

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 16th November 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 Scott (virtually), Cllr E Surkovic, Cllr A Wood and Cllr J Woolveridge.

In Attendance: Buckinghamshire Council:- Cllr Reed, Cllr D Smith, Cllr J Rush (as observer), one MoP and Sue Moffat (Town Clerk).

84/20 Declaration of Interests - Councillors please give any declarations of interest at the beginning of the item on the Agenda.

85/20 Apologies for absence – Apologies have been received from Cllr S Chhokar and Cllr B Gibbs.

86/20 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th October 2020.

Cllr O’Keeffe strongly objected that his full account of his reasons to have face to face meetings under Minute 79/21 was not recorded. The Town Clerk responded that the Minutes are a summary of what is discussed in order to show the decision reached, not a verbatim record of a meeting.

Also Cllr O’Keeffe disagreed with Richard Stone’s presentation coming under Public Participation, it was longer than allocated time and not a separate agenda item. Also Cllr Brown should have declared an interest being a member of the Executive Committee of GXCA. Cllr Brown responded that technically Cllr O’Keeffe is correct but Cllr Brown allowed some flexibility as it was the F & GP Committee’s request for a presentation from GXCA at the November Council meeting. Unfortunately it was not clear if Mr Stone was able to attend until the last minute and the Public Participation item was the only suitable part of the agenda for this to be heard. It was a presentation and no decisions were being made at this meeting as result of the presentation. However, Cllr O’Keeffe’s comments were duly noted and lessons learnt for future meetings including extending the Public Participation time, if required, by proposing a motion to that affect.

Cllr Surkovic supports that the Minutes should be a summary of a meeting and this is more helpful for residents. Also she requested an item on the next Council agenda to discuss additional staffing levels as agreed at the last F & GP meeting.

At the proposition of Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Wood, these Minutes were agreed by Council and signed, noting comments raised by Cllr O’Keeffe.

87/20 Public Speaking - None.

88/20 Report from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors.

Cllr Brown announced that he has received advice from Cllr Darby of the Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts Community Board that if important issues are not being resolved, GXTC should seek the assistance of GX elected members at Bucks Council. So, to this affect, he would like to raise the following outstanding issues with GX Bucks Councillors:- (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. Cllr Brown would request that Bucks Councillors should take these items into consideration when reporting back to GXTC's Council meeting.

Cllr D Smith (i) In response to Cllr Brown's request, Cllr Smith has asked Cllr Nick Naylor for a response to the dangerous potholes but has had no reply yet. Cllr B Gibbs is involved in the Wapseys Wood Enforcement. Cllr Brown responded that it is over a year since the appeal has been dismissed and no enforcement action has been taken place. It needs to be addressed soon; (ii) Cllr Smith laid a wreath at GX Cenotaph on 8th November on behalf of Bucks Council.

Cllr R Reed:- (i) Cllr Reed is no longer shown by Buckinghamshire Council as representing any Gerrards Cross residents, despite having been elected by them but he continues to represent residents of Fulmer, Denham and Gerrards Cross East, and regularly attends this Town Council's meeting; (ii) In response to Cllr Brown's request, he is not prepared to take on the workload that properly should be undertaken by Cllr Gibbs who represented the rest of Gerrards Cross at County Council Division as it was the protocol in the County Council that a member did not involve themselves in another County Councillors division. As a Gerrards Cross Councillor, and Chairman of the local Community Board, it would be more appropriate for Cllr Santokh Chhokar to resolve these outstanding matters in Cllr Gibbs division, than Cllr Reed. It is Cllr Reed's intention to continue to attend Town Council meetings, unless he is formally notified that GXTC consider that to be no longer appropriate. Cllr Brown responded that GXTC appreciates Cllr Reed's attendance at our meetings.

89/20 To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings:-

Commons Committee 2nd November 2020. Cllr J Chhokar queried the relocation of the bench at West Common. Cllr Orme reported that Plantlife has now commented on the 2 ponds which will be discussed at the next meeting. Also, Cllr Orme has asked Cllr Bayliss to circulate the details to West Common residents as to how to report parking violations to the Parking Enforcement team in the future as it is not the remit of the Commons Committee. At the proposition of Cllr Orme, seconded by Cllr Palmiero, the Minutes of the Commons Committee were agreed by Council.

