



EMERSONS GREEN

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

13th December 2018, Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

Present: Councillors: R Nichols (Chairman), S Al-Hassan, S Budd, T Cannard, R Hunt, C Johnson, P Morgan, U Shepherd, D Somers & C-A Wilkins

Attendees: Mrs C Davidson (Town Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

528. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Adams, S Hill, C Hunt, P Todd, B Wiltshire and I Wiltshire.

529. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

Cll R Hunt declared an interest in item 534 as a District Councillor.

530. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

531. To Approve Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 8th November 2018

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of 8th November 2018.

532. Outstanding Items from These Minutes

All matters outstanding from the last meeting are included on this agenda.

533. Correspondence and Actions Required

The following correspondence was considered:

- Letter from Emersons Green Village Hall – thanking the Council for the grant £600.00 for the Seniors Luncheon Club – *Noted by members*
- SGC – Notification of omission of the bus shelter near The Trident from the EGTC Special Expenses schedule. This will be included in 19/20 along with a back payment of £373 for 18.19. The additional charge to tax payers for 19/20 is less than 12p per household – *Noted by members*
- SGC – Closure of Cycle Path in Staple Hill for a 10 day duration from 14th January 2019 – *Noted by members and the Clerk was asked to circulate the map*

534. 2019/20 Budget & Precept

Members noted that the Finance Committee has scrutinised the budget which has been tabled for approval. It was **Resolved** that the budget be approved and that £450,000 be earmarked as reserves for the Community Project and £98,000 be earmarked as General Reserves, this is within the limits recommended by NALC.

It was noted that the proposed precept keeps the Band D contribution as £39.40 per household. It was **Resolved** that a precept of £234,285 is approved and submitted to South Gloucestershire Council.

535. South Gloucestershire Council – Budget Consultation

Considerable discussion was had about the completion of the consultation paper with the following points being made:

- It's very difficult to compare the cuts to different budgets against each other
- When considering funding for Education the name of South Gloucestershire is wrong, it gives Ministers the impression it is a small authority, it should be called Greater Bristol or something that reflects the real demographic of the area
- The Clerk is to complete the section about experience of services based on how things are dealt with from the offices point of view
- Completion of the consultation document was done with the Clerk to return it online.

Action: Clerk to complete online consultation

536. 2019 Elections

Members considered a request from Democratic Services for the use of the Town Council office as a Polling Station on 2nd May for District and Local Council Elections. It was **Resolved** that permission is given for this and that no fee will be charged.

Action: Clerk to advise SGC

537. Risk Assessments – Various Trees within the Parish

Following the last Full Council meeting the Clerk circulated a schedule of the quotes received to undertake risk assessments on trees in the following areas:

- Carsons Copse and land west of Manor Road
- Vinney Green Common
- Emersons Green Common
- Dibden Lane Allotments (Oak Tree TO6)
- Blackhorse Road – 2 triangular areas of Common Land (CL67)
- Windsor Place – Common Land (CL66)

It was **Resolved** that Ian Monger Trees is approved to complete the works at a cost of £850.

Action: Clerk to liaise with RH in relation to works

538. Grant Applications

Members considered an application from Brandon Trust for £250 towards the provision of holiday play schemes for children with additional needs. It was **Resolved** that the grant is approved.

Members were asked to consider empowering the Finance Committee to make decisions in relation to grant applications below £2,000. It was decided to continue to bring all applications to Full Council for approval as and when recommended by the Finance Committee.

Action: Clerk to arrange payment of grant

539. Community Project

The Clerk advised that she has again chased Property Services in relation to the Skatepark and adjoining land but has not heard back. The Libraries Officer is liaising with Property Services in relation to a feasibility study. Members noted frustration at the lack of progress on both matters.

Action: Clerk to continue to chase officers

540. Events Committee

Cllr S Budd informed members a meeting of the committee had been held in advance of this meeting a report was made as follows:

- The Beacon Event was well attended and feedback was good. The Committee is considering the installation of a permanent Beacon similar to that recently installed in Siston.
- Consideration is being given to having a War Memorial within this Parish.
- The Christmas event is taking place in Lyde Green Community Hall on 15th December and members are invited to help with setting and clearing up of the event. RN, SB, US, SA-H, PM and RH offered to help.
- The next meeting is on 14th February and members were asked to put forward suggestions for events to take place next year.

541. Planning Committee

Cllr R Hunt reported that the Committee has met twice since the last Full Council meeting and considered the following matters:

- The Science Park development has been approved
- A consultation over extended Park & Ride hours in Lyde Green to tie in with bus times is being undertaken
- Members visited the local Metro Bus Stop to consider concerns about the speed of traffic making the site dangerous. Due to the fact it is on the dual carriageway drivers think the national speed limit applies despite the street lighting indicating that it is a 30mph zone
- Concerns were raised about people, especially children, crossing the dual carriage way from the school bus stop, behavior has changed since the introduction of the Metro Bus and there should be a pedestrian crossing there. Cllr R Hunt is to take this forward with SGC and report the change in behavior. It was noted that there is always a risk with pedestrians and traffic but that SGC has to manage that risk.

542. Finance Committee

In the absence of Cllr P Todd the Chairman advised that the Committee had met with the Youth Leader and received a report into how provision was developing. The main agenda item had been the Budget and Precept which was considered at some length.

543. Open Spaces Committee

Cllr Somers advised there has been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting. The following works have taken place:

- Improvements to make allotment gates more secure
- Works to footpaths
- Overhanging trees in Green Lane
- Replacement of bollards on Rodway Common
- Land by Resound – Cotswold Homes was going to install bollards but this has yet to be done, the Clerk was asked to chase this up as cars are parking on the grass and ruining it.

Action: Clerk to contact Cotswold Homes

544. Items to Report

The Chairman suggested that a Flagpole is installed within the Town – the Clerk was asked to include this on the next agenda.

Cllr Johnson commented that the new Christmas Lights look good.

Cllr Cannard reported that people using the buses on dark mornings/evenings whilst wearing dark clothing is an accident waiting to happen.

Cllr Al-Hassan asked who provides the Councils Personnel Advice; this is not a service the Council currently has but it was noted that SGC outsources work for local councils and that provision is available from a number of consultancies.

Cllr Shephard reported that staff from ALD are parking in private roads, residents have complained to ALD but the problem has not resolved. It was noted that if there are no parking restrictions then

there is nothing that can be done. If cars are causing an obstruction then the Police should be contacted.

Cllr Budd advised that a bollard has been knocked down by the pond and that there is barbed wire in Green Lane which is partly obscured and could be dangerous. Cllr Somers advised that this is being dealt with and investigations are being made to find out whether it's an SGC or EGTC matter. There is a field next to Mangotsfield Football Club which was left to the people of Mangotsfield and belongs to the Cave Trust. It is currently in a bad state and covered in rubbish which mean it is not useable by the public in its present condition. A question was raised about whether it was in the EGTC Parish. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Open Spaces Clerk and obtain further information about the land.

**Actions: Clerk to include Flagpole on next Agenda
Clerk to make investigations into the Cave Trust Field**

545. Date of next meeting: 10th January 2018, 19.00, Council Chamber

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.15