



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

11th July 2019, Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

Present: Councillors: S Budd (Chairman), S Al-Hassan, P Gibbs, S Hill, R Hunt, C Johnson, P Morgan, M Palmer, D Somers, P Todd & C Wilkins

Attendees: Cate Davidson (Town Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised of the evacuation procedure.

039. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors J Adams, S Bassett, J Hunt, R Nichols & J Sweeney.

040. Declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

041. Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

042. To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13th June 2019

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of 13th June 2019.

043. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

The Clerk confirmed that all outstanding matters have been completed or are on the agenda for this meeting.

044. Correspondence and Actions Required

- SGC Streetcare team are consulting on two updates regarding Waste:
 - Resource and Waste Strategy 2020 – 2030: The survey closes 27 September.
 - Updated Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for waste. The survey closes 4 August.
- SGC is consulting on its Better Care Stronger Communities Funding Proposals 2020 – 2023. The survey closes 9 September.

Members were encouraged to complete the online consultations.

045. Standing Orders

The Clerk advised members that NALC does not include the 6-month attendance rule within the model Standing Orders as there is an overarching framework that covers this matter.

(PT entered the meeting at 19.13)

The Clerk recommended that an item is included in the Standing Orders about absence from meetings. Discussion was had about whether members should advise the Council of the reason they are unable to attend meetings and how this is then recorded. Consideration was also given to how Maternity Leave and Long-Term Sick Leave is dealt with. The Clerk advised that if a member is absent during Maternity or Sick leave this would automatically be noted as such.

It was **Resolved** that members should give apologies to the Clerk along with reasons for absence, this will be noted at the meeting and recorded as appropriate. A section for absence is to be included in the Standing Orders in relation to Leave of Absence and Ad-hoc absence.

Action: Clerk to update Standing Orders and Circulate

046. Policies for Review

It was **Resolved** that the following Policies be approved as tabled:

- Financial Regulations
- Social Media Policy
- Social Media Guide

047. Committee Appointments

It was **Resolved** that Cllr Somers is appointed to the Planning, Open Spaces and Events Committees and that Cllr Morgan is appointed to the Events Committee.

048. Youth Works

The Clerk gave a brief resume of how the Youth Works provision works on a Monday evening.

Members received the costs for the provision of the services from 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2019. It was **Resolved** that Youth Works be re-appointed to continue to run the Monday evening detached/outreach service.

Action: Clerk to advise Youth Works of decision

049. Grant Applications

The following grant application was considered as recommended by the Finance Committee; Emersons Green Village Hall - £650 for subsidising the cost of the Seniors Luncheon Club that meets once a month. Members noted that the original application was for £1,035.93 but that the Finance Committee did not feel it appropriate to pay for lunches for the volunteers so deducted this cost from the award. It was **Resolved** that the grant of £650 be approved. Members noted that the Village Hall Committee has agreed to acknowledge the Councils support on posters for the club.

Action: Clerk to arrange payment

050. Community Project

The Chairman reported that Cllr Nichols, the Clerk and himself have met with Highways Officers in relation to the footpath running through Betts Green. Officers agreed that it would make sense to curve any path around the outside of the area, but it was noted that there is still much work to be done in relation to this matter. It was noted that it would not be practical to proceed with a lease on the site until EGTC has confirmation of the footpath location therefore this matter will be put on hold for the time being. Officers will contact the Clerk with updates as they are available.

The Clerk advised that an update is expected in relation to the library following a meeting that SGC had with architects earlier this week. Top level discussions in relation to the Youth Library continue.

The Clerk gave members an update in relation to the use of access over Vinney Green Common to facilitate works to the Secure Unit. A proposed License for this use was received yesterday and whilst the Clerk has had a brief look through it, she feels that the matter should be deferred. It was **Resolved** that this matter be considered at the Extraordinary meeting on 25th July at 19.30.

**Action: Clerk to raise queries with Property Services and include
On next Agenda**

051. Finance Committee Update

In the absence of the Chairman members were informed that the Committee had considered an Investment Strategy and this matter will be taken to the next meeting once additional rates and advice has been obtained.

The Committee also considered the Grant Application as noted earlier in this meeting.

052. Open Spaces Committee

The Chairman informed members that the Committee had considered the installation of a Bee Corridor and has asked the SGC Biodiversity Officer to attend the next meeting along with Avon Wildlife Trust. Cllr Wilkins advised that she knows a representative of Plantlife who specialises in these matters, members asked that Cllr Wilkins invites Plantlife to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee has agreed to move a water trough in the allotments to facilitate the installation of a security fence. A meeting is to be arranged with South Glos Council to discuss the lease on the Allotment site which has been outstanding for several years. Tree work that is required on the allotment site has been considered.

The Committee has agreed to bulk buy 50 recycled plastic bollards subject to storage space in the office.

Action: RH to invite SP to next meeting and liaise with CW in relation to Plantlife

053. Planning Committee

The Chairman (SB) advised that a permanent Chairman of the Committee has yet to be appointed therefore he Chaired the most recent meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting had been light with mostly Householder Appeals to be considered. Phase 5 of the Lyde Green Development was considered. Due to the adjustment to road levels members approved the application subject to comments from Specialist Officers.

054. Items from Members to report

- Cllr R Hunt advised that work has started to take place on the speed bumps in Willowherb Road but at this time it is unclear as to what is happening. Springfield Park has now been allocated £30,000 to repair fire damage, subject to Cabinet approval.
- Cllr Hill reported that a wall at the bottom of Manor Road is starting to collapse. Some time ago SGC closed the road and repaired the wall, the Clerk is to report the matter to Streetcare. It was noted that fly-tipping has taken place in that area recently.
- Cllr Wilkins reported that she attended the recent CEF meeting and was surprised to be asked to give a report. The Clerk apologised that she was not aware this happened so had not advised Cllr Wilkins, but preparation will be made for future meetings.
- Cllr Johnson advised that she has again contacted Sainsburys in relation to bicycle parking but has not yet re-contacted the Management company of the retail park. Members are happy for Cllr Johnson to continue pursuing this matter.
- Cllr Somers advised that the planter outside of the vets has been removed for repair.
- Members were reminded that it is the Lyde Green Summer Sizzler on Saturday and the Council is having a stand.

The Clerk expressed disappointment at the low attendance for the Good Councillor Course taking place on 30th July which was booked specifically due to the high number of new Councillors on the Council. The following members have signed up: Cllrs, Hill, Johnson, Bassett & Gibbs. Cllr Al-Hassan advised that he is unable to attend as he is on holiday that week.

The Clerk advised members that there is an Extraordinary meeting of Full Council on 25th July at 19.30 to consider Staffing matters and now, the Vinney Green Common access.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Rachael Hunt and baby Thea to the meeting and a presentation of flowers and a voucher from the Council was made. Cllr Hunt thanked members and advised that it has been a long time coming but she is pleased to be back. Congratulations were passed onto the family.

055. Next Meeting 25th July 2019 at 19.30 in the Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.10