

# 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](mailto:clerk@gerrardscross.gov.uk)



## Virtual Minutes of the Highways Committee Meeting held 8pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Present: Cllr A Woods (Chairman), Cllr C Brown, Cllr J Chhokar, Cllr J O’Keeffe, Cllr H Orme, Cllr E Surkovic, Cllr T Scott.

In Attendance: Cllr J Palmiero and Sue Moffat, (Town Clerk).

- 1. Public speaking from residents** – None.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received Cllr N Barnett, Cllr I Bayliss and Cllr P Roberts.
- 3. Potholes** – AW thanked TS for her reports on potholes. There appears to be a lot of potholes appearing and he would encourage everyone to report these on FixMyStreet. The bad news is that some potholes that have been repaired are reappearing again. There are now more individual potholes than clusters of potholes. AW is waiting to hear from Highways UK when the next phase of pothole repairs will be carried out under devolved works. SM reported that she is trying to help sort out the TTRO’s for Highways UK with Bucks Council in order for Highways UK to commence the pothole repair work in February.
- 4. Reports from Councillors on the Town Sectors including Devolved Highways Work**

**South West Sector- HO and IB** – HO reported that she did a partial report in December and will carry out a new one for February. She can report that all the salt bins are topped up in her sector.

**North East Sector – ES and JO.** ES reported:- (i) The resurfacing of The Woodlands is in a bad state. SM to arrange a meeting with Highways Officer at Bucks Council to discuss this; (ii) Lower Road has long stretches of potholes. AW responded that as this road is used as a rat run it is probably better not to repair the potholes; (iii) At the cross junction of South Park Crescent to A413 the hedges need cutting back. SM has placed an order with ATC to carry out this work; (iv) South Park needs total resurfacing but first the sewers and water mains need sorting out; (v) Station Road at junction with Marsham Lane is in a poor state where the developers built the flats. SM will put a request in for the developers to repair this area. (v) SM has asked for Vicarage Way, Woodlands, South Park Crescent/Drive and East Common to be cleared of leaves which should happen this week; (vi) Back of 6 South Park needs cutting back at the Oak End Way side. JO to take photos; (vii) Street light 52, Marsham Lane has been out for a long time; (viii) JO reported that the 2 street lights outside the Council Office have also been out for a long period; (ix) SM has checked with the LAT and Packhorse Rd resurfacing is still scheduled to be carried out this financial year; (x) TS reported that the footpath running parallel to Orchehill Ave and railway line is very uneven due to tree roots. Likewise, footpath along Vicarage Way. AW suggested reporting these on FixmyStreet. JO added the footpaths are Buckinghamshire council’s responsibility and that a balance needs to be considered between removing the roots whilst ensuring the safety of the tree (which could cause the removal of the tree) plus the costs involved. (xi) AW reported the dip in the pavement outside the Guide Hut will not be repaired by Bucks Council so GXTC will repair this under devolved works.

**South East/West Sector - TS and NB.** JC reported: (i) Good news - A neighbour reported that the footpath in Heusden Way was covered with leaves and this has now been cleared; (ii) Footpath along the A40 from Heusden Way to Fulmer Rd is not safe for pedestrians but when he reported this the response from Bucks Highways was that it does not meet the guidelines for attention. What can be done? AW responded that footpath repair is very expensive. GXTC can repair 25 potholes for the cost of repairing 2m of pavement so at present GXTC only looking at repairing potholes. JC will continue to report the problem to Bucks Council; (iii) TS reported that work by Openreach laying the fibre optic cables is causing an 18” patch running along the middle of the pavement in Bulstrode Way. AW said this is happening throughout GX. However, all repairs are checked by Bucks Highways and if they approve them there is nothing else to be done.

The general lack of street cleaning was raised and the possibility of GXTC taking this on under devolved Highways work. CB responded that it was already on the list for future devolved highways work. CB will be

attending a meeting with Bucks Council soon and will raise the issue of lack of street cleaning and will ask for the budget Bucks Council has for doing this work.

