

Gerrards Cross Town Council

South Lodge, East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD 01753 888018

Clerk to the Council – Ms Jiya H Jilani clerk@gerrardscross.gov.uk



Minutes of the Full Council Committee held at the Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre at 7:30 pm on Monday 30th January 2023 for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllr Wood (Chairman), Cllr O’Keeffe (Deputy Chairman), Cllr Bracken, Cllr Chhokar, Cllr Da Costa, Cllr Davey, Cllr Greenfield, Cllr Holborn, Cllr Peck, Cllr Stuart-Lee
In attendance: Ass Cllr Brown, Ass Cllr Lindvall, Cllr Broom, J Jilani (Town Clerk), P Patel (Deputy Town Clerk)

23/142 Accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Barnett.

23/143 Declarations of Interest

None

23/144 Public speaking

Associate Cllr Woolveridge reported there have been advertising signs on the Commons which is not permitted.

ACTION: Article to be written for the next edition of the Voice newsletter advising residents not to put up signs.

23/145 Report from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Bracken: Reported that the provisional budget for Bucks Council has been published and will be presented to Full Council in February.

A number of residents have been concerned about the increase in crime in the area, and have been asked to report all incidents to the police.

Cllr Broom: The recent weather has caused flooding, pothole issues and drains clogged up in Gerrards Cross and Hedgerley, however the super sucker machine has been out clearing up the clogged drains. The report on Parliamentary and Local government boundaries will be issued soon and will be forwarded to the Chairman for circulation.

Cllr Wood: Chesham Cllr requested details of our supplier for hanging baskets and planters, which have been provided. Chesham Community Board’s budget for this year will be reduced from £149k to £80k. The Cadent Gas clearance site has been on Marsham way for a long period of time. Toxic waste is dumped there. Cllr Wood has liaised with the Utilities Officer and they are now in the process of removing the site, out of courtesy as they are not required to do so. Everyone should remain vigilant and report anything.

23/146 To approve the minutes of the following meeting:

- **Full Council meeting dated 12th December 2022**
PROPOSED by Cllr Wood and **SECONDED** by Cllr Davey **ALL AGREED**

23/147 To note the minutes of the following meeting:

- **Planning meeting dated 9th January 2023**
Noted by Cllr Chhokar.

23/148 ANPR camera review

Cllr O’Keeffe advised we are expecting a quote from the contractor in the next month. Cllr Holborn asked if the feed will be monitored by the Police. Cllr O’ Keeffe advised we are still waiting for further information from Matthew Barber (Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley) regarding police monitoring.

23/149 To review and approve the Draft Tender for Street Lighting for 2023-2026

The Tender document was reviewed and approved by all the Councillors. The tender will be published on Contract finder on the 31st January.

23/150 Town Streetlights review

The Clerk reported the purchase order has been sent to the contractor for stress testing the lampposts on Packhorse Road. Further stress testing is in process for the street lights and a report will be issued to the Council in a few weeks. The numbering of the lampposts was also discussed at the meeting and Cllr O’ Keeffe confirmed that he and Cllr Greenfield will be labelling the lampposts themselves.

23/151 F&GP update and action items for decision by the Council

a. To receive a recommendation from the Chairman of F&GP regarding the Budget for the Financial Year 2023/2024 and consider approval.

The Chairman of Finance proposed the budget for the next financial year. Several meetings have been held since to discuss and resolve the budget.

Following further discussions and questions it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Bracken and **SECONDED** by Cllr Chhokar **RESOLVED** to approve the budget. **ALL AGREED.**

b. To determine the level of Precept for the Financial Year 2023/2024 –

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Bracken and **SECONDED** by Cllr Chhokar that there will be an increase in the precept 2023/2024 and it will be kept at £79.33 per Band D property total £379,017. On being put at vote there were

For: 10 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 So the proposal was **AGREED**

c. To authorise the Clerk to the Council to take the necessary action to formally advise Bucks Council of the level of Precept required by the Town Council for the Financial Year 2023/2024

