



EMERSONS GREEN

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee 30th May 2019

Present: Councillors, S Al-Hassan, S Budd, C Johnson, R Nichols (Chairman) & P Todd

Attendees: Cate Davidson (Clerk) & Emily Crane (Youth Works – Leader)

Members noted the evacuation procedures.

Cllr Phil Todd opened the meeting as the outgoing Chairman.

001 To Appoint Committee Chairman for Ensuing Year

Cllr Todd advised that due to a change of job he may be late to meetings therefore felt unable to continue as Chairman.

Cllr Budd proposed Cllr Nichols as Chairman; Cllr Todd seconded the proposal.

Discussion was had about the fact that the Council has appointed Male Chairs to date, and it was noted this should be considered when making appointments in the future.

It was **Resolved** that Cllr Rich Nichols is unanimously voted as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Discussion was had about the appointment of a Vice Chair and it was noted that historically this has not been done, in the absence of the Chair an appointment can be made at the start of the meeting.

002 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors J Adams, S Hill & J Hunt. The Clerk advised that the agenda wasn't sent to all non-EGTC email addresses and apologised for the confusion as she had advised that personal and EGTC email addresses would be used until 1st June 2019.

007 Youth Work

The Chairman brought this item forward to enable the Youth Leader to attend Youth in Sodbury. A report from Youth Works was circulated in advance of the meeting. The following points were discussed:

- EC advised that the project is going well and is growing; in January there were 10/15 regular users and now there are 22. Maximum numbers would be 30 and if it got to this stage consideration would have to be given to how activities are managed.
- Over the summer there are outdoor activities planned although this does bring problems if it rains.
- Locations vary and tend to be at the Science Park, School Square, around Lyde Green and the Skatepark.

- The Clerk raised concerns that on social media it is becoming known as the Lyde Green Youth Club therefore would it be possible to spend some evenings in Emersons Green. Suitable locations could be; Johnson Road Playing Fields, Blackhorse Fields have a basketball court, Cleve RFC may allow use of the 5 aside pitches and they also have an assault course. EC is to investigate this further.
- Members were informed that **Outreach Work** is youth workers reaching out to young people and pointing them to centre based activities. **Detached Work** is not linked with any other services and is youth workers engaging with young people on their own ground.
- The work we are currently doing is a mixture of both types of work and now that there are a group of regular users activities are needed to keep them engaged.
- It was noted that anti-social behaviour (ASB) is still a problem in the area and we need to try and engage with these young people. It was recognised that this isn't easy whilst also providing activities for existing users. It was agreed that a trial would take place having activity/detached work taking place on alternate weeks.
- It was noted that existing users had been disappointed when told that activities would take place fortnightly but the reason for the trial is understood and matters will be re-evaluated at the meeting on 25th July when EC was asked to report back. It was noted that we need to keep hold of the users we have to prevent problems arising in the future.
- Members received feedback on the Cinema nights that have been held in the office which were very successful, and the Clerk advised there had been no problems with the room being used. It was **Resolved** that EC could use the room at short notice for that purpose if weather meant planned activities could not take place. EC is to be given a key to the building for the use of the room for film nights.
- Members noted that it is difficult to know what to do, youth provision in the area is very poor and this is just the start of a long-term plan to improve provision. Future plans included a possible MUGA on the land next to the skatepark and the Youth Library/Youth Centre which is currently being considered with South Glos Council. The future is exciting, but plans are still at a top level. Once firm plans are in place the Council will go to public consultation and then involve young people if proposals get the go ahead. EC advised members of the importance of young people being involved in planning their space and asked if a kitchen could be in the plans, this has already been included. Members advised that having a place for young people is a big attraction for young people of all ages and that is what the Town Council is aiming for.
- Members asked EC if she could signpost young people to other organisations in the area such as the Scouts.
- EC advised members that the hiring of the URBIE from Yate TC hadn't worked due to limited space, the canopy being broken and restricted access to the facilities such as the play station. The hiring of the Lyde Green Hall is much more cost effective and practical
- Discussion was had about whether David Lloyd would be interested in providing some activities once it is up and running, may be unlikely but it's worth contacting them.
- It was **Resolved** that a budget is made available for the purchased of a sail flag for identification of the service when it is out and about and some cards with details of Youth Works and the Facebook page, possibly via a QR code. EC is to liaise with CD in relation to this.
- EC advised that young people are now starting to open up to youth workers and it is felt that proper youth work is now happening and that the young people really appreciate this.
- The Clerk was asked to arrange to view the Youth Hub at Christchurch Downed as this is a great resource for young people.
- It was noted that youth provision will attract drug dealers, and this should be borne in mind when provision of a regular space is considered.

Members thanked the Youth Works team for their work and asked EC to attend the Finance meeting on 25th July for a report. The Clerk was asked to put Youth Provision on the June Full

Council agenda so that consideration can be given to extending the contract with Youth in Sodbury for a further year.

Actions:

- EC to alternate activity/detached provision
 - EC to look at locations in Emersons
- CD to provide EC with a key to the EGTC building
 - EC to liaise with CD in relation to flag/cards
- CD to arrange a visit to Christchurch Youth Hub
- CD to include youth provision on next FC Agenda

003 Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

004 To approve Minutes of meeting of 25th April 2019

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting on 25th April 2019.

005 Payments

Members received the schedule of payments which was considered, and it was **Resolved** that the payments are approved.

Members noted that the payment to Men in Sheds was for the planters which have recently been installed. Discussion was had about the fact that the old Avenue Café location has been highlighted as a problem in the event of a fire evacuation. The Open Spaces Committee will investigate this. It was noted that the location of the planters means they are not very conspicuous, and members were informed this was due to land ownership issues. Members were advised that the owners of the retail centre were not interested in EGTC installing planters on their land which really limited the possibility of floral displays in the town.

006 Bank Statements & Reconciliations

Members viewed the Banks Statements alongside the Bank Reconciliation to 30th April and it was **Resolved** that they are accurate and approved for signing by the Chairman.

Members asked if consideration had been given to the investment of the significant reserves the Council has. The Clerk advised that this has not been done in her time and she was asked to investigate this and report back at the next meeting. Discussion was had about the types of investment and that whilst this is at the discretion of the Council the Clerk would suggest that fixed term bonds are probably the only real option as they are low/no risk and give a higher return than bank accounts. Members noted that the Town Council would not wish to put it's reserves at risk but that it must ensure it gets a reasonable return and that the funds are secure. The Clerk will clarify the protection that the FSCS (Financial Services Compensation Scheme) gives.

Action: Clerk to investigate investments and FSCS Protection and report back at the next meeting

008 Grant Applications

The following grants were considered:

- Above & Beyond - £214 to purchase 2 chairs for patients visiting the Chemotherapy Day Unit of Bristol Oncology Centre. It was **Resolved** that the application is recommended to Full Council for approval

- West of England M S Therapy Centre - £300 towards the cost of providing oxygen therapy for patients (4 current patients are from EG) Members spent some time considering this application and looking at the accounts. It was noted that only 4 local residents use the service and that it is a cash rich charity therefore it was **Resolved** that no grant be awarded at this time.

**Action: Clerk to take successful application to Full Council
Clerk to advise unsuccessful applicant of the outcome**

009 Items to report

There were no items from members.

The Clerk advised that she has received a request from Cllr R Hunt for District Councillors to use the meeting room for two public meetings in relation to local matters. It was **Resolved** that use of the room is permitted on the basis that meetings do not have a political agenda and that they are open to the public and about local matters.

010 Date of next meeting –27th June 2019, 19.00, EGTC Offices

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30