

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 18th January 2021

Present: Cllr C Brown (Mayor), Cllr N Barnett, Cllr Bayliss, Cllr J Chhokar, Cllr J O'Keeffe, Cllr H Orme, Cllr J Palmiero, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr T Scott, Cllr E Surkovic, Cllr A Wood and Cllr J Woolveridge.

In Attendance: Buckinghamshire Council:- Cllr D Smith, Cllr R Reed and Sue Moffat (Town Clerk).

114/20 Declaration of Interests - Councillors please give any declarations of interest at the beginning of the item on the Agenda.

115/20 Apologies for absence – Apologies have been received from Cllr S Chhokar and Cllr B Gibbs.

The Mayor, Cllr Brown, announced that Clair McCoy, the Assistant Clerk, has handed in her notice and will be leaving at the end of March after working for GXTC for 5 years. He respects her decision and thanked Clair for her high level of ability she has given to the Town Council.

116/20 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th December 2020.

At the proposition of Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Wood, these Minutes were agreed by Council after amending: (i) Minute 105/20 to show *'Minimum of 1200-1200 sq ft'* and Minute 112/20 - *'Response from GXCA querying the terms of the offer of the grant by GXTC. To be discussed at the next September Council meeting'* and due to the latter amendment, agenda item 13 was removed from tonight's meeting.

117/20 Public Speaking - None.

118/20 Report from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors.

Cllr D Smith (i) The Covid lockdown, and with Buckinghamshire (Bucks) Council being shut over Christmas, this has affected works quite a lot at Bucks. Most noticeable was the Green Waste collection suspended over Christmas period due to high level of sickness with the Biffa Waste team. Generally, queries with planning are taking longer than normal, particularly with Listed Buildings; (ii) Bucks Council are considering increasing parking charges at the country parks by a small amount; (iii) Regards Item 12 on tonight's agenda, i.e. better medical services in GX, he did look at this 2/3 years ago when on the Executive Committee at SBDC, and his personal opinion was the best place for a medical centre was at the back end of Bulstrode Way car park as SBDC own the land. Cllr Scott asked if he had any knowledge of finding funds for a new medical centre? Cllr Smith replied that anyone can put in for planning permission on land not owned by the applicant and then sell the land on to a medical practise. However, land in GX is very expensive which is why he suggested using the land at Bulstrode car park. He does recognise that GX needs a medical centre but does not have the influence he used to but is happy to help if he can; (iv) Cllr Wood asked, regards highway matters, who do we ask about getting something done about the very bad state of road at South Park? Cllr Smith responded that he finds it difficult to move things forward at Buckinghamshire Council so first use the system and report any defects to FixMyStreet. If no results approach Cllr Nick Naylor, Cabinet Member for Transport. Cllr Wood also asked who was in charge of signalling, but this was not known.

Cllr R Reed:- (i) Regards funding for a medical centre, one source would be the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and another the local Community Board so may wish to raise this matter with Denham, GX and Chalfonts Community Board. However, the final decision will be with the Clinical Commissioning Group; (ii)

All very difficult with Covid at Bucks Council. Bucks Councillors have a briefing once a week, but he is uncomfortable with the lack of progress on Covid with particular concern with the lack of progress in South Bucks. Not everyone has a car and for some elderly people there is no public transport to get to Chalfont St Peter Hospital for the Covid vaccination. However, one Care Home in Denham did receive the Covid vaccination last Friday and most 80+ have had their vaccinations now but he did not believe it was well managed. There is a lack of capability by the NHS. Cllr Scott asked if the local practices have any jurisdiction over the vaccination process such as the second vaccination? Cllr Reed responded there is no common group that have the final answer and Bucks Council are entrenched in carrying out the government advice rather than trying to do something better. He is disappointed that Bucks Council are not pressurising the Clinical Commissioning Group to do something better. One of the 17 big vaccination centres is opening in Slough so he believes there will be a mass vaccination for those in Slough and not for anyone else. Cllr Woolveridge stated that the Government sees the big centres as the answer to everything and if vaccination is available, it will go to the big centres. Cllr Reed agreed that the Government approach is 'big is beautiful' and in his personal view, decisions are being made from political grounds and not on medical grounds. Cllr Surkovic added that if there are any issues in Bucks that need addressing then send the evidence to Mr Stevens, Chief Executive of the NHS; (iii) Cllr Brown raised concern about police presence at community Board meetings. Cllr Reed responded that he has already raised concern about the Community Board meetings not addressing parish priorities regards police matters. Denham, GX and Chalfont Community Board is spread over 2 police areas, South Bucks and Chiltern, and as the Community Board covers such a wide area there needs to be a representative from the police from each local area to take on board parish concerns.