Highways Committee 5th October 2020. Cllr J Chhokar requested that Minute 12 should add as shown in bold '*As this is not an agenda item it was referred to the next Highways meeting for further discussion*'. This was agreed. Under Minute 5 it should read St Huberts Lane not 'Close'. At the proposition of Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Orme, these Minutes were agreed by Council.

Planning Committee 26th October and 9th November 2020- Cllr J Chhokar confirmed the Planning Minutes.

90/20 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) updates.

Cllr Orme reported that 'Call to Sites' has now been advertised on the NP web site and in November's VOICE. To date there have been one known response via the web site but this was out of area. Cllr Palmiero asked if he should approach Norman Holmes (Chairman of NPSG) to ask WEAreGX to advertise this as well? This was agreed. Also, Cllr Orme pointed out that NALC has advertised there is extra funding available to carry out a NP.

91/20 Communications – The Town Clerk has received positive feedback from residents regards the November edition of VOICE that has recently been circulated. To note JO, ES and CB have not received a copy.

92/20 To consider the request from GX Community Association (GXCA) for a grant of up to £25k.

Cllr Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in this agenda item being a member of the Executive Committee of GXCA.

As stated in the presentation by the Chairman, Richard Stone, at the last Council meeting on 19th October, the £25k grant has been requested towards the cost of carrying out refurbishment works of the Garden Room. Discussion was held highlighting the facts that:- (i) Concern about donating money during Covid-19 lockdown. GXCA is closed until after Christmas and no certainty it will re-open in the New Year if lockdown continues; (ii) GXCA should be looking for funding from other sources as well such as the Lottery Funding, Government Support Loans etc.

However, it was recognised that GXCA serves the whole community and it needs to be prepared to continue to operate when lockdown ceases. If funding is available then the Garden Room refurbishment should start sooner rather than later.

It was agreed to earmark £25k in GXTC's funds for GXCA to start the projects works by next September and to hand over the money as and when stages of the works are completed up to a total of £25k.

93/20 At the request of Cllr H Orme, 'To respond to NALC's survey on climate change'.

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

It was agreed to delegate to Cllr Orme and the Town Clerk to complete the survey and to report back to the next full Council for approval.

94/20 Finances

Resolved to agree payments for November 2020 (as circulated).

95/20 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.

Cllr E Surkovic – Library meeting.

Cllr Wood – (i) 20th Oct- Security and CCTV meeting; (ii) 22nd Oct – Pothole programme meeting; (iii) 10th Nov – Highways sub-group of Denham, GX and Chalfonts Community Board where funding was agreed to improve pedestrian safety at Mill Lane bridge; (iv) Mill Lane Bridge meeting to discuss works with Highways UK. May have to rethink the proposal.

Cllr Palmiero – (i) WeAreGX to discuss the leaflet to be distributed with VOICE to advertise Christmas offers from local businesses. TS added that, sadly, La Moda is closing down; (ii) New premises meeting.

Cllr J Chhokar – None.

Cllr T Scott - Youth Working Group meeting with Cllr S Chhokar and Ani, the Community Board Co-Ordinator.

Cllr J O'Keeffe – (i) Security and CCTV meeting; (ii) Highways sub-group of Denham, GX and Chalfonts Community Board where funding was agreed to improve pedestrian safety at Mill Lane bridge.

Cllr N Barnett – New premises meeting.

Cllr Woolveridge – None.

Cllr Orme – (i) 5th Nov - Climate change sub-group of Denham, GX and Chalfonts Community Board; (ii) 8th Nov Remembrance Service (at a distance); (iii) 16th Nov - New Premises meeting.

Cllr I Bayliss – None.

Cllr Brown – (i) SBALC meeting where discussed that the lack of a forum for town and parish councils to discuss organisational matters with senior officers at County level. Discussions took place with Aylesbury Vale to consider setting up a forum with Bucks Council where town and parish councillors have a strong voice in resolving major issues with Bucks Council (see email from Cllr Saunders circulated on 16th November; (ii) Remembrance Service where he laid the wreath on behalf of GXTC and attended the service at a distance; (iii) Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts Community Board and consequently the email he sent to GX Bucks Councillors (as circulated on 11th November) requesting that GX Bucks Councillors should support GXTC in addressing outstanding Highways issues.

96/20 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office – (i) Revd Forward from St James Church reported that the Church will not be holding Community Services on the Common due to the second Covid-19 lockdown but instead are looking at a drive in Carol Service in Tesco car park after 4pm on Sunday 20th December; (ii) Invitation from Iver PC to join a Pinewood Working Group. Fulmer and Denham PCs are planning to join.