5. **To note Outstanding Highways Issues with Buckinghamshire Council** - Noted. ES asked for South Park resurfacing to be on this list as she has consistently reported the bad state of the road surface. CB responded that list came as a result of the meeting with the Community Board and was not meant to be exhaustive. CB will raise the issue of South Park with Bucks Councillors at full Council
6. **SPWP Updates** – JO gave a brief summary of what has happened to date. Bucks Council sent out an informal parking consultation on behalf of GXTC to Gerrards Cross residents. The main changes were those proposed by SPWP (and agreed by GXTC) being to improve on street parking by changing 1 hour to 2 hours free parking (except the bays outside Pizza Express), a change in the times of the waiting restrictions and adding/repositioning some double yellow lines. ES asked about the double yellow lines in South Park Crescent. JO said they were missed off but he has received confirmation they have been added back into the proposal. JO went on to say that there were some major errors with the Parking Consultation sent out by Buckinghamshire Council who then advised that another informal consultation needed to be carried out for South Park Drive and for South Park View. GXTC carried out this second consultation rather than Bucks Council in order to reduce costs. JO reported he circulated the comments received back from both public consultations to all councillors. Having examined the comments received from both consultations his recommendation was to proceed on the basis of the first public consultation, subject to the corrections that needed to be made inline with the original proposal from GXTC, but incorporating amendments as proposed in the Second Public consultation circulated to South Park View and South Park Drive. The meeting agreed with JO proposals. Once Buckinghamshire Council has the agreement from GXTC we will then ask for confirmation of the proposals to ensure the correct proposal is carried forward. The next stage which will be a formal consultation carried out by Buckinghamshire Council. The timeline shows the maps and drawings will be prepared for the beginning of March when we will examine them to ensure they are correct. There may be a delay if an election is held in May due to Purdah, but if this does not take place will look to ensure there is no delay. The results of both consultations have been circulated.
7. **CCTV updates** – SM reported that she has asked the CCTV Contractor and Leigh Electrical to work together to provide a quote for the installation of the CCTV cameras and electrical work, respectively, within the guidelines laid down by Bucks Council. Once she has received this, a complete quote can be prepared for GXTC to consider. JO still has some technical queries he would like answered. It was agreed for AW, CB, JO and SM to have a Zoom meeting to discuss the way forward and then have a meeting with Bucks Council to provide an update and to raise any queries.
8. **Climate Change and GXTC**. To consider the following proposals:-
  - (a) **To stop the use of chemical weedkillers** – Enquiry sent to Bucks Council regards the use of chemicals on highways.
  - (b) **EV Charging Points in Our Public Car Parks – Response from Bucks Council** - Bucks Council are in the process of drafting an electric vehicle strategy for the new Council. This is regards to increasing the number of electric vehicle points across the county. The roll out will likely be in two parts with the first being rolled out in car parks where there is a high number of residential properties nearby. This helps support the shift to increasing the take up of electric vehicles, particularly where residents do not have driveways or the flexibility of having their own electric vehicle charging point installed. The second will focus on car parks generally to provide a good balance of electric vehicle charging points across the county and to support the electric vehicle charging network. If GXCA has a preference of a particular area in Gerrards Cross for the first point of installation, Bucks Council will consider the request. It was agreed to put forward Station Road car park ~~for~~ as our first preference EV Charging points, but we would also request Packhorse Road car park (opposite M&S) if it is possible to have two locations.
10. **Mill Lane Bridge, Pedestrian Safety Improvements** – AW reported that he wrote to Joy Morrissey MP about the safety concerns for pedestrians using Mill Lane bridge. AW met up with Thomas Broom (from the office of Joy Morrissey) last Friday to explain the situation. As a result AW is asking SM to arrange a site visit with an engineer from Bucks Council to consider the possibility of installing Wi-Fi traffic lights for a 2 way system and a raised footpath, with the footpath continuing to the next road junction. CB pointed out that the whole project is really the concern of Bucks Council being the Highways Authority and they should be doing this not GXTC. AW responded that we already have Community Board funding and money in our budget, totalling £30k and are more likely to get something done if we contribute towards it and he will ask Joy Morrissey MP and Bucks Council for funding. At the present time, Bucks Council do not believe there is a problem at Mill Lane bridge
11. **Budget** – Not on the agenda but JC had nothing to report. ES asked about the £2k for snow clearance. SM reported that she has asked ATC to do this. JO has seen the grit lorry go through the town centre late at night,

and with no one around, he has seen them spin out grit on to the pavements. Regards graffiti, SM is making enquiries with the Police if they have found the culprit(s) of this recent spate of graffiti. SM has asked for ATC to remove the graffiti at top of Oak End Way.

**12. Communications** – Nothing to report.

**13. Correspondence** – SM received an enquiry from a local resident about the amount of HGV's travelling towards Slough along the Windsor Rd with full loads of soil and returning shortly afterwards with an empty load.

**14. Items for the next meeting:-** None.

**15. To confirm** that the next meeting of the Highways Committee will be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, 8pm after the Commons' meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed.....

Date.....