓ 40.00	✓ 8.00	48.00		charge up and move MVAS
155	DD Southern Electric	✓ 256.34	✓ 49.58	305.92	305.92	Unmetered electricity
145	BACS Amersham Town Council	✓ 1833.33	✓ 366.67	2200.00		Devolved Highways work for July
146	BACS Amersham Town Council	✓ 1833.33	✓ 366.67	2200.00		Devolved Highways work for August
156	BACS Latchmore Garden Care	✓ 95.00		95.00	95.00	Strim Oak End Way and Marsham Lane benches
157	BACS Windowflowers	✓ 1567.25	✓ 313.45	1880.70	1880.70	Hanging baskets and planters -quarterly maintenance charge
	<b>Administration</b>					
158	DD Chess	✓ 135.69	✓ 27.14	162.83	162.83	Telephone and broadband monthly charge
159	BACS BMALC	✓ 41.55	✓ 41.55	124.65	124.65	T Scott -counillor training
160	BACS BMALC	✓ 41.55	✓ 41.55	41.55		H Orme - Chairmanship training
161	BACS BMALC	✓ 41.55	✓ 41.55	41.55		A Wood - Chairmanship training
162	BACS PKF Littlejohn LLP	✓ 800.00	✓ 160	960.00	960.00	External audit fee
163	BACS Carne and Company	✓ 1511.55	✓ 1511.55	1511.55	1511.55	General Insurance
164	Bank charges	✓ 8.40	✓ 8.40	8.40	8.40	
	<b>Parish Office</b>					
165	DD CNG Power	✓ -0.19	✓ 1.57	1.38	1.38	Gas Charge (amended after meter reading)
166	DD Gazprom	✓ 40.65	✓ 2.03	42.68	42.68	Eietricity charge
	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>					
	<b>Communications</b>					
167	BAC Nexus	✓ 100.00	✓ 20.00	120.00	120.00	Monthly software and support
168	DD Vatu	✓ 100.00	✓ 20	120.00	120.00	Web site hosting and support
169	Card Natwest OneCard	✓ 50.32	✓ 10.07	60.39	102.63	Microsoft 365
170	Card Natwest OneCard	✓ 35.20	✓ 7.04	42.24		Microsoft 365
171-175	BACS Salaries	4553.01		£4,553.01	£4,553.01	
	<b>Total</b>	34661.03	5492.22	40153.25	40153.25	

Chairman.....

Date.....

Payments 24th August 2020						
Chq No/Bacs/DD	Payee	Net Exp.	VAT	Gross Exp	Total to Payee	Transaction Details
	<b>Commons</b>					
115	BACS Organick	310.00		310.00	510.00	Repair benches, marker and bridleway steps
116	BACS A M S	876.50		876.50	876.50	Monthly grass cutting contract for July
	<b>Highways</b>					
117	BACS Leigh Electrical	375.00	75	450.00	1482.00	Monthly street lighting contract
118	BACS Leigh Electrical	640.00	128.00	768.00		Meadway pk, fit new post
119	BACS Leigh Electrical	180.00	36.00	216.00		Attend and make safe knockdown Bentick close
120	BACS Leigh Electrical	40.00	8.00	48.00		charge up and move MVAS
121	DD Southern Electric	278.58	55.71	334.29	334.29	Unmetered electricity
122	BACS Latchmore Garden Care	55.00		55.00	55.00	Strim around GX sign
115	BACS Organick	200.00		200.00		Devolved Services May
123	BACS Highways UK	13195.81	2639.16	15834.97	15834.97	Pothole repair
	<b>Administration</b>					
124	DD Chess	136.70	27.34	164.04	164.04	Telephone and broadband monthly charge
125	BACS GXCA	1500.00		1500.00	1500.00	Quarterly ground rent
126	BACS BNP Paribas	264.97	52.99	317.96	317.96	Photocopier rental quarterly charge
127	BACS Beverley Simpson & Co Ltd	150.00		150.00	150.00	Quarterly internal audit
128	BACS Viking	90.33	18.07	108.40	108.40	Stationery
129	DD ICO	35.00		35.00	35.00	ICO renewal
130	Card CID	45.80	9.16	54.96	54.96	PPE for office
131	Bank charges	7.35		7.35	7.35	
	<b>Parish Office</b>					
132	DD CNG Power	21.59	1.08	22.67	22.67	Gas Charge
133	DD Gazprom	42.18	2.11	44.29	44.29	Electricity charge
	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>					
	<b>Communications</b>					
134	BAC Nexus	100.00	20.00	120.00	180.00	Monthly software and support
135	BAC Nexus	60.00		60.00		Final web support before transferred to Vatu
136	BAC Vatu	2500.00	500	3000.00	3000.00	Completion of new web site
137	DD Vatu	100.00	20	120.00	120.00	Web site hosting and support
138	Card Natwest OneCard	50.32	10.07	60.39	102.63	Microsoft 365
139	Card Natwest OneCard	35.26	7.04	42.24		Microsoft 365
140-144	BACS Salaries	4395.77		£4,395.77	£4,395.77	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25686.10</b>	<b>3609.73</b>	<b>29295.83</b>	<b>29295.83</b>	

Chairman.....

Date.....

Budget for 2020/21

	Budget 2020-21	Earmarked Reserves	Expenditure of budget as at 24th August 2020 (excluding VAT)	Expenditure of Earmarked Reserves as at 15th June 2020	Total Expenditure
<b>COMMONS</b>	£64,200.00	£104,800.00	£4,487.00		£4,487.00
<b>LIGHTING</b>	£22,501.00		£6,442.44		£6,442.44
<b>HIGHWAYS</b>	£85,425.00	£142,395.00	£14,180.69	£55,149.44	£69,330.13
<b>GRANTS</b>	£25,100.00		£14,700.00		£14,700.00
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	£8,330.00	£5,500.00	£2,060.32	£2,500.00	£4,560.32
<b>GENERAL ADMIN</b>	£13,420.00		£215.61		£215.61
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b>		£10,319.00		£325.00	£325.00
<b>COUNCIL OFFICE</b>	£9,050.00		£4,191.41		£4,191.41
<b>SALARIES</b>	£69,000.00		£20,525.68		£20,525.68
<b>PRECEPT / TOTAL</b>	£297,026.00	£263,014.00	£66,803.15	£57,974.44	£124,777.59