119/20 To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings:-

Commons Committee of the 4th January 2021. At the proposition of Cllr Orme, seconded by Cllr Woolveridge, the Minutes of the Commons Committee were agreed by Council.

Highways Committee of the 11th January 2021. Cllr O'Keeffe had circulated some amendments prior to this meeting which were agreed. Cllr O'Keeffe went on to point out that regards having CCTV, he believes that GXTC needs to be SIA (Security Industry Authority) registered otherwise illegal. Cllr J Chhokar pointed out that the original purpose for Sector reporting was for the leaders to send in a report that can be viewed and only highlight important issues at the meeting rather than discuss every point raised. Cllr Wood agreed and that Cllrs Orme and Bayliss had sent out a good format that can be used for Sector reporting and can be found in the Shared Drive. Cllr Orme confirmed this and she sends out a link to their report that can then be viewed before the meeting. At the proposition of Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Orme, the amended Minutes of the Highways meeting on 11th January 2021 were agreed.

Planning Committee 21st December 2020 and 11th January, 2021 - Cllr J Chhokar confirmed the Planning Minutes.

120/20 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) updates.

Cllr Orme reported that there had been a 'Call for sites' and a late one came through of land between The Camp and Windsor Road, Bulstrode court end. All these sites will be assessed by the NP consultant. Cllr J Chhokar was concerned that 2 of the sites were in Green Belt. Concern was also raised that these sites are put forward by individuals with no accreditation from GXTC. However, 'Call for Sites' is part of the Neighbourhood Plan process and a legal check will be made by the consultants before proceeding and ultimately any sites put forward will need to be agreed when the NP goes to public referendum. Cllrs Surkovic and Barnett asked for more information on the Neighbourhood Plan process. A lot of information is available on the GX Neighbourhood Plan at <https://gxplan.co.uk> and at the NALC's web site.

8.35pm Cllr Reed left the meeting.

121/20 Communications – The next newsletter is April when the reports from Chairmen for the Annual Town Meeting are published

122/20 To consider the Premises and Infrastructure Working Party – To consider the Minutes of the meeting on 14th December, 2020. Cllr Orme pointed out that these are notes from the meeting and not officially Minutes. Cllr Orme reported that the first stage was to look at all options available and has sent out a review to councillors and would be happy to receive any responses before the next meeting on 15th February. After discussion it was agreed that the best way forward was to concentrate on freehold rather than leasing so GXTC has an asset in the future, and to upgrade the present premises at minimal cost to accommodate 3 staff.

123/20 Resolved to approve the response to NALC's survey on climate change'.

124/20 To approve the draft Climate Change Strategy Statement for GXTC as presented by Cllr Orme. Cllr Wood pointed out that these are guidelines rather than an agreement. The Climate Change Statement was approved and it was agreed publicise this to council leaders and to forward it to the Climate Change Working sub group of the Community Board. Also, to publicise it on GXTC's web site and in the next edition of VOICE.

125/20 To set up a Working Party to investigate the possibility of introducing better medical services to Gerrards Cross. Cllr Barnett and Cllr Wood each knew of a person with medical experience and will ask if they wish to be involved in the Working Party. Also, Cllr Scott added that the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health, Lord Darzi, lives in GX and may be interested to help. Cllr O'Keeffe proposed Cllr Brown to lead this Working Party and Cllr Barnett offered to help him if he did take up this position. Cllr Brown will consider this position and report back.

126/20 At the request of Cllr J Chhokar:- 'Protocols for Correspondence'. Cllr J Chhokar proposed that Chairmen of committees and working parties should be copied into relevant Council correspondence if they so wish. This was agreed.

127/20 At the request of Cllr Orme; 'To overview any covenants on the Land Registry of Colston Court and propose it for nomination by GXTC as a community asset'.

Land Registry shows there is possibly a covenant before 1972 which needs further investigation. Historically it was an educational site before 1972 so there may be a restrictive covenant and it is in the Conservation area.

Cllr O'Keeffe explained that any covenants are found in the deeds but these can be changed at a fee.

After much discussion the general feeling was that Colston Court could be used for Council premises including possibly a medical centre or other charitable uses, and if carried out as a joint venture with a developer it would include the wish list of that developer.

