

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 17th February 2020 at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre.

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

In Attendance: Bucks CC Cllr Reed, SBDC Cllr D Smith and Sue Moffat (Town Clerk).

111/19 Declaration of Interests - Councillors please give any declarations of interest at the beginning of the item on the Agenda.

112/19 Apologies for absence – Apologies have been received from, Cllr Bayliss, Cllr Scott, SBDC Cllr S Chhokar, BCC Cllr B Gibbs and I Gordon.

113/19 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20th January 2020.
At the proposition of Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Orme, these Minutes were agreed by Council and signed.

114/19 Public Speaking - None.

115/19 To confirm the minutes of the following meetings which can be found on the web site
<http://gerrardscross.gov.uk/meetings-and-minutes-2020/>:-

Commons Committee 3rd February 2020– At the proposition of Cllr Orme, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge, the Minutes of the Commons Committee were agreed by Council and signed after amending those present to include Cllr J Chhokar. Cllr Orme highlighted that:- (i) There has been little damage following recent storms; (ii) AW and HO have marked out the location for the concrete posts along damaged verge at West Common; (iii) AW has spoken to Developer to stop people parking in the temporary closed car park and the developer has agreed to improve the barrier and keep watch; (iv) The footpath from Valley Way needs further remedial work; (v) The Outdoor gym has been finally approved. Just waiting for a final proof of design; (vi) Tree thinning programme for East Common has been approved.

CB raised concern about the road safety issue of installing concrete posts along the verge in West Common. It was agreed to check this out with Highways to ensure there are no safety issues.

Highways Committee 3rd February 2020 - At the proposition of Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Orme, the Minutes of the Highways meeting were agreed by Council and signed. Cllr Wood added that:- (i) It was agreed to pay £19,356 for the next phase of the SPWP recommendations; (ii) The quote of £36K for the next phase of CCTV was agreed which is more than in budget but the extra will be covered by next year's budget. SM seeking Bucks CC's agreement before proceeding. JO added that a CCTV camera has appeared in Fulmer Rd. This may be an APR camera installed by the police or Highways. Checking this out; (iv) Highways UK have been given the go ahead to complete the next phase of pothole/pavement repair and gulley cleaning.

Planning Committee 'virtual meeting' of 27th January 2020 - Cllr J Chhokar confirmed the Planning Minutes and gave a brief summary of the contents highlighting the 2 planning application where objections were raised. One objection was the Planning Application PL/19/4532/FA, 2 Windsor Rd, demolition house and construct 8 apartments. The last Planning application similar to this one was only refused by the Officer's recommendation on the grounds of lack of affordable housing. It was not decided by Committee as requested. GXTC has asked the Chairman of Planning for the application to be decided by Committee this time.

Planning Committee 10th February 2020– Cllr J Chhokar confirmed the Planning Minutes and gave a brief summary of the contents, no objections were raised. It was noted that the Historic Building Officer is now taking steps to protect Bulstrode Park House.

116/19 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) updates.

- (i) Updates on Work in Progress. Cllr Holmes reported that there was a meeting on 11th February. The completed survey of the opinions of the 18-50 age group have now been included. Now the NP group are running a 'Call for Sites' (no Green Belt will be included) which is strongly recommended by the Consultants to negate developers choosing their own sites. Also, a grant is being sought for Locality (UK) to carry out a Housing Needs Assessment as the last assessment was carried out in 2014/15 where 174 additional dwellings were shown to be needed. Lastly NH has written to inform the Independent Examination of the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan that Gerrards Cross is in the process of creating its Neighbourhood Plan which strongly recommends preserving Green Belt and focusing development on Brownfield sites.
- (ii) To approve any proposed expenditure over £500 – None.

117/19 Communications Working Party Updates

- (i) VOICE – ATM reports from the Chairmen of Committees will be needed by mid- March for the next edition of VOICE in April 2020. Exact date to be confirmed.
- (ii) Dates for the Diary – GXTC ATC on 8th April 2020.

118/19 Election Update

Briefing notes circulated. The Town Clerk highlighted that there will be 3 elections on 7th May being Unitary, town/parishes and the Police Commissioner. Notice of election of the town/parish council elections will be published on 31st March and nomination forms will be available from then either from the Town Council office or SBDC. The nomination forms must be returned by hand to the Town Clerk or Monitoring Officer at SBDC by 4pm on 8th April 2020. The count will take place at SBDC on 9th April.

