



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces & Allotments Committee

8th January 2019, Council Office, Emersons Green Town Council

Present – Councillors: D Somers (Chairman), J Adams, S Hill, C Johnson, P Morgan, & C-A Wilkins

Attendees – Mr R Hull, Committee Clerk

209 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors, C Hunt, R Nichols & P Todd.

210 Declaration of Interests under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

211 Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

212 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2018.

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of 6 November 2018.

213 Outstanding Items from these Minutes

- The committee clerk and Cllr Somers inspected the bollard that is at an angle on Blackhorse Road common; it was found to be firmly in the ground.
- Our contractor has fitted triple pointed metal pales to the allotment gate.

214 Trees at allotments

Two quotes have been received but one of these did not include all the required work. The other quote is for £420 plus VAT and it was resolved that the **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contactor.

215 Trees in Green Lane

Two quotes have been received, one for £600 plus VAT and the other for £840 (no VAT). It was resolved the **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contactor with the quote of £600.

216 Trees in Green Lane adjacent to residential properties; To consider a request from a resident for two oak trees to be pruned; To consider whether to take any action about the branches that overhang the residential properties.

The resident previously asked the Town Council if the trees could be cut back because he said they were blocking light from his garden. The Committee Clerk and Cllr Somers called on the resident on 20 November and noted that the smaller tree doesn't seem to hang over the boundary at all although the larger tree does overhang the resident's garden a bit. The trees overhanging other properties were last pruned

around January 2014. It was **Resolved** that the committee will re-consider around the end of 2019 having these trees pruned as part of ongoing tree work.

To consider comment from a resident that creepers, such as ivy, seem to be strangling some of the trees – this was noted by the members.

217 Footpath / cycle path PMR21 - To consider if any further works are needed to the trees / hedges following a site visit by the committee clerk and Cllr Somers.

The Committee Clerk had previously circulated a link to the SGC website which states that the district council is responsible for maintaining public rights of way and that a parish council may undertake maintenance (but there does not seem to be a requirement for them to do so). Partly because of the proximity of Mangotsfield Primary school the path is well used by pedestrians and cyclists. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform SGC that the Town Council has been arranging for the vegetation to be regularly cut back and to ask if SGC will carry out works to bring the path back to its full width.

218 Bench in Beaufort Road play area; to consider a request from a resident for a bench in the light of the requirements of SGC.

The SGC Play Officer has sent an email to the Town Council explaining why a bench was not installed when the park was refurbished in 2005. The email also sets out the consultation process the Town Council would need to undertake if it wants to install a bench. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will ask SGC for permission for the content of the email to be given to the resident. If this is provided then **Cllr P Morgan** will give the content of the email to the resident.

219 Covered cycle spaces; to consider whether to fund covers for the cycle parking spaces outside the library and Emersons Green Village Hall.

It was **Resolved** not to progress this matter at this stage.

220 Charity gardening talk; to consider a request to display a notice on the allotment gate about a “No Dig Vegetable Gardening talk” to raise money for St Peter’s Hospice.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** can display this notice and decide whether to agree future requests if they are considered to be of interest to the allotment tenants.

221 Padlocks

The Committee Clerk explained that the combination padlocks, particularly the ones at Rodway Common, have quite a short lifespan as they seize up. He provided details of a Squire padlock that was suggested by a locksmith, but the cost is about five times that of the present padlocks. It was **Resolved** that we will buy the Blackspur ones and the **Committee Clerk** will send a link to **Cllr Morgan** who agreed to buy four and obtain reimbursement from the Town Council. The current cost is £8.09 each with free delivery over £20, so even if the cost alters this is not expected to exceed £40 for four padlocks. It was **Resolved** that old padlocks can be disposed of at a recycling centre.

222 Risk assessment actions

- Damaged fence rails and posts at the Cave Grove crossing in Green Lane.
- Missing bollards at Emersons Green common and Vinney Green.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will get quotes for the fence rails, posts and the missing bollards.

223 Ponds in Emersons Green park; to consider an email asking for the Town Council’s perspective on the park and its water retention ponds.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the researcher from UWE who sent the email that the park is owned by SGC as he may wish to contact them.

224 Flower planters

- To consider installing planters by the shops in Emerson Way; The Committee Clerk explained that the landlord of the rank of shops with the Vets has given permission for the Town Council to install planters near the shops;
Cllrs J Adams & S Hill agreed to contact the retailers in that rank to check which of them are still interested in maintaining a planter.
Cllr J Adams agreed to contact the Downend “Men in Sheds” to find out the cost for them to supply planters.
Cllr S Hill agreed to contact a garden centre to find out the cost of them planting the planters.
- The members noted that SGC has agreed the Town Council can put planters on the land between the library and the village hall. It was **Resolved** not to progress this at this stage.

225 Composting enclosure at the allotments; to consider a quote for the enclosure.

The quote is for £2,267 plus VAT. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the allotment tenants who volunteered to form a committee of the cost and ask them to find out what level of interest there is from the tenants for the composting enclosure as the Town Council may also be asked to install a toilet and may not be prepared to cover the cost of both items.

226 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered and noted by members:

1. Details of the Rodway easy runner 10k to be held on 10 March 2019 – *it was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the organiser that the Town Council has no objection to the event.*
2. Open Spaces Society newsletter Autumn 2018.
3. An email from Cllr S Budd stating that Community Payback have been doing litter picking at Pomphrey sports ground on Mondays.
4. An email from Brandon Trust confirming their agreement to continue with the present terms of the litter picking contract for 2019 / 20 (£1020 plus VAT per quarter).
5. Community Spaces, South Gloucestershire Council, monthly consultation & information – grant of £10k received to cover the cost of replacing the roundabout at the junior play area in Emersons Green park with an accessible version.

227 Items from Members to Report

Cllr Somers reported that he had noticed some strands of barbed wire at Green Lane. The Committee Clerk has since checked the area and it appears there are at least four sections of barbed wire along what could be the boundary between the common land of Green Lane and Emersons Green park. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will obtain quotes to remove the barbed wire and install some posts to mark the possible boundary.

Next Meeting: 5th March 2019 at 19.00 in the Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

The chairman closed the meeting at 20.15