



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

2 July 2019, Council Office, Emersons Green Town Council

Present – Councillors: J Adams, S Budd, S Hill & P Morgan

Attendees – Mr R Hull, Committee Clerk

Members noted the evacuation procedures.

1. To appoint Committee Chairman

The Committee Clerk reported that Cllr Somers has indicated that he would like to re-join the committee and would also consider the position of Chair of the committee. He will bring the matter to Full Council on 11 July.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Budd would chair this meeting and the committee will elect a Chairman at the Committee meeting on 3 September 2019.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor C Johnson.

Councillors S Bassett, R Nichols, M Palmer & C Wilkins were absent from the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

4. Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)

There were no members of the public present.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Open Spaces & Allotments Meeting held on 30 April

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of 30 April 2019.

6. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

Item 253(4) Cllr Budd questioned whether it is SGC or the football club that are responsible for clearing the rubbish in the wooded area in the corner of Blackhorse Road playing field. It was **RESOLVED** that the **Committee Clerk** will obtain an update from SGC to clarify.

7. Cuts of road verges etc

The SGC Biodiversity Officer had provided information asking Town & Parish Councils to consider if there are open spaces or verges that could be mown less. It was **RESOLVED** that the **Committee Clerk** will invite the Officer to the meeting on 3 September and ask her to help identify suitable sites.

8. Creation of a bee corridor

Cllr Al-Hassan had provided a proposal to create a bee corridor in Emersons Green. Cllr Budd said that Avon Wildlife Trust had been involved in the creation of a bee corridor. It was **RESOLVED** that the **Committee Clerk** will invite them and the SGC Biodiversity Officer to an Open Spaces committee meeting. It was noted that the Village Hall are in discussions with the Biodiversity Officer about the possibility of creating a bee area on some land at the back of the Village Hall.

9. Speaker for the Allotments evening on 17 October

The South Gloucestershire Council Biodiversity Officer has offered to speak about creating habitat for pollinators. It was **RESOLVED** that the **Committee Clerk** will confirm the members agreement to her speaking on 17 October at the allotments evening.

10. Dibden Lane Allotments

- A member of the allotments committee has asked for brambles growing over the fence near plot 20W to be cut back and for the area to be used for wildflowers. It was **RESOLVED** that the **Committee Clerk** will get quotes for the brambles to be cut back. Further consideration will be given to using the area for wildflowers in the light of the talk at the Allotments evening.
- Two quotes have been obtained for work on trees and hedges. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £1,020 plus VAT from Bristol Tree Services; they have offered a 10% reduction to chip in and stack the arisings and this will be accepted for the work to the oak tree and hedges with the arisings from the willow being removed. The **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contractor.
- Two quotes have been obtained to move a water trough, cut back the hedge and install 25m of chain link fence to improve security. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £1,468.25 from Wyatt & Sons Fencing Ltd and use the S106 funds of £751.80 capital funding and £132.20 of the revenue funding to cover as much as possible of the cost of £884 for new work. The **Committee Clerk** will liaise with SGC to obtain the S106 funds and instruct the contractor.
- Two quotes have been obtained to hire a skip for up to four weeks. The committee clerk confirmed that when a skip was hired in April it was filled very quickly and was appropriately used. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £225 plus VAT from Bateman Skips. The **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contractor.
- An allotment tenant asked if the Town Council will cut back a large tree on her plot. As it is on land rented from SGC the committee clerk had obtained the view of an SGC tree officer on appropriate work to be done and he stated; crown lift 3 to 4 metres and radial crown reduction 3 to 4 metres. It was **RESOLVED** that the **Committee Clerk** will ask the tree office if the tree can be cut down. Depending on his response the **Committee Clerk** will obtain quotes for the removal of the tree and / or for the work he agreed initially.

11. Outstanding lease with SGC for the allotment land at Dibden Lane

The **Committee Clerk** explained the background to this matter and read a draft letter which states the two main points the Town Council raised . It was **RESOLVED** to change the penultimate paragraph and for the **Committee Clerk** to send the letter to SGC.

