



EMERSONS GREEN

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

10th January 2019, Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

Present: Councillors: R Nichols (Chairman), J Adams, S Al-Hassan, S Budd, S Hill, C Hunt, R Hunt, C Johnson, P Morgan, U Shepherd, D Somers, P Todd, C-A Wilkins, B Wiltshire & I Wiltshire

Attendees: Mrs C Davidson (Town Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year.

546. Apologies

Cllr T Cannard was absent from the meeting.

547. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

548. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

549. To Approve Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 13th December 2018

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of 13th December 2018.

550. Outstanding Items from These Minutes

The Clerk reported that the field which belongs to the Cave Trust is just within the Town Council boundary. All other actions were completed as appropriate.

551. Correspondence and Actions Required

The following correspondence was considered:

- SGC – Notice of Parish Council election costs (Emersons Green Ward) of £5400.48; invoice to be received shortly. *Noted by members*
- ALCA – Nominations for past Chair persons to attend a Garden party at Buckingham Palace on 21st May 2019. *It was Resolved that Cllr R Nichols be nominated for his work as Chairman of the Town Council*
- SGC – Mayors Awards nominations open until 28/2/19. *Noted by members*

552. Review of Polling District & Places

Consultation papers were circulated with the agenda for this meeting. The consultation asks for suggestions to replace the Library as a Polling Station. Members suggested that the Pomphrey Hill Sports Club or the changing rooms off Johnson Road could be considered.

Action: Clerk to advise SGC of suggestions

553. Flagpole

The Chairman advised that he has put forward this proposal as it would show the Council to be patriotic and provide a focal point.

Cllr S Budd informed members that coincidentally he has received a call from someone involved with the Royal British Legion Building in Staple Hill which is being demolished and has asked if there is any use for a flagpole.

Some discussion took place and the Clerk advised members that someone would have to be appointed to ensure the appropriate flags were flown at the appropriate times, particularly if there was a death which required the lowering to half-mast. There is advice online about what flags should be flown and when, the Chairman suggested that an EGTC flag is obtained which would be flown except at times when the Union Flag / Saint George Flag is appropriate.

It was **Resolved** that a flag pole is sought (if the RBL one is not available then quotes to be obtained) and an application for planning permission is submitted as appropriate.

**Action: SB to obtain information about the RBL flagpole
Clerk to submit planning application once pole details are known**

554. Community Project

The Chairman advised members that the Clerk has continued to chase Property Services but has not had a response. This is particularly frustrating as progress is being made with the Vinney Green site and the Clerk has reminded officers that the two matters were to proceed hand in hand. The Libraries Officer is liaising with Property Services in relation to a feasibility study. Members noted frustration at the continued lack of progress on both matters.

Action: Clerk to continue to chase officers

555. Events Committee

Cllr S Budd informed members that the Christmas event had gone very well; the Chairman congratulated the committee on a successful event. It was noted that about 50% of people who had signed up didn't turn up which was frustrating as there had been several people on a waiting list. Consideration will be given to having a deposit scheme for this year's event.

The Committee is to consider installing a permanent Beacon within the Town and this will be progressed at the next meeting.

Members were asked to put forward ideas for events during the coming year which will be considered at the next meeting on 14th February.

556. Planning Committee

Cllr R Hunt reported that unfortunately she was unable to attend the last meeting as she was unwell. Members agreed that a report will be circulated by email.

(An email report was circulated as follows on 14th January 2019:

- The Nursery on Willowherb Road has been approved. We received representations from a local resident objecting to the scheme at one of our meetings. While not all objectors are satisfied with the plans approved today (Thursday), adaptations were made in line with the comments both the Town Council and residents made, in relation to the vehicular access and materials to be used to be in keeping with the neighbouring Grade II listed farmhouses.
- The Retail Unit on Willowherb Road has been approved. We raised concerns regarding the dark pathway the building will create between itself and the Community Centre, but as the land is not in the retail unit's ownership, it was not possible for a gate to be installed as part of the application. CCTV is to be installed.
- We assessed an Extra Care Housing application for Lyde Green for 50+ supported living apartments.
- Vinney Green Secure Unit's application for modifications has been approved.

- Graham House 1st Floor (above the new Avenue Café)'s application to change to residential apartments has been refused due to not meeting initial criteria.
- We raised an enforcement query regarding a property on Tunbridge Way, who had cut down mature trees backing onto Blackhorse Lane in order to create a gated rear access to their property. Enforcement action has been a success with the gates returned to fencing.)

557. Finance Committee

Cllr P Todd advised members that a meeting was not held in December due to the Christmas break.

558. Open Spaces Committee

Cllr Somers reported as follows:

- Quotes have been received for works to trees in in the Allotments and Green Lane. It is too late to schedule the work now, so it will be reviewed later in 2019 so that the works can take place over the winter.
- A request has been received for a bench in Beaufort Road play area. South Glos Council has advised they have not installed one due to antisocial behavior; if the Town Council wants to install one it would need to survey residents and then contact the Council.
- A quote is being sought from the local Men in Sheds group for the provision of floral planters to be installed by the rank of shops including Let's Move and the Vets in Emersons Green. It is hoped this scheme will be successful and will persuade other land owners to permit planters.
- No progress has been made on the Compost Site or toilet in the allotments as we are waiting for the allotments committee to meet. The Clerk asked who is arranging the meeting and was advised the Clerk to the Open Spaces Committee has the contact details of those that showed an interest in joining a committee.

559. Items to Report

The following reports were made:

- The new Christmas lights looked great but there were some problems with timings. Members were asked to let the Clerk now of problems next year so she can report them. New timers were installed this year so there shouldn't have been any problems.
- At the end of Emerson Way there is a sign pointing up to Council Offices. This is from when SGC had offices in Emersons Green and the Clerk was asked to request that this is removed.
- A petition has been handed in to SGC re. the Dance Festival at Cleve RFC. It is disappointing that a petition with 152 signatures from local residents is not enough for SGC to review the licence. Some discussion was had about the fact SGC was asking for paperwork to be completed in the name of one complainant which was felt to be inappropriate. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries and bring this matter to the next Council meeting.
- Members were asked if there are plans to install lighting on the Emersons Green side of the footbridge. Cllr C Hunt advised that the path is to be upgraded and lighting will be included in the upgrade.
- Cllr S Budd asked if he could rejoin the Open Spaces Committee as he is now available on Tuesday evenings, this was agreed.

**Actions: Clerk to contact SGC in relation to Cleve RFC petition
Clerk to ask SGC to remove signage**

560. Date of next meeting: 14th February 2019, 19.00, Council Chamber

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.40