Queries raised were:- (i) If there are any restrictive covenants, (ii) If not economical to modify the existing building would planning permission be granted to rebuild, (iii) If Public Works Loan Board do not allow loans for commercial ventures would this have an effect on any proposals; (iv) Are the owners L & Q interested in developing the property, (v) If needed, would a developer be interested in a joint project.

Therefore, tentatively agreed to nominate Colston Court as a community asset for Council premises, Medical Centre and Community Hub after carrying out further investigations with L & Q.

128/20 Finances

Resolved to agree payments for January 2021- Noted and agreed.

129/20 Report on Meetings – members update on where they have represented the Town Council since the last meeting.

Cllr Woolveridge – Age Concern Chiropody Clinics.

Cllr Orme – (i) Planning and Enforcement meeting; (ii) Health and Well Being sub group meeting of the Community Board.

Cllr Roberts – Denham Aerodrome Consultative Committee.

Cllr Palmiero – None.

Cllr J Chhokar – None.

Cllr E Surkovic – None.

Cllr Wood – (i) 4/5/6th January checking leaves on highways and overgrown hedges; (ii) Site visit with Trevor Broom at Mill Lane bridge; (iii) Meeting with Highways UK on outstanding pothole repairs; (iv) Community Safety sub group of the Community Board; (v) Chairman's Community Board meeting.

Cllr Scott – None.

Cllr Bayliss – None.

Cllr O'Keeffe – Community Safety sub group of the Community Board

Cllr Barnett – None.

Cllr Brown – Chairman's Community Board meeting.

130/20 To note information received in the correspondence at the Town Council Office – (i) Letter from the local Community Board Co-ordinator asking for ideas and suggestions for improving the Board's effectiveness. Cllr Brown responded that he has already suggested ideas at the Chairman's meeting of the Community Board. He will ask for the notes of that meeting to check his comments have been recorded. This item to be on the next Council's agenda; (ii) Request from GXCA asking if GXTC would consider redesignating 2021-22 grant of £25,000 toward the restructuring costs and deficit that GXCA is likely to experience this coming year (to be circulated to councillors).

131/20 To confirm that the next Council Meeting of Gerrards Cross Town Council will be at 7.30pm on 15th February 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.43 pm

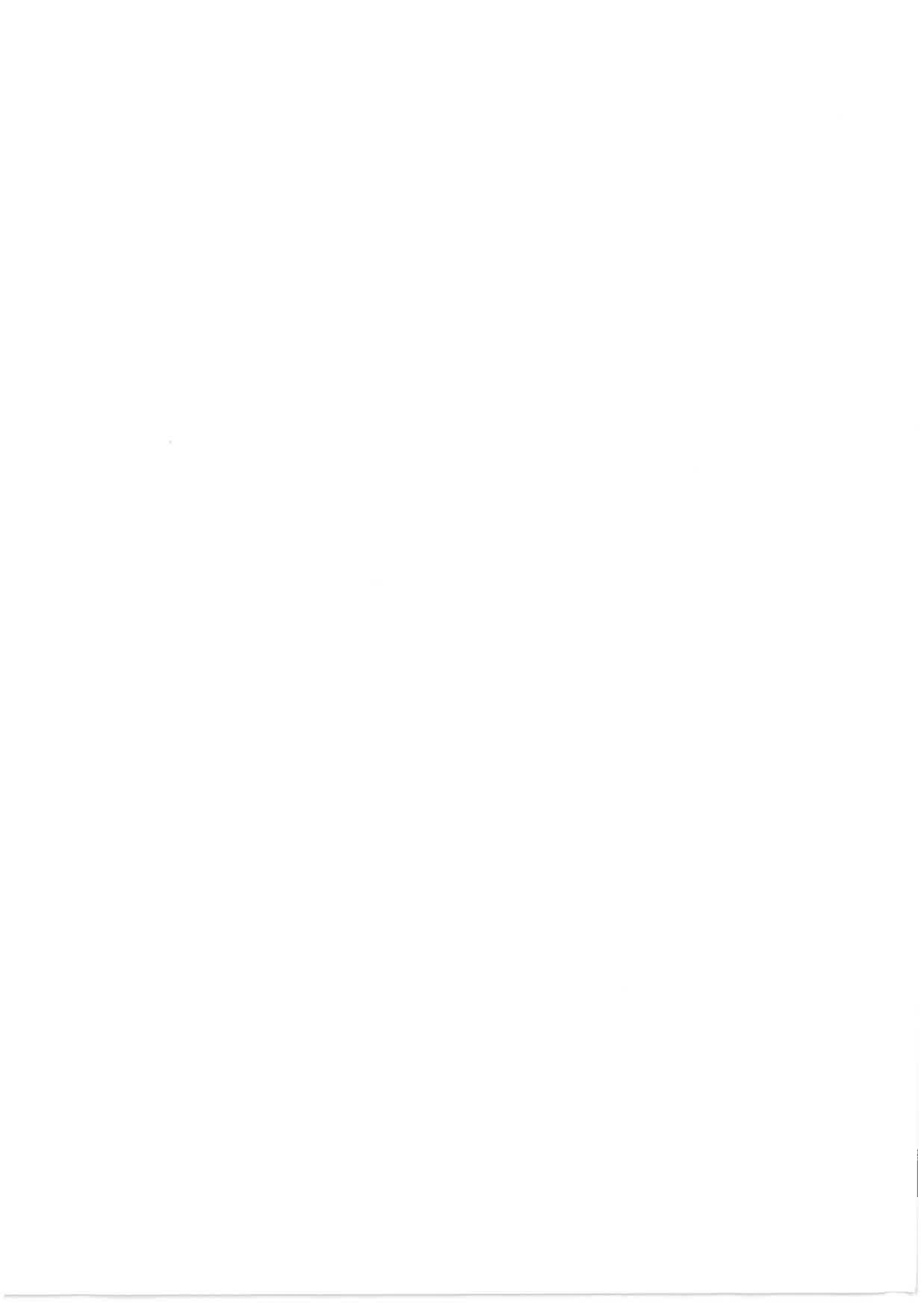
Signed.....