12. Bulk buying bollards

- The **Committee Clerk** explained that in 2016 & 2017 fifty bollards were installed on Emersons Green Common. Recycled plastic ones were used as the common is quite wet and therefore wood bollards rot quicker than on the other commons. There are 7 bollards missing spread around the common, 7 in poor condition and about 100 in satisfactory to good condition. Two quotes have been obtained to buy 50 recycled plastic bollards. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £1,154.50 from Bpi who supplied the bollards in 2016. The **Committee Clerk** will issue a purchase order subject to checking with the

Clerk that sufficient storage is available in the area off the Council Chamber. It was **RESOLVED** that if an order is placed the **Committee Clerk** will obtain separate quotes to install 7 bollards and 14 bollards.

- Two quotes have been obtained to buy 10 wooden posts 1.2m x 150mm. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £107.02 from Heritage Fencing as this is cheaper than contractors supplying them when installing. The **Committee Clerk** will issue a purchase order subject to checking with the Clerk that sufficient storage is available.

13. Installation of recycled plastic bollards at Emersons Green common

In view of the decision made under item 12 it was no longer necessary to consider this item.

14. Works at Green Lane

Two quotes have been obtained to replace damaged posts and a fence rail by the tarmac path from Cave Grove across Green Lane and to remove some barbed wire. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotes of £230 and £180 from ASB Landscapes and the **Committee Clerk** will issue a purchase order.

15. Summer Maintenance

To enable the committee to consider whether to continue or alter the maintenance of various footpaths within our boundary it was **RESOLVED** that the **Committee Clerk** will arrange a date in August for councillors to volunteer to walk the paths.

16. Overgrown section of footpath PMR21 near to Colliers Break

The **Committee Clerk** explained that Brandon Trust will be cutting the vegetation along this path by 12 July. It was **RESOLVED** to consider the path as part of the walk under item 15.

17. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Members noted that the Town Council has received Community Infrastructure Levy Funding of £9527.78 for the 2018/19 financial year. Members suggested the funding could be used for; a bee corridor; replacing bollards, localism costs; other running costs; it was **RESOLVED** that the **Committee Clerk** will clarify with the Town Clerk and / or South Gloucestershire Council if any or all of these are appropriate.

18. A resident of Berkeley Way will be cutting back trees that overhang into their garden from Green Lane

This was noted by the members.

19. A request from the Open Spaces Society (OSS) for donations to their appeal "Please help save public highways on common land" and to receive their summer newsletter

The **Committee Clerk** referred members to a letter dated 17 May which explains the reason for the appeal. It was **RESOLVED** to donate £100 and the **Committee Clerk** will arrange payment and inform the OSS.

20. Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered and noted;

- Replies have been received from the tenants of the following plots after emails were sent to them because their plots were not satisfactory;
- Plots 11E, 27E, 32W, 35M & 35W.
- An email from South Gloucestershire Council explaining that there are no funds available at present to resolve the problem of water collecting in Dibden Lane near the allotment gate, but they will look into an alternative scheme.

- An email from Biodiversity, South Gloucestershire Council, giving advice about slow worms as they have been found on plot 46W at the Dibden Lane allotments. The advice has been given to the new tenant.
- An email from a member of the public stating that the footpath LPU3 across Lyde Green common has a deep hollow which is full of wet clay and almost impassable. This has been sent to the South Gloucestershire Council commons Stewardship Officer who is investigating.

21. Items from Members to Report

- Cllr Hill has reported to South Gloucestershire Council that a tree near the junction of Manor Road and Rodway Hill has a damaged branch.
- Cllr Budd raised a concern about the condition of a path leading from Blackhorse Road playing fields. This will be considered when the walk takes place as referred to under item 15.

22. Next Meeting

3 September 2019 at 19.00 in the Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

The chairman closed the meeting at 20.35