119/19 To discuss VE Day celebrations

GX Business Group have sent in a request to use West Common for an outdoor cinema with stalls. This is a tentative request as need to know if GXTC will grant permission before they can proceed and as yet the costs, funding etc are not confirmed. GXTC agreed to this request on the proviso that all legal requirements and safety issues are adhered. Also looking at putting up bunting across Packhorse Rd by the shops. The Town Clerk added that road closures are free for VE day and a small grant of £150 is available from SBDC, closing date 28th February.

120/19 Resolved to approve payments for February 2020 – Noted. There is still some underspend with the budgets. The Grant budget is underspent due to the closure of the Youth Club. Will consider requests for GX Cricket Club and VE Day at the next Council meeting.

121/19 Report from County and District Councillor

Bucks CC Cllr Reed reported:- (i) Tomorrow the Shadow Executive will discuss the new Waste Contract to be implemented 1st November 2021; (ii) Final meeting of Bucks CC is on 12th March 2020; (iii) He has received complaints about a pavement defect in St Huberts Close. Highways Officers have inspected it twice and stated that the problem is not acute enough to warrant any action. Cllr Reed is seeking reassurance on this response by asking to see the policy on this.

SBDC Cllr Smith reported:- (i) He has pushed hard for something to be done to prevent the deterioration of Bulstrode House and he notes that scaffolding is now being erected; (ii) The new Waste Contract needed to be finalised as CDC and Wycombe's contracts come to an end before SBDC. SBDC will not enter the new contract until the present one comes to an end; (iv) Remuneration for councillors have been agreed. The present cost of having 1 BCC councillor and 3 SBDC councillors is £25p.a. compared with the future cost of having 2 Unitary councillors being £39k p.a. but will probably be reduced over the next 5 years. Cllr Reed interjected that it was the district councillors who wanted 2 rather than 1 unitary councillor per division.

122/19 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.

Cllr Orme - (i) 22nd January – Meeting with Practicality Brown , Pyramid Consulting and SM on tree thinning , East Common; (ii) 23rd January – SBALC; (iii) 29th January – Beaconsfield Society SOGB Campaign Meeting regards the Local Plan Hearing; (iv) 11th February - NPSG.

Cllr Woolveridge: (i) GXCV where there were 11 volunteers working in East Common tidying up area around oak tree near Packhorse Rd. She recommends the removal of the silver birch in front of the oak; (ii) L & Q meeting – L&Q have helped fund a community bus in Beaconsfield. L&Q Staff are working very satisfactory according to an independent survey. Tenants are leaving properties in a poor state which costs huge amounts to return the property to a good standard to re-let. Now have policy to sell all properties with high cost voids (over £10k). SBDC are helping to fund the cost of these voids. £30m has been spent removing cladding from tower blocks which has a serious effect on L&Q's budget.

Cllr J Chhokar – (i) Meeting with local neighbours regards the threat of the closure of the local post box. The Town Clerk reported that the post box is not being removed but the collection time will change to an earlier hour in the day; (ii) Beaconsfield Society public meeting on 12th February regarding the local plan.

Cllr Roberts – Telephone conversation with Denham Aerodrome about concerns with the planning application for the new service station on the M25.

Cllr Holmes – 11th February - NPSG.

Cllr O'Keeffe : (i) Various phone calls with Monitoring Officer about CCTV; (ii) He has heard of a number of crimes taking place around the town centre; (iii) Also he has been informed that Ethorpe is remaining and will hopefully be upgraded. Natwest is remaining and the ex-soft furniture shop in Station Rd is becoming a gym

Cllr Palmiero – 31st January – core WeAreGX group meeting; (ii) 5th February- WeAreGX group meeting; (iii) 11th February – High Street Bucks conference at Pinewood Studios.

Cllr E Surkovic – WeAreGX group meeting representing the library.

Cllr Bayliss – No report.

Cllr Scott – No report.