97/20 To confirm that the next Council Meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be at 7.30pm on 14th December 2020 at GX Memorial Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Payments 16th November 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	4712.00	Weekly playground inspections - Sept
BACS	Amersham Town Council	130.00	26	156.00		Weekly playground inspections - Oct
BACS	Fineland Forestry Ltd	95.00	19	114.00	114.00	Take down leaning birches East Common
BACS	A M S	876.50		876.50	876.50	Monthly grass cutting contract
	Playground Inspection	67.50	13.5	81.00	81.00	Annual RoSPA report
	Highways					
BACS	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75	450.00	2334.00	Monthly street lighting contract
BACS	Leigh Electrical	480.00	96.00	576.00		New head and door - Gaviots Way
BACS	Leigh Electrical	40.00	8.00	48.00		charge up and move MVAS
BACS	Leigh Electrical	1050.00	210.00	1260.00		Christmas decorations
DD	Southern Electric	282.15	54.63	336.78	336.78	Unmetered electricity
BACS	Scottish & Southern	374.74	74.95	449.69	449.69	reconnect Col 269 Meadway Pk
BACS	Scottish & Southern	374.74	74.95	449.69	449.69	reconnect Col 33 Bentick Close
BACS	Amersham Town Council	1833.33	366.67	2200.00		Devolved Services September
BACS	Amersham Town Council	1833.33	366.67	2200.00		Devolved Services October
BACS	Windowflowers	50.00	10	60.00	60.00	remove hanging basket col 35 being replaced
Bank Transfer	GXTC's Taxi concessionary fares	1000.00		1000.00	1000.00	As agreed in budget
	Administration					
BACS	GXCA	255.00		255.00	590.00	room hire Sept
BACS	GXCA	335.00		335.00		room hire Oct
DD	Chess	135.14		135.14	135.14	Telephone and broadband monthly charge
BACS	Viking	305.62	32.92	338.54	338.54	Stationery
BACS	CCS	282.75	56.55	339.30	339.30	Quarterly photocopier lease
card	Amazon	102.91	20.58	123.49	123.49	Microphone
BACS	Beverly Simpson & Co Ltd	150.00	0	150.00	150.00	Quarterly internal audit
Chq	The Royal British Legion	20.00		20.00	20.00	Remembrance wreath
BACS	GX Covid-19 grant	2000.00		2000.00	2000.00	As agreed F&GP 6th Oct 20
	Bank charges	7.70		7.70	7.70	
	Parish Office					
DD	CNG Power	32.41	1.62	34.03	34.03	Gas Charge
DD	Gazprom	45.94	2.30	48.24	48.24	Electricity charge
	Neighbourhood Plan					
BACS	Webfx	300.00	60.00	360.00	360.00	website hosting for NP
	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
Card	Natwest OneCard	66.00	13.20	79.20	132.72	Microsoft 365
Card	Natwest OneCard	35.20	7.04	42.24		Microsoft 365
Card	Natwest OneCard	9.40	1.88	11.28		Microsoft 365
BACS	Salaries	4484.79		£4,484.79	£4,484.79	
	Total	17760.15	1657.46	19417.61	19417.61	

Chairman.....

Date.....

Budget for 2020/21

	Budget 2020-21	Earmarked Reserves	Expenditure of budget up to September 2020 (excluding VAT)	Expenditure of Earmarked Reserves up to October 2020	Total Expenditure
COMMONS	£64,200.00	£40,600.00	£8,870.00	£19,005.00	£27,875.00
LIGHTING	£22,501.00		£9,311.09		£9,311.09
HIGHWAYS	£85,425.00	£142,395.00	£26,492.10	£55,149.44	£81,641.54
GRANTS	£25,100.00		£13,700.00		£13,700.00
COMMUNICATION	£8,330.00	£5,500.00	£2,647.04	£2,500.00	£5,147.04
GENERAL ADMIN	£13,420.00		£6,849.94		£6,849.94
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN		£10,319.00		£1,075.00	£1,075.00
COUNCIL OFFICE	£9,050.00		£5,794.33		£5,794.33
SALARIES	£69,000.00		£29,979.67		£29,979.67
PRECEPT / TOTAL	£297,026.00	£198,814.00	£103,644.17	£77,729.44	£181,373.61