Date.....

Payments 18th January 2021						
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	2356.00	Weekly playground inspections - Sept
BACS	Organik	295.00		295.00	295.00	bench repairs Aug-Nov 20
BACS	A M S	876.50		876.50	876.50	Monthly grass cutting contract
BACS	Highways UK	5975.00	1195	7170.00	7170.00	Fairground access
Highways						
BACS	Leigh Electrical	375.00	75	450.00	2970.00	Monthly street lighting contract
BACS	Leigh Electrical	40.00	8.00	48.00		charge up and move MVAS
BACS	Leigh Electrical	340.00	68.00	408.00		New head, Windosr Rd
BACS	Leigh Electrical	140.00	28.00	168.00		Moreland Drive make safe post following a collision
BACS	Leigh Electrical	1580.00	316.00	1896.00		To remove and Store christmas lights
DD	Southern Electric	347.76	67.36	415.12	415.12	Unmetered electricity
BACS	Amersham Town Council	1833.33	366.67	2200.00		Devolved Services September
BACS	Oganik	140.00		140.00	140.00	Weed pavement, repair dings Aug - Nov
Administration						
BACS	SLCC	234.00		234.00	234.00	Yealy subscription
card	HM Land Registry	6.00		6.00	6.00	Copy of colston Court land registry
BACS	CCS	230.23		230.23	230.23	photocopying
DD	Chess	137.93	27.59	165.52	165.52	Telephone and broadband
	Bank charges	7.70		7.70	7.70	
Parish Office						
DD	CNG Power	56.97	2.85	59.82	59.82	Gas Charge
DD	Gazprom	54.52	2.73	57.25	57.25	Electricity charge
DD	Castle Water	138.34		138.34	138.34	Water and Waste p.a.
Neighbourhood Plan						
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		66.00	119.52	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	3878.40		£3,878.40	£3,878.40	
	Total	17127.28	2232.12	19359.40	19359.40	

Chairman.....

Date.....



Budget for 2020/21

	Budget 2020-21	Earmarked Reserves	Expenditure of budget up to November 2020 (excluding VAT)	Expenditure of Earmarked Reserves up to November 2020	Total Expenditure
COMMONS	£64,200.00	£40,600.00	£18,865.50	£19,005.00	£37,870.50
LIGHTING	£22,501.00		£11,950.40		£11,950.40
HIGHWAYS	£85,425.00	£142,395.00	£36,437.59	£55,149.44	£91,587.03
GRANTS	£25,100.00		£15,700.00		£15,700.00
COMMUNICATION	£8,330.00	£5,500.00	£3,726.58	£2,500.00	£6,226.58
GENERAL ADMIN	£13,420.00		£8,823.09		£8,823.09
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN		£10,319.00		£1,350.00	£1,350.00
COUNCIL OFFICE	£9,050.00		£6,036.81		£6,036.81
SALARIES	£69,000.00		£38,662.63		£38,662.63
PRECEPT / TOTAL	£297,026.00	£198,814.00	£140,202.60	£78,004.44	£218,207.04