Cllr Wood – (i) SBALC; (ii) Site visit of trees in Windsor Rd with JW and SM; (iii) – Beaconsfield Society SOGB Campaign meeting regards the Local Plan Hearing; (iv) WeAreGX breakfast meeting; (v) Site visit with HO regards concrete bollards and spoke to developer; (v) Drove around GX to review the pothole repairs.

Cllr Brown – Parish Liaison meeting (Minutes already circulated). He expressed concern at the meeting that if there is no Local Plan in place there may be a threat of encroachment by Slough. Cllr Smith assured the meeting that the Local Plan will definitely remain; (ii) Meeting with LATS and SM to finalise the next phase of the Devolved pothole works; (iii) Meeting with the LAF Officer and SM regards the end of the LAF's and the introduction of the Community Boards.

123/19 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office – None.

124/19 To confirm that the next Council Meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be at 7.30pm on 16th March 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm

Signed.....



Date.....

16/3/2020

Payments 17 February 2020

Chq No/Bacs/DD	Payee	Net Exp.	VAT	Gross Exp		Transaction Details
	Commons					
BACS	Amersham Town Council	130.00	26	156.00	2356.00	Weekly Playground inspection
	Highways UK	10884.00	2176	13060.00	13060.00	Work on bunds West Common
	Highways					
BACS	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75	450.00	3776.08	Monthly street lighting contract
BACS	Leigh Electrical	40.00	8.00	48.00		Move MVAS
BACS	Leigh Electrical	90.00	18.00	108.00		Replacement vandalised shade and lamp
BACS	Leigh Electrical	1020.00	204.00	1224.00		3 new heads
BACS	Leigh Electrical	220	44	1946.08		Excavate for SEC connection
DD	Southern Electric	282.79	54.75	337.54	337.54	Unmetered Electricity x 2 invoices
BACS	Amersham Town Council	1833.33	366.67	2200.00		Devolved Highways Work
BACS	Ringway Jacobs	19356.62	3871.32	23227.94	23227.94	SPWP phase 3
BACS	Windowflowers	1004.75	200.95	1205.70	1205.70	Hanging baskets and street planters
	Administration					
BACS	GXCA	38.00	0	38.00	38.00	Room rental
DD	Chess	49.10	9.82	58.92	58.92	Telephone and broadband
	C Brown	22.75		22.75	22.75	Parish Liaison meeting -expenses
	BNP Paribas	264.97	52.99	317.96	317.96	Photocopier quarterly rental
	Bank Charges	8.40		8.40	8.40	
	Neighbourhood Plan					
	Communications					
BAC	Nexus	100.00	20.00	120.00	120.00	Monthly software and support
Card	Microsoft Office 365	84.00	16.80	100.80	143.04	Microsoft 365
Card	Microsoft Office 365	35.20	7.04	42.24		Microsoft 365
	Parish Office			0.00		
BACS	GXCA	1500.00	0	1500.00	1500.00	Quarterly ground rent
DD	Affinity	59.29		59.29	59.29	Waste and clean water
DD	CNG	65.52	3.28	68.80	68.80	Electricity supply
BAC	Salaries	3920.45		3920.45	3920.45	
	Total	41384.17	7154.62	50220.87	50220.87	

Signed

Date

Budget for 2019/20

	Budget 2019-20	Earmarked Reserves	Expenditure of budget as at 20th January 20120(excluding VAT)	Expenditure of Earmarked Reserves as at 20th January 2020	Total Expenditure
COMMONS	£45,150.00	£99,925.00	£15,343.92	£65,169.68	£80,513.60
LIGHTING	£18,501.00		£19,162.93		£19,162.93
HIGHWAYS	£77,750.00	£152,000.00	£37,174.51	£21,445.13	£58,619.64
GRANTS	£36,370.00		£31,316.95		£31,316.95
COMMUNICATION	£7,662.00	£8,000.00	£6,007.00	£2,500.00	£8,507.00
GENERAL ADMIN	£22,485.00		£10,933.64		£10,933.64
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN		£13,171.00		£2,477.00	£2,477.00
COUNCIL OFFICE	£11,442.00		£8,863.31		£8,863.31
SALARIES	£69,000.00		£42,214.84		£42,214.84
Earmarked Reserves Total		£273,096.00		£91,591.81	
PRECEPT / TOTAL BUDGET	£288,360.00		£171,017.10		