



# Gerrards Cross Parish Council

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## PARISH ANNUAL MEETING 2011

Some 58 residents attended the Annual Meeting held at the Memorial Centre on 30 March, 2011. Chris Brown, Chairman, briefly summarised his report which was distributed to all those present and which can be read on the Parish website [www.gerrardscross.gov.uk](http://www.gerrardscross.gov.uk).

Rob Miller, our neighbourhood Police Officer, who, with the help of 2 Police Support Officers, is responsible for Gerrards Cross, Fulmer and Hedgerley, working out of Burnham Police Station. He gave crime statistics for the Parish which showed a reduction in crime generally and made available his team's email and phone numbers to be used for the reporting of non-emergency matters.

Turning to illegal parking, which he acknowledged was a major problem in Gerrards Cross, Rob said he and his Support Officers regularly ticketed cars only to find them returning to the same spot. Therefore, in conjunction with the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Action Group, the Police were piloting a scheme whereby residents living in roads with acute parking problems had been given a number to text to report illegally parked cars. The owners were then sent a letter by the Police and, if they re-offended, the Police would call on them. If this still had no affect the owner would be fined. The pilot was working well and it was intended to expand the scheme

Brief reports on the Parish finances and by the Chairmen of the Highways, Commons and Planning Committees then followed. The Chairmen of all Committees were available after the meeting to talk to residents and discuss matters of concern.

Chris Brown then invited questions which mainly concerned the following topics

### **HIGHWAYS.**

[a] Concern was expressed at the APPALLING STATE OF MANY OF THE ROADS in the Parish. The Chairman assured residents that this was raised continuously with the County Council and potholes reported on an almost daily basis.

[b] The safety aspects of the BRIDGE IN MILL LANE for pedestrians were raised as there was no footpath. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council was discussing the adoption of land from Network Rail in order to create a footpath and in the meantime was supporting the residents' request for speed bumps.

[c] Several residents expressed grave concern at the delay in resurfacing the PACKHORSE ROAD FROM TESCO TO THE A40. Roger Reed, County Councillor, assured residents that Tesco had agreed to pay for this and he would continue to press for the work to be done.

[d] Complaints were also made about the PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS at Tesco and Station Approach. The Chairman said that a meeting had just been held with the contractors, County Highways and District staff to try and get changes made. The Parish Council would continue to press for changes as a matter of urgency.

## **PROPOSAL FOR A BMX TRACK ON THE COMMON**

Many residents stated their opposition to this on the grounds of noise and destroying the unspoilt nature of the Commons. The Chairman assured residents that this was a suggestion only, which the Parish Council was looking into. The request had been made by a number of teenagers who complained that there was not enough for them to do. No decision would be reached without full consultation with residents and he reminded residents that the Council had a duty to preserve the Commons as an open space.

## **£100,000 TESCO DONATION**

Questions were asked as to what proposals had been made to use this fund. Peter Chapman, Chairman of the Working Party on this, stated that although some 40 suggestions had been received, many were not costed nor gave any information as to who would carry out the work. Examples of suggestions made were for brightening up the centre of Gerrards Cross, for expanding the parking at the Memorial Centre and for equipment for the Youth Club.

The total of costed programmes was only some £35,000 so additional suggestions would be requested.

## **PARISH ACCOUNTS**

The large amount of reserves of £100,000 and the fact that only audited accounts up to 31 March 2010 were available was questioned. Nick Moss, Chairman of the Finances Committee, explained that the true reserves stood at £54,000 as the Council had a number of large, special projects under consideration. In future the accounts would be published in the Parish Newsletter and put on the website as soon as the audit was complete and the accounts approved by the Council.

The meeting finished at 8.40 and many residents took the opportunity to talk to Councillors over a glass of wine.