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Bracken and **SECONDED** by Cllr Chhokar to authorise the Clerk to the Council to take the necessary action to formally advise Bucks Council of the level of precept required by The Town Council for the financial year 2023/2024 **ALL AGREED.**

d. Approval of The Annual Governance Statement

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Holborn and **SECONDED** by Cllr Peck to note and approve **The Annual Governance Statement, Section 1 of the AGAR** and for the Chairman and the Clerk to sign it. **ALL AGREED.**

e. Approval of The Annual Accounting Statement

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Holborn and **SECONDED** by Cllr Peck to note and approve **The Annual Governance Statement, Section 2,** and for the Chairman to sign it. **ALL AGREED.**

f. Approval of £2472 from Neighbourhood Grant Fund to be transferred to Locality, in order to support the Strategic Environmental Assessment for Gerrards Cross Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk advised that Gerrards Cross Town council needs to return £2472 to Locality which was received from the Neighbourhood Grant Funding Scheme. The reason for this is that it was intended to be used to fund the production of a Strategic Environmental Assessment to support the Gerrards

Cross Neighbourhood Plan. However, AECOM, under instruction from Locality undertook the SEA on behalf of Gerrards Cross, so this funding was never used for this purpose.

In order for Locality to be able to release the grant funding that is required now to bring the GX NP to Regulation 14 status, this amount needs to be returned to Locality no later than 31st January. As this payment was in the Neighbourhood Plan account there was an annual Bank charge of £33.76. The amount which is going to be transferred to Locality will be £2438.24.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Chhokar and **SECONDED** by Cllr Da Costa. **ALL AGREED.**

g. Approve the quote for cutting the tree at The Camp

Three quotes were presented to members and the quote proposed by the Chair and Deputy Chair of Commons was agreed by all. **ALL AGREED.**

h. List of regular and one-off payments for approval

The list of regular payments were presented and approved by all Councillors.

i. The Council should review the income received for the Christmas event and confirm whether this was sponsorship income or donations.

The Council is affirming that we have always understood the receipts to be donations and not sponsorships. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Wood and **SECONDED** by Cllr O' Keeffe to agree the money for the events received were donations. **ALL AGREED**

23/152 GXTC Office Refurbishment update

Cllr Da Costa will commence the tendering of the refurbishment work next week. Rendering outside the building will be included in the refurbishment.

23/153 To consider and agree to the planning application PL/22/4362/FA and note the decision

At the planning meeting of 9th January 2023, there were no objections raised for this application, as we had not received any objections from residents. The decision taken not to object in this specific case was on the proviso that there had been no resident objections. However, having received resident feedback post the meeting, we will be adding an objection to this application stating that we now believe this to be an overdevelopment. **ALL AGREED.**

23/154 Update on new lease

Lease is completed. The Clerk will check with GXCA regarding the back dating of the rent to June 2022.

23/155 Councillors' attendance at external meetings

Cllr Greenfield - attended meeting with Bull Hotel regarding the development, attended a meeting with Swish Fibre to discuss them joining the GXCV as volunteers in March; tree cutting companies.

Cllr Holborn - attended a Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association meeting, GXCA Executive committee meeting, attended a meeting with Swish Fibre to discuss them joining the GXCV as volunteers in March.

Cllr Bracken – attended meeting with Swish Fibre

Cllr Stuart-Lee – attended GXCA Executive committee meeting.

Cllr Peck – attended a meeting representing the Council at Cottage Hospital.

Cllr O'Keeffe – attended meeting with Swish Fibre for Xmas lights debrief discussion.

Cllr Wood - attended meetings with Paul Beard (Highways UK) regarding ongoing street maintenance; meetings with Swish Fibre to discuss GX planned installations.

23/156 Correspondence received at the Council office.

Various correspondence was presented.

An email was received by a resident regarding Chantry House (PA 4690). Associate Cllr Woolveridge, Ass Cllr Chris Brown, Cllr Stuart-Lee, and Cllr Peck were all vocal and questioned Cllr Broom as to his reasoning for voting in favour of the Heritage Officers submission to list the site as a non- designated heritage asset. Cllr Broom offered a defence citing the protection of heritage.

The next Council Meeting of GXTC will be held on the 27th February 2023.

Signed.....CHAIRMAN

Date.....

JHJ.PP.GXTC 